

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 5, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 – Board Room
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
David Griffith	Alpine
Brian Oneto	Amador
Doug Teeter	Butte
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Denise Carter	Colusa
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Michael Ranalli	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Jim Steele	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Miles Menetrey	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Mary Rickert	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Lynda Hopkins	Sonoma
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
John Fenley	Trinity
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

Absent

Jim Holmes	Placer
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Matt Rexroad	Yolo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Bobbi Chadwick, Trinity County
Chief Ken Pimlott, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Jim Branham, Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Ed Horton, Placer County Water Agency
Elizabeth Espinosa, Hurst Brooks Espinosa LLC
Mike Kelly, Granicus
Rob Bovett, Legal Counsel, Association of Oregon Counties
Jennifer Tripp, Pacific Crest Trail Association
Erin Gilbert, Pacific Crest Trail Association
Lahela Mattox, California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council
Robert Bendorf Jr., Ygrene Energy Fund
Caitlin Fitzwater, California Arts Council

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Craig Ferguson, Vice President
Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer
Justin Caporusso, Vice President External Affairs
Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate
Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Arthur Wylene, Governmental Affairs Counsel
Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer
Maggie Chui, Governmental Affairs Coordinator
Santinia Pasquini, External Affairs Coordinator
Sarah Bolnik, Economic Development Specialist
Layne Frederickson, IT Director

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2018

Chair, Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, called for approval of the minutes from the September 21, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, motioned to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Abstaining: Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County; Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County

RCRC Chair's Report

Supervisor Bohn called for a moment of silence in memory of the late President George H.W. Bush as well as victims of the wildfire in Butte County.

Supervisor Bohn announced that a total of \$56,590 was raised during the RCRC Basket Raffle and Auction at RCRC's 2018 Annual Meeting for seven Humboldt County charities. Checks were distributed to Special Olympics Northern California, Ferndale Senior Resource Agency – Ferndale Community Center, Ferndale Museum, Cancer Crushers, Mattole Valley Family Resource Center, Families Advocating Autism Now, and Redcrest Volunteer Fire.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County voiced his concern regarding the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation which could change the structure of the Central Valley.

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, spoke about the importance of developing a disaster recovery plan.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, shared his concern regarding pressure on the University of California's budget as it relates to agricultural extension programs. Supervisor Hanvelt emphasized that rural counties need to demand funding for these programs.

Supervisor Jim Steele, Lake County, spoke about the Ranch Fire in Lake County. Supervisor Steele is in the process of organizing a coalition of counties to address forest management issues.

Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, spoke of the need for disaster preparation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's wireless emergency alert system. Supervisor Carter thanked RCRC staff for informing her about this issue.

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, voiced his concern regarding Senate Bill 1250 (Bradford) regarding residency requirements for elected officials.

Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, spoke about California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Chief Ken Pimlott's recent appearance on *60 Minutes*, which included discussion about climate change; however, no mention about the importance of fuel loading.

In response to Supervisor Carter's comment regarding wireless emergency alert system, Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Sonoma County, shared her concern regarding the wireless

emergency alert system. Supervisor Hopkins noted that a wireless emergency alert system testing was conducted in Sonoma County, and the results were very poor due to unreliable wireless service.

Supervisor Hopkins also shared her concern about the issue of ingress and egress as it relates to fire disaster response and evacuation.

Supervisor Mary Rickert, Shasta County, and Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, echoed the sentiments of Supervisor Hopkins regarding the emergency alert system.

Supervisor Bohn also shared that he and Supervisor Virginia Bass, Humboldt County, dropped off gift cards and other gifts to victims of the Camp Fire in Butte County.

In response to the emergency alert system discussion, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, shared that Alpine County has a contract with the Sheriff's Department to implement the emergency alert system.

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, spoke about the Camp Fire in Butte County. Supervisor Teeter highlighted the importance of properly maintaining properties in an effort to help reduce wildfire risks.

Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County, spoke about attending a recent Air Quality Management District Board of Directors meeting where they discussed the Tractor Replacement Program.

Public Comments

Jennifer Tripp, Director of Trail Operations, Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), provided an overview of PCTA, and encouraged RCRC Member Counties to adopt county resolutions recognizing the 50th anniversary of PCTA.

Lahela Mattox, Local Government Liaison, California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), provided an overview of HCFC's Homeless Emergency Aid Program.

Caitlin Fitzwater, Director of Public Affairs, California Arts Council (Council), provided an overview of the Council, which advances California through the arts and creativity. Ms. Fitzwater encouraged rural areas to participate as rural representation is needed.

President's Report

Greg Norton, President & CEO, provided a brief update on the RCRC Governmental Affairs Department's recent accomplishments, which include the Brown Administration's appointment of Ned Coe to serve on the Modoc County Board of Supervisor's 1st District seat prior to the January 2019 start-date. Governor Brown announced the appointment to fill the vacant spot due to the recent death of Supervisor David Allan. Mr. Norton also shared that the Governmental Affairs Department has significantly increased the amount

of state legislative position letters, and signature and veto request letters, compared to previous years.

Mr. Norton provided an update on recent county visits by RCRC staff. Counties visited in recent weeks include Butte, Humboldt, Madera, Placer, Sonoma, Tuolumne, and others. RCRC staff have also participated in a number of meetings including broadband-related meetings, Association of California Water Agencies' Annual Conference, California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) Annual Meeting, San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties' Fall Conference, and others.

Mr. Norton acknowledged the outgoing RCRC Member County Supervisors for their dedicated service to California's rural counties: Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County; Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County; Supervisor Jim Steele, Lake County; and, Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County (absent).

RCRC Bylaws Proposed Revisions to Officer and Executive Committee Voting Procedure and to Assign Sonoma County to Region 3

Greg Norton explained that revisions to the RCRC Bylaws are necessary to address the voting procedure for RCRC Officers and members of the Executive Committee. The revisions would explicitly authorize secret ballot voting for RCRC Officers and Executive Committee members. The revisions would also formally assign Sonoma County to Region 3.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors review the proposed revisions for approval.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, motioned to approve the RCRC Bylaws Proposed Revisions. Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

Election of 2019 RCRC Officers and Corporate Officers

Greg Norton explained the election process for the 2019 RCRC Officers. The Officers slate becomes effective January 1, 2019, and they will be sworn in at RCRC's Annual Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception on January 16, 2019. 2018 Chair Supervisor Rex Bohn called for approval of the 2019 Slate of Officers as presented:

2019 Chair	Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County
2019 First Vice Chair	Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County
2019 Second Vice Chair	Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County
2019 Immediate Past Chair	Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended the RCRC Board of Directors approve the 2019 RCRC Officers as presented.

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, motioned to approve the 2019 RCRC Officers. Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

Greg Norton nominated the following individuals to serve, in addition to himself, as the 2019 RCRC Corporate Officers:

Craig Ferguson	Secretary
Lisa McCargar	Treasurer

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended the RCRC Board of Directors approve the RCRC Corporate Officers as presented.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, motioned to approve the RCRC Corporate Officers. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

RCRC 2019 Proposed Budget

Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview and summarized highlights of the proposed 2019 RCRC Operating Budget. The proposed Operating Budget was reviewed and approved by the RCRC Executive Committee at their November 14, 2018 meeting.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the following staff recommendations:

1. Approve the attached proposed 2019 RCRC Operating Budget.
2. Approve the RCRC contract service fees at the following amounts:
GSFA - \$4,908,000; ESJPA - \$66,000; and NHF - \$2,020,000
3. Approve the RCRC contract Performance Fee from GSFA based on projected GSFA housing and energy program net revenues generated in 2019 in the amount of \$810,000.
4. Approve receipt of excess resources/revenues transferred from NHF, per the NHF Bylaws, in the amount of \$1,000,000, to be transferred in equal quarterly amounts of \$250,000 during 2019.
5. Approve 2019-member county dues calculation at the levels approved by the Board on June 13, 2012.
6. Approve the attached proposed 2019 pay rate schedule.
7. Approve the proposed outlay for capitalized expenditures in the amount of \$105,000

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the RCRC 2019 Proposed Budget. Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

Consideration of Guidelines for RCRC Participation as Amicus Curiae in Pending Court Cases of Interest to Rural Counties

Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs, explained the possible participation by RCRC as *amicus curiae* in appropriate legal cases. Mr. Smith outlined guidelines for managing such activities, and noted that CSAC has a similar process. The proposed protocol for future RCRC activities as *amicus curiae* was reviewed and approved by the RCRC Executive Committee at their November 14, 2018 meeting.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the proposed *amicus curiae* guidelines.

Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, motioned to approve the Guidelines for RCRC Participation as Amicus Curiae in Pending Court Cases of Interest to Rural Counties. Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

RCRC Rural Leadership Awards

Paul A. Smith informed the RCRC Board of Directors that the RCRC Executive Committee approved RCRC staff’s recommendation of Assembly Member Brian Dahle (R-Bieber) and Assembly Member Jim Wood (D-Santa Rosa) as the recipients of the 2018 RCRC Rural Leadership Award. Previously presented as the “Patti Mattingly Award” in 2015, Mr. Smith noted that Assembly Member Dahle will be the first person to be the recipient of the Award more than once. The Awards will be presented at the 2019 Annual Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception on January 16, 2019.

Installation of Officers Reception/Ceremony

Justin Caporusso, Vice President External Affairs, provided an update to the RCRC Board of Directors of RCRC’s 2019 Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception. RCRC Board Members were encouraged to submit their lodging requests to Santinia Pasquini, External Affairs Coordinator, as soon as possible.

Guest Speaker

Jim Branham, Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, provided a brief overview of the Watershed Improvement Program.

Supervisor Doug Teeter presented Mr. Branham with a gift in honor of his upcoming retirement. Supervisor Teeter thanked Mr. Branham for his exemplary leadership and ability to cultivate and maintain relationships between organizations and state agencies.

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on the Forest Management Task Force (FMTF) and recent wildfire events, including the Camp Fire in Butte County, and the Woolsey Fire in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Ms. Heaton also provided an update on investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and liability, homeowners insurance, the Legislative Analyst's Office Update on CAL FIRE spending, and RCRC's involvement and advocacy efforts.

Ms. Heaton shared that FMTF has begun convening its Regional Prioritization Groups, which are designed to tackle the specific needs and challenges of the state's various regions. Several RCRC Member Counties are already participating on the appropriate groups along with RCRC staff.

Ms. Heaton shared that Senator Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo) and Assembly Member Chris Holden (D-Pasadena) will soon introduce legislation to address how IOUs operate. Assembly Member James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) has already introduced Assembly Bill 41 and Assembly Bill 42 relating to disaster relief.

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate, encouraged RCRC Board Members to review the proposed State Budget when it is released in January 2019 to secure Senate Bill 901 (Dodd) funding.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed recent wildfire events as they pertain to RCRC Member Counties. RCRC will continue to update the RCRC Board of Directors on forest health and wildfire prevention as the new Administration and Legislature convenes in the new year.

Guest Speaker

Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE, was recognized for his work over the years as he prepares to retire at the end of the year. Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, thanked Chief Pimlott for his dedication to California and its rural counties.

Proposed 2019 Policy Principles

Paul A. Smith presented the 2019 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 modest improvements, primarily in the biomass, wildfire disaster funding, and water sections. Edits, amendments, and comments are to be submitted to Maggie Chui no later than January 1, 2019 so they can be included in the January 2019 Board Packet and considered at the January Board of Directors meeting.

Update on County Jail Construction Projects

Paul A. Smith and Elizabeth Howard Espinosa, Partner, Hurst Brooks Espinosa LLC, provided an analysis on the recent history of state-funded county jail construction and

local juvenile detention construction projects in response to a number of concerns expressed by RCRC Member Counties regarding the cost of construction and operating new detention facilities.

Ms. Espinosa noted that based on an analysis of awards of the adult and juvenile construction project funding applications over the seven grant programs since 2007, whether funded or not, RCRC Member Counties have done relatively well in securing construction funding.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length jail construction project issues as it pertains to various individual counties. Mr. Smith and Ms. Espinosa encouraged RCRC Member Counties to notify RCRC staff if they are experiencing issues, including delays that have resulted in the cost to construct being significantly higher than the amount awarded.

RCRC staff plans to approach the Legislature and the new Administration to assess whether there can be additional state funding appropriated.

State Legislation

Paul A. Smith noted that the California Legislature reconvened on Monday, December 3, 2018. While the Legislature officially returns on January 7, 2019, approximately 200 measures have already been introduced. RCRC staff will be reviewing hundreds of bills to assess their impact on RCRC Member Counties.

Mr. Smith shared that the implementation of SB 901 will be a priority for RCRC staff during the 2019 Legislative Session. RCRC staff will be preparing a 2019 Legislative Session outlook memo at an upcoming RCRC Board of Directors meeting to look into key issues RCRC staff will be engaged in.

Federal Legislation

Paul A. Smith reported that there are a few weeks remaining in the 115th Congress. Mr. Smith expects a lot of activities during the Lame Duck Session, and expects Congress to finalize the appropriations bills by December 21, 2018. When the 116th Congress convenes in January 2019, Democrats will have control of the House of Representatives.

Update on 2018 Farm Bill

Paul A. Smith provided an update on the status of the 2018 Farm Bill. RCRC's focus as it relates to the 2018 Farm Bill includes rural development investments, largely contained in the Rural Development Title, broadband, water infrastructure, energy efficiency, and housing. The Forestry Title, including those provisions that relate to fire-borrowing and forest health, as well as the Conservation Title are also of interest to RCRC.

Mr. Smith noted that the greatest challenge for the Conference Committee has been to reconcile the different approaches to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Mr. Smith also stated that the Forestry Title and other forest management activities will

likely not be addressed in the 2018 Farm Bill. Among other aspects for rural communities, broadband deployment may be addressed in the Economic Development Title.

While it has been announced that an agreement had been reached, the Conference Committee was not able to issue a final agreement before Congress adjourned ahead of the November midterm elections. Still, the 2018 Farm Bill is expected to be finalized during the Lame Duck Session.

Senate Bill 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Proposed Regulations and Assembly Bill 1826 Mandatory Commercial Organic Waste Recycling

Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on the status of the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) Senate Bill 1383 (Lara, 2016), Short-Lived Climate Pollutant proposed regulations, and Assembly Bill 1826 (Chesbro, 2014), the mandatory commercial organic waste recycling.

Recently, CalRecycle released the economic analysis for SB 1383 for public review prior to releasing the formal draft regulations. Ms. Pitto provided a summary of the analysis, but will be analyzing it in more detail with stakeholders for formal comments. The formal draft of the regulations is expected in mid-January 2019 to begin the formal rulemaking process. Once the formal draft is released, stakeholders will have the opportunity to submit their comments again as part of the public record. Ms. Pitto noted that the formal draft will not include RCRC and stakeholders' suggested changes, as significant changes are expected to be incorporated into the second formal draft of the regulations. CalRecycle expects adoption of the regulations in 2019.

In addition, Ms. Pitto reported that RCRC staff continues to work with CalRecycle on rural exclusions for the collection of residential food waste above the 4,500-foot elevation. CalRecycle intends to include a "Bear Waiver," but this proposal will also not be included in the first formal draft.

Ms. Pitto noted that the nineteen low population RCRC Member Counties that qualified for a delay in implementation of AB 1826 (mandatory commercial organics diversion) will also be qualified for a waiver of SB 1383 implementation until 2025. Lastly, at their last public meeting, CalRecycle outlined their proposed methodology for conducting the AB 1826 implementation study in 2020, and indicated it is possible that they may extend implementation of AB 1826 for the low population counties to 2025.

Ms. Pitto encouraged RCRC Member Counties to review the proposed regulations once released and become engaged during the SB 1383 formal rulemaking process. RCRC staff will continue to follow developments and engage in issues pertaining to the organic waste diversion regulations.

Water Issues Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided a brief update on issues involving California water policy at the state and federal levels, including the Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan, Sustainable

Groundwater Management Act, Siskiyou County Groundwater Litigation, and California WaterFix's twin tunnels project.

Ms. Warmerdam noted that these past several months have seen a number of interesting developments from water allocations to infrastructure investments, which may affect how the new Administration moves forward on the state's water policy issues. In other recent developments, Ms. Warmerdam shared that the Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board is due for reappointment, but the confirmation remains uncertain.

Ms. Warmerdam noted that Senator Bill Dodd (D-Napa) has introduced Senate Bill 19 relating to water resources. Ms. Warmerdam also noted that Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) has introduced Senate Bill 45, the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.

RCRC staff will continue to engage on these issues as necessary to ensure the policy concerns of RCRC Member Counties are addressed.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:31 p.m.