

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, December 9, 2021 – 8:00 a.m.  
El Capitan Hotel  
609 W. Main Street  
Merced CA 95340**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions**

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, presided. Present were President and CEO Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur Wylene, and Director of Board Operations, Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Corless called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<b><u>Supervisor</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
David Griffith	Alpine
Doug Teeter	Butte
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Denise Carter	Colusa
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Lori Parlin	El Dorado
Paul Barr	Glenn
Rex Bohn*	Humboldt
Michael Kelley*	Imperial
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
EJ Crandell*	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Robert Poythress	Madera
Miles Menetrey	Mariposa
Glenn McGourty	Mendocino
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Chris Lopez	Monterey
Diane Dillon*	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Cindy Gustafson*	Placer
Kevin Goss*	Plumas
Bob Tiffany	San Benito
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Bob Nelson**	Santa Barbara

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\* Seated as part of agenda item 9.e. "Approval and Acceptance of Santa Barbara County Membership and Revision of RCRC Bylaws to Assign Santa Barbara County to Region 5 - ACTION" at this meeting

Les Baugh*	Shasta
Lee Adams*	Sierra
Michael Kobseff*	Siskiyou
James Gore*	Sonoma
Mat Conant*	Sutter
Bob Williams*	Tehama
Jeremy Brown	Trinity
Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Kathleen Haff	Tuolumne
Angel Barajas	Yolo
Randy Fletcher*	Yuba

### **Absent**

Brian Oneto	Amador
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\*Attendance via Zoom

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Public Comment**

Assembly Member Adam Gray (D-Merced), provided a brief welcome speech to the RCRC Board of Directors and expressed his thanks to everyone for visiting Merced County.

Mitchell Shook, Advanced Stream, introduced himself to the RCRC Board of Directors, and spoke about his company's work on the open access network.

### **Consent Agenda**

- a. **October 1, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Resolution TC002-21: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the RCRC Board of Directors**

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, requested that the RCRC Resolution TC002-21: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the RCRC Board of Directors be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, called for approval of the minutes from the October 1, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.

**Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:**

**Not Voting: Placer County**

**Abstaining: Siskiyou County; Yolo County**

**RCRC Resolution TC002-21: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the RCRC Board of Directors**

Supervisor Griffith expressed his concern regarding the emergency authorization of hybrid teleconference meetings that include in-person participation.

**Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, motioned to approve RCRC Resolution TC002-21. Supervisor Michael Kelly, Imperial County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:**

**“No”:** Alpine County; Shasta County

**Not Voting:** Placer County

**Consider the Ascension of the Current First Vice Chair to Chair, and the Second Vice Chair to First Vice Chair**

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, explained the recommendation for the ascension of the Current First Vice Chair to Chair, and the Second Vice Chair to First Vice Chair, as follows:

2022 Chair	Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County
2022 First Vice Chair	Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County

Mr. Blacklock further explained that the current Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, will automatically become Immediate Past Chair in accordance with Section 6.6 of the RCRC Bylaws.

**Staff Recommendation**

It was recommended the RCRC Board of Directors take action to affirm the ascension of the Current First Vice Chair to Chair, and the Second Vice Chair to First Vice Chair as provided in Section 6.6 of the RCRC Bylaws, subject to consideration of additional nominations from the floor, if any.

No nominations were made from the floor.

**Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, motioned to approve ascension of Supervisor Miller to 2022 Chair, and Supervisor Teeter to 2022 First Vice Chair. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:**

**Not Voting:** Placer County

### **Election of the Second Vice Chair**

Patrick Blacklock explained the election process for the Second Vice Chair, and shared that Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County, expressed their interest in the Second Vice Chair position.

**Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County, nominated Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, to Second Vice Chair. Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, seconded the nomination.**

**Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, nominated Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, to Second Vice Chair. Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, seconded the nomination.**

**Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, nominated Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County, to Second Vice Chair. Supervisor Paul Barr, Glenn County, seconded the nomination.**

### **Staff Recommendation**

It was recommended the RCRC Board of Directors take action to elect the 2022 RCRC Second Vice Chair.

The vote was conducted by secret ballot in accordance with Section 6.11.1.2 of the RCRC Bylaws. Arthur Wylene, General Counsel, distributed one officer ballot for each member county joining in-person, and Maggie Chui, Director of Board Operations, distributed one electronic officer ballot for each member county joining virtually. Mr. Blacklock, Ms. Chui, and Mr. Wylene tabulated the votes for the Second Vice Chair position, and Ms. Chui announced that Supervisor Lopez was elected with 20 affirmative votes.

- 2022 Second Vice Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County

RCRC's 2022 Officer slate becomes effective January 1, 2022. The Officers will be sworn-in at the 2022 Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception on January 12, 2022.

### **Election of the 2022-2023 Executive Committee**

Patrick Blacklock explained the election procedure for the 2022-23 RCRC Executive Committee. Mr. Blacklock explained that RCRC Board Members selected will serve with the RCRC Officers to collectively comprise the RCRC Executive Committee for a two-year term (2022-2023).

### **Staff Recommendation**

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors caucus by region and take the action necessary to select the 2022 RCRC Executive Committee Members from each of the five regions.

Supervisors from each region convened either virtually and/or in-person to caucus and selected a RCRC Board Member to serve on the RCRC Executive Committee. Representatives from each region reported the following selections for the 2022-23 RCRC Executive Committee:

Region 1: Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County

Region 2: Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County

Region 3: Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County

Region 4: Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County

Region 5: Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County

**Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, motioned to approve the 2022-2023 RCRC Executive Committee as set forth above. Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:**

**Not Voting: Lake County; Placer County; Sonoma County; Tehama County**

#### **Designate Two Members of the RCRC Board to Serve on the Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. Board of Directors**

Patrick Blacklock explained the annual action to designate two members of the RCRC Board to serve on the Board of Directors of the Golden State Natural Resources (GSNR) nonprofit corporation for the forthcoming year.

It was suggested that the RCRC Board of Directors consider the following re-appointments to the GSNR Board for the upcoming year:

- Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County
- Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County

Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County, inquired whether additional nominations could be made for the GSNR Director appointments. Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, expressed concern regarding the suggestion of re-appointment without consideration of other members of RCRC Board of Directors. Supervisor McDaniel stated that there were other members of the RCRC Board of Directors with relevant skills and experience, and inquired if one or more of those members could be added to the GSNR Board of Directors. After discussion, it was suggested that the re-appointments be approved, and that the GSNR Board of Directors be requested to consider expanding the GSNR Board of Directors to allow additional representation from the RCRC Board of Directors.

## **Recommendation**

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors designate two members to serve on the GSNR Board of Directors for a one-year term.

**Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to: 1) re-appoint Supervisor Kingsley and Supervisor Corless to the GSNR Board of Directors; and 2) request that the GSNR Board of Directors consider expanding the GSNR Board of Directors to allow additional representation from the RCRC Board of Directors, and provide a response at the next RCRC Board of Directors meeting. Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:**

**Not Voting: Lake County; Placer County; Sonoma County; Tehama County**

## **RCRC Chair’s Report**

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, welcomed supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting in Merced County. Supervisor Corless thanked the RCRC Board of Directors for entrusting her to serve as the RCRC 2021 Chair, and highlighted legislative accomplishments and RCRC staff changes.

Immediate Past Chair Daron McDaniel, Merced County, was given an opportunity to address the RCRC Board of Directors. Supervisor McDaniel thanked everyone for attending the RCRC’s 2020 County of the Chair (Take 2) in Merced County.

## **Member County Concerns and Issues**

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, voiced his concern about the redistricting process and census blocks with zero population. Supervisor Griffith requested that this issue be raised to the U.S. Congress.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, inquired about S. 3011, the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act. Supervisor Byrne noted the importance of this bill for counties that do not receive a lot of sales tax and transient occupancy tax revenues.

Supervisor Bob Tiffany, San Benito County, shared his concern about the redistricting process, and inequities of congressional maps. Supervisor Tiffany shared that there is a push for the state commission to move San Benito County and Monterey County back together.

Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, provided an update on Mariposa County’s housing availability issue. Supervisor Menetrey noted the inflexibility of Project Homekey’s application, disparity on funding distribution, and short timeline to utilize the dollars.

Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, echoed Supervisor Tiffany's concern regarding the inequities of the congressional maps following the redistricting process.

Additionally, in response to Supervisor Menetrey's remarks regarding Project HomeKey, Supervisor Lopez encouraged counties to request for project-based funding on these projects.

Supervisor Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County, echoed Supervisor Menetrey's remarks regarding Project HomeKey, and requested RCRC participation on the next Project HomeKey iteration.

Supervisor Haff shared her concern regarding the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's (BOF) release of its revised Fire Safe Regulations.

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, spoke on the loss of control on litigations involving the Trindel Insurance Fund.

### **President's Report**

Patrick Blacklock provided an update on recent activities, including: the strategic plan development, the Golden State Connect Authority, annual audit, and his participation on the Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Undergrounding Advisory Committee.

Recent activities by the Governmental Affairs Department were highlighted, including: the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's SB 1383 organic waste local assistance grant allocations to local governments; expansion of the statewide drought emergency; the California Public Utilities Commission's broadband funding; update on BOF's Fire Safe Regulations; and, the California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) recognition of RCRC Senior Legislative Advocate Tracy Rhine's work on broadband.

### **RCRC Strategic Plan**

Carolyn Jhaji, Communications Director, addressed the RCRC Board of the Directors of the RCRC strategic plan and vision statement. The strategic plan will serve as a guiding document to be used by the RCRC Board of Directors to set policies and priorities for the organization for 2022-2025, effective January 1, 2022.

Following refinements by the RCRC Executive Committee at their October and November meetings, the 2022-2025 RCRC Strategic Plan is now before the RCRC Board of Directors for review and potential approval along with the recommended RCRC vision statement. Ms. Jhaji outlined additional amendments, including revisions to the Healthy Communities section.

### **Recommended Action**

Review and approve 2022-2025 RCRC Strategic Plan and vision statement.

**Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, motioned to approve the RCRC Strategic Plan and vision statement. Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:**

**Not Voting: Lake County; Placer County; Sonoma County; Tehama County**

### **RCRC 2022 Proposed Budget**

Lisa McCargar reviewed the 2022 proposed budget for RCRC with the RCRC Board of Directors. Ms. McCargar provided an overall summary, highlighting revenue and expenditures, and outlining the key differences between the 2022 and 2021 Expenditure Budgets. Ms. McCargar noted that the RCRC Executive Committee reviewed and approved this item at their November meeting.

### **Staff Recommendations**

Staff recommends that the RCRC Board of Directors take the following actions to approve the RCRC 2022 Proposed Budget:

1. Approve the attached proposed 2022 RCRC Operating Budget.
2. Approve the RCRC contract service fees at the following amounts:
  - GSFA - \$5,246,400
  - NHF - \$2,608,800
  - ESJPA - \$273,600
  - GSNR - \$1,399,500
  - GSCA - \$183,900
3. Approve the RCRC Contract Performance Fee from GSFA based on projected GSFA housing and energy program net revenues generated in 2022 in the amount of \$1,898,370.
4. Approve receipt of excess revenues transferred from NHF, per the NHF Bylaws, in the amount of \$750,000, to be transferred in equal quarterly amounts of \$187,500 during 2022.
5. Approve the contributions to affiliated entities ESJPA and GSCA in the amounts of \$150,000 and \$203,900, respectively. These amounts must also be approved by the respective boards.
6. Approve the GSNR in-kind revenue and in-kind expense of \$1,399,500, which must also be approved by the GSNR board.
7. Approve the 2022 member county dues calculation at the levels approved by the Board on June 13, 2012.
8. Approve the attached proposed 2022 pay rate schedule.

**Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, motioned to approve the RCRC 2022 Proposed Budget actions as recommended. Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:**

**Not Voting: Lake County; Placer County; Sonoma County; Tehama County**



## **RCRC Participation in the California Employers Retirement Benefit Trust (CERBT)**

Lisa McCargar reviewed RCRC participation in the California Employers Retirement Benefit Trust. Ms. McCargar reminded the RCRC Board of Directors that the RCRC Board of Directors approved RCRC to set aside resources for possible participation in the Other Post-Employment Benefits funding program in 2018 which are held in RCRC's Local Agency Investment Fund. Ms. McCargar noted that the RCRC Executive Committee reviewed and approved this item at their November meeting.

### **Recommended Actions**

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors take the following actions to approve RCRC Participation in the California Employers Retirement Benefit Trust (CERBT):

- a. California Employers' Retiree Benefit Trust Program Agreement And Election To Prefund Other Post-Employment Benefits Through CalPERS.
- b. RCRC Resolution 21-08: Delegation of Authority to Request Disbursements from CERBT.
- c. Authorize the Chief Financial Officer to submit and periodically revise the CERBT Valuation Packet documents, and take such other actions as may be reasonably required to implement participation in CERBT.
- d. Authorize RCRC to make a one-time contribution of up to \$500,000 into CERBT.

**Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the recommended actions for RCRC Participation in the California Employers Retirement Benefit Trust (CERBT). Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:**

**Abstaining: Mariposa County**

**Not Voting: Lake County; Sonoma County; Tehama County**

### **Approval and Acceptance of Santa Barbara County Membership and Revision of RCRC Bylaws to Assign Santa Barbara County to Region 5 - ACTION**

Patrick Blacklock discussed the membership approval and acceptance process of Santa Barbara County per RCRC's Bylaws. If approved by the RCRC Board of Directors, Santa Barbara County would place RCRC's membership at thirty-eight (38) of the fifty-eight (58) California counties, and would begin membership effectively immediately.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length the pros and cons of approving and accepting Santa Barbara County's membership. Several RCRC Board Members raised the question of potentially requiring each RCRC Member County to designate a Delegate that is from a rural area, as well as revisiting the population cap for membership.

Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County, was given an opportunity to address the RCRC Board of Directors.

### **Recommendations**

Mr. Blacklock noted that the RCRC Executive Committee considered and approved forwarding this request to the RCRC Board of Directors at its November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting with a vote of 7-1, and recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors take the following actions:

1. Accept Santa Barbara County as an RCRC member county;
2. Set Santa Barbara County's annual membership dues at \$7,500 for 2021-2022 fiscal year; and,
3. Approve a proposed revision to the RCRC Bylaws to assign Santa Barbara County to Region 5.

**Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County, motioned to approve the recommended actions. Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:**

**"No": Lassen County**

**Not Voting: Lake County; Sonoma County; Tehama County**

### **2022 Installation of Officers Reception/Ceremony Update**

Dorothy Poole, Government Affairs Operations Manager, provided a brief overview of the plans for the 2022 Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception, which will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at the Citizen Hotel.

### **RCRC Bylaws Amendment Regarding Supporting Federal Presidential Nominees**

Arthur Wylene discussed the process for RCRC offering a "support" position for federal presidential nominees. Mr. Wylene presented a proposed amendment to the RCRC Bylaws, particularly Section 6.7.2 regarding Powers and Limitations of the Executive Committee, which would align the processes for supporting state and federal nominees for public office, requiring a two-thirds of the full RCRC Executive Committee membership in both cases.

### **Staff Recommendation**

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors approve the proposed Bylaws amendment. Mr. Wylene noted that the RCRC Executive Committee recommended approval to the full RCRC Board of Directors after consideration at its October meeting.

**Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, motioned to approve the above-mentioned recommendation. Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:**

**Abstaining: Mendocino County**

**Not Voting: Lake County; Sonoma County; Tehama County**

### **Proposed 2022 Policy Principles**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, presented the 2022 proposed Policy Principles to the RCRC Board of Directors for review. These principles help guide staff when they review proposed legislation or regulations in order to determine the appropriate RCRC position. RCRC Board Members were requested to review the draft Policy Principles, which contain a number of modifications. Edits, amendments, and comments are to be submitted no later than January 3, 2022 so they can be included in the Board Packet and considered at the January 2022 RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

### **RCRC Rural Leadership Awards**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam informed the RCRC Board of Directors that RCRC has selected Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Commissioner Martha Guzman-Aceves, as the two recipients of the 2021 RCRC Rural Leadership Award. Ms. Warmerdam explained that the primary factor for the two recipients were their work on broadband connectivity in rural California.

### **Forest Management and Wildfire Update**

Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on efforts in the Legislature and various state and federal agencies to address California's persistent and catastrophic wildfire events. Ms. Heaton discussed the retirement of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Director Chief Thom Porter, effective December 10, 2021. RCRC and CSAC have prepared a joint letter with recommendations for the next CAL FIRE Director to the Governor.

Ms. Heaton highlighted the recent Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) that took place on November 4, 2021, whereby the Committee heard from CAL FIRE and Town of Paradise's community fire hardening efforts and projects. The next Committee meeting will be held on January 13, 2022.

Ms. Heaton also discussed the federal infrastructure bill that includes funding to the U.S. Forest Service, new categorical exclusions for fuel breaks around critical infrastructure, and the Wildfire Fire Mitigation and Management Commission. Lastly, Ms. Heaton noted the release of the California Department of Insurance's draft Mitigation in Rating Plans and Wildfire Risk Models regulation.

### **California Public Utilities Commission Update**

John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, and Tracy Rhine, Senior Legislative Advocate, provided an update on RCRC's involvement at CPUC. Mr. Kennedy shared that Governor Newsom has named Alice Reynolds as the next president of CPUC, following Marybel Batjer's recent resignation.

Mr. Kennedy focused on the following: RCRC joining the Affordability Proceeding, which would focus on energy costs; the submission of the joint petition to modify the BioMAT program; and, CPUC considering revising the Solar Net Energy Metering Tariff.

Based on inquiry by Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, Legislative Advocate Leigh Kammerich updated the RCRC Board of Directors on the Wildfire Mitigation Plans Proceeding, whereby the responsibility to review, investigate, and approve plans has been transferred to a new Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety at the California Natural Resources Agency.

Tracy Rhine discussed RCRC's suggestion to CPUC on rural broadband funding methodology to distribute last mile infrastructure dollars.

### **Other Regulatory Committee Issues**

Tracy Rhine provided an update on BOF's Fire Safe Regulations. On December 7, 2021, the BOF approved its latest draft proposal for submission to the Office of Administrative Law, and voted to move forward with a 15-day modified text comment period. RCRC will be submitting comments highlighting the need for a more collaborate process and cleaner definitions. Once RCRC comments are filed, it will be shared with the RCRC Board of Directors.

### **Water Issues Update**

In Legislative Advocate Sidd Nag's absence, Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an update on current issues involving California's water policy. Ms. Warmerdam discussed the following: Newsom Administration disbanding plans for Voluntary Agreements; California Water commission involving itself in groundwater trading; the Governor declaring drought emergency statewide and activating the California Disaster Assistance Act's assistance; and, President Biden signing the bipartisan infrastructure bill that promises billions for California.

### **State and Federal Legislative Update**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an update on issues being addressed at the state level. Ms. Warmerdam discussed the reconvening of the 2022 Legislative Session in January 2022. In January, RCRC staff will review legislation as well as analyze the proposed State Budget for its implications on rural counties. Ms. Warmerdam encouraged supervisors to review and distribute the RCRC 2021 Legislative Digest document to county staff.

Additionally, Sheryl Cohen, Partner, American Continental Group (ACG), and Max Seltzer, Associate, ACG, provided an update on issues being addressed at the federal level. An update was provided on the following: continuing resolution, debit ceiling, Bipartisan Infrastructure Act implementation, Build Back Better Act, FY 2023 appropriations, and the Farm Bill reauthorization strategic plan.

**Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 12:48 p.m.