

Rural County Representatives of California Executive Committee Meeting

1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814

In accordance with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, the November 18, 2020 RCRC Executive Committee meeting was held virtually.

November 18, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County
Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County
Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County
Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County
Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County (*Ex-Officio*)

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County
Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County
Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County
Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County
Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

Minutes

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

RCRC Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, called the RCRC Executive Committee to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present were as follows:

<u>Supervisors in Attendance</u>	<u>County</u>
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Stacy Corless	Mono
Dan Miller	Nevada
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Lee Adams	Sierra
Denise Carter	Colusa
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare
Kevin Cann	Mariposa (Ex-Officio)

Absent Members

None

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President
Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer
Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs
Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer

Arthur Wylene, General Counsel
Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator/Clerk of the Board
Milena De Melo, Controller
Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate
John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate
Liz Jensen, Assistant Controller
Sanjay Lee, Financial Analyst

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County
Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, Search Committee Member
Trevor Hooper, Russell Reynolds Associates
Stephanie Tomasso, Russell Reynolds Associates
Annie Pope, Russell Reynolds Associates
Julia Hart, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Review and Approval of October 28, 2020 Special Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

(Board Members absent from the meeting will be recorded as abstained unless the Board Member indicates otherwise)

Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, motioned to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2020 RCRC Special Executive Committee Meeting. Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

Public Comment

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, shared his concern regarding the depopulation of fire camps throughout the state.

**Closed Session: Personnel/Employee Appointment or Employment
Title: RCRC Interim President**

**Closed Session: Personnel/Employee Appointment or Employment
Title: RCRC President**

The RCRC Executive Committee convened a closed session at 10:14 a.m. per Section 54957 of the Government Code.

The RCRC Executive Committee reconvened into open session at 12:35 p.m.

Report any Action Taken Under Items VI. pursuant to Section 54957.1 of the Government Code

Arthur Wylene, General Counsel, stated that no reportable action had been taken in either closed session.

The RCRC Executive Committee took a recess at 12:35 p.m.

The RCRC Executive Committee was reconvened at 1:12 p.m.

Comprehensive Fire Prevention and Response Proposal

Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, and John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, outlined and explained the comprehensive fire prevention and response proposal that RCRC could sponsor for the 2021 Legislative Session. The proposal includes: a general obligation resources bond; redirecting all Cap-and-Trade auction revenues from High Speed Rail to Senate Bill 901 projects; establishing watershed restoration and fire mitigation projects; establishing an insurance surcharge; providing regulatory relief for forest improvement and wildfire risk reduction activities; introducing various federal government solutions; presenting various home hardening and defensible space solutions; and, enacting a scaled-down version of Senate Bill 182 for future developments.

The RCRC Executive Committee discussed the pros and cons of the outlined proposal, with Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, voicing her support. Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, shared her strong concerns regarding the establishment of a watershed mandate upon water purveyors.

Mr. Smith emphasized that while some of the proposals outlined are not all suitable for rural communities, it may be the only way to move forward. Additionally, Mr. Smith shared that legislative counsel language for each part of the proposal have also been established and are being circulated. Once the proposal is approved by the RCRC Board of Directors, RCRC staff will begin advocating efforts and launch a marketing strategy for public consumption.

Arthur Wylene, General Counsel, and Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator/Clerk of the Board, notified the RCRC Chair that, due to several RCRC Executive Committee members leaving the meeting, the RCRC Executive Committee no longer had a quorum present.

Due to lack of quorum, the RCRC Executive Committee could not take action on the Comprehensive Fire Prevention and Response Proposal. The remaining members present (Supervisor McDaniel, Supervisor Corless, Supervisor Carter, and Supervisor Miller) concurred that RCRC staff should proceed to present the Comprehensive Fire Prevention and Response Proposal at the December 9th RCRC Board of Directors meeting without a formal recommendation from the RCRC Executive Committee.

Rural Leadership Awards

Paul A. Smith reviewed the process for selecting recipients for the annual Rural Leadership Awards. Mr. Smith along with the Governmental Affairs Department have suggested that Assembly Member Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) and Representative Paul Cook (R-Yucca Valley) receive the awards on January 13, 2020 for their work on various issues.

Mr. Smith explained that Assembly Member Friedman was an influential figure in the forestry and fire prevention (Assembly Bill 3074 and AB 3174) discussion, as well as her efforts on advancing the Adventure Trails Program in Inyo County (Senate Bill 402; 2019). Mr. Smith explained that Representative Cook was instrumental in advocating for an additional coronavirus federal relief funding to small, rural counties by ensuring that every county can directly access assistance (H.R. 7090). Additionally, Representative Cook successfully assisted Inyo County on an issue relating to the Bureau of Land Management's administration of the Alabama Hills project in Inyo County.

Due to lack of quorum, the RCRC Executive Committee could not take action on the Rural Leadership Awards. Arthur Wylene advised that the RCRC Bylaws do not require formal action of the RCRC Executive Committee to select Rural Leadership Award recipients, and that RCRC staff could do so on the President's authority.

The remaining members present (Supervisor McDaniel, Supervisor Corless, Supervisor Carter, and Supervisor Miller) concurred that RCRC staff should select Assembly Member Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) and Representative Paul Cook (R-Yucca Valley) to receive the Rural Leadership Awards, and announce that selection at the December 9th RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

Other Governmental Affairs Matters

Paul A. Smith provided an update on the recent election. Mr. Smith noted that some of the local and state elections are still close to call and the ultimate results will be determined soon.

RCRC staff distributed the 2020 General Election Information document and the November 2020 Election Results document as of November 16th to the RCRC Executive Committee. RCRC staff will provide an update to the RCRC Board of Directors at the December 9, 2020 meeting.

Closed Session: Initiation of Litigation – Conference with Legal Counsel pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 subdivision (d)(4). One case.

(Sierra Forest Legacy, et al. v. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, et al., United States District Court, Northern District of California Case No. 5:20-cv-05800 – RCRC Participation as Intervenor.)

Arthur Wylene advised that this closed session could not be held due to lack of quorum of the RCRC Executive Committee, and that consideration of this matter would be deferred to a future RCRC Executive Committee meeting.

RCRC Condensed Balance Sheet (September 30, 2020)

Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer, and Milena De Melo, Controller, presented the RCRC Condensed Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2020, compared to the Condensed Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2018 and 2019.

RCRC Quarterly Investment Report (September 30, 2020)

Lisa McCargar and Milena De Melo presented the RCRC Quarterly Investment Report which provided a summary of investment transactions from December 31, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

RCRC Quarterly Budget Report (September 30, 2020)

Lisa McCargar and Milena De Melo presented the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for RCRC which provided a summary of budget to actual comparison for the nine months ended September 30, 2020.

RCRC 2021 Proposed Budget

Due to lack of quorum, the RCRC Executive Committee could not take action on the RCRC 2021 Proposed Budget. The remaining members present (Supervisor McDaniel, Supervisor Corless, Supervisor Carter, and Supervisor Miller) concurred that RCRC staff should proceed to present the RCRC 2021 Proposed Budget at the December 9th RCRC Board of Directors meeting without a formal recommendation from the Executive Committee.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, adjourned the meeting of the RCRC Executive Committee at 2:59 p.m.