

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
December 6, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, presided. Present were President and CEO Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and Director of Board Operations, Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Teeter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor

David Griffith
Brian Oneto
Doug Teeter
Jack Garamendi
Daurice Smith
Darrin Short
Lori Parlin
Rex Bohn
Michael Kelley*
Matt Kingsley
Doug Verboon
EJ Crandell
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Miles Menetrey
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan*
Anne Cottrell
Sue Hoek
Jim Holmes
Kevin Goss
Dom Zanger
John Peschong
Bob Nelson
Tim Garman
Lee Adams
Michael Kobseff
Mitch Mashburn
James Gore*
Mat Conant

County

Alpine
Amador
Butte
Calaveras
Colusa
Del Norte
El Dorado
Humboldt
Imperial
Inyo
Kings
Lake
Lassen
Madera
Mariposa
Merced
Modoc
Mono
Napa
Nevada
Placer
Plumas
San Benito
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Shasta
Sierra
Siskiyou
Solano
Sonoma
Sutter

Bill Moule
Jill Cox*
Dennis Townsend
Kathleen Haff
Angel Barajas
Gary Bradford

Tehama
Trinity
Tulare
Tuolumne
Yolo
Yuba

Absent

Thomas Arnold
Glenn McGourty
Chris Lopez

Glenn
Mendocino
Monterey

*Attendance via Zoom

Public Comment

Eddie Jordan, Vice President, West Division, and Kristy Coughlin, CA Government Affairs and Community Development, from SitelogIQ presented the company's energy programs and solutions, outlining their efforts to serve California's rural communities.

Justin Caporusso, Caporusso Communications, spoke about the California Department of Transportation's Road Charge Pilot program.

Consent Agenda

- a. **September 22, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Revised RCRC 2024 Meeting Calendar**
- c. **RCRC 2024 Proposed Budget**
- d. **Rural Leadership Awards**
- e. **2024 Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception**

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:

Not Voting: Amador County, Sierra County, Solano County

RCRC Chair's Report

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, welcomed supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting. Supervisor Teeter expressed gratitude to the RCRC Board of Directors for their support during his tenure as the Chair of RCRC, and provided an overview of the efforts made in 2023.

President's Report

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided a report on recent activities the organization is engaged in that align with the RCRC Strategic Plan goals, encompassing

Equitable Access, Impactful Advocacy, Healthy Communities, and Operational Excellence.

Mr. Blacklock recognized Malinda Matson, Economic Development Representative, Northern and Coastal California, Economic Development Administration, as the recipient of the President's Award for her role in connecting rural communities with federal funding opportunities.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, provided an opportunity for the RCRC Board of Directors to discuss their individual member county concerns and issues. RCRC staff will review the concerns and issues raised by RCRC Board Members and assess each item for possible plans of action.

The RCRC Board of Directors heard from the following supervisors:

- Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, inquired about the possibility of exploring "Frontier County" designations for smaller counties to obtain exemptions in delivering state-mandated services, particularly in Health and Human Services and Behavioral Health.
- Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, raised concerns about the state's impact on local control regarding needle exchange and substance treatment programs. Supervisor Parlin questioned if other RCRC Member Counties share this concern and if RCRC could assist. Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County, and Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, echoed Supervisor Parlin's concerns.
- Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County, announced the appointment of Placer County native Daniel Berlant as State Fire Marshal.
- Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, thanked Supervisor Doug Teeter for his leadership as RCRC's 2023 Chair.
- Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County, reported that Napa County recently received a \$5 million homelessness prevention grant from the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority.
- Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, observed that there are more parking spots for electric vehicles compared to gas vehicles.
- Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, highlighted the successful biomass conference in Yolo County, promoting infrastructure development for biomass plants.
- Supervisor Doug Verboon, Kings County, expressed concerns about the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies' groundwater ordinances. Supervisor Verboon also noted a decline in solar installation incentives.
- Supervisor Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County, called for increased emphasis on water issues in RCRC's legislative platform. Supervisor Sue Hoek, Nevada County, echoed this sentiment.
- Supervisor Mitch Mashburn, Solano County, announced that Solano County was selected as County of the Year by the Farm Bureau.

- Supervisor Sue Hoek, Nevada County, emphasized the importance of broadband access in rural communities, especially since cellular services are currently down, and AT&T is projecting a 4-week repair time.
- Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County, addressed housing issues, particularly recreational vehicle use permitted for longer-term housing, and requested input from fellow supervisors.

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

Patrick Blacklock 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:

2024 Chair

Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County

2024 First Vice Chair

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County

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.

Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, motioned to approve ascension of Supervisor Lopez to 2024 Chair, and Supervisor Byrne to 2024 First Vice Chair. Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Amador County

Election of the Second Vice Chair

Patrick Blacklock explained the election process for the Second Vice Chair position, and shared that Supervisor Miles Menetrey from Mariposa County, and Supervisor Bob Nelson from Santa Barbara County, have stated their interest in the Second Vice Chair Officer position.

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, nominated Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, to Second Vice Chair. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the nomination.

Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County, nominated Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County, to Second Vice Chair. Supervisor Tim Garman, Shasta County, seconded the nomination.

Each of the nominated Supervisors briefly addressed the Board. Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, expressed his interest in serving as the Second Vice Chair. Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County, initially expressed interest, but decided to withdraw his candidacy for this year.

RCRC's 2024 Officer slate becomes effective January 1, 2024. The Officers will be sworn-in at the 2024 Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception on January 17, 2024.

Staff Recommendation

It was recommended the RCRC Board of Directors take action to elect the 2024 RCRC Second Vice Chair:

- 2024 Second Vice Chair, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Mariposa County, motioned to approve Supervisor Menetrey as the 2024 Second Vice Chair. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

*Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County, departed the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Election of the 2024-2025 Executive Committee

Patrick Blacklock explained the election procedure for the 2024-2025 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 (2024-2025).

Staff Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors caucus by region and take the action necessary to select the 2024-2025 RCRC Executive Committee Members from each of the five regions.

Supervisors from each region convened either virtually at a noticed teleconference location 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 2024-2025 RCRC Executive Committee:

Region 1: Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County

Region 2: Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County

Region 3: Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County

Region 4: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County

Region 5: Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the 2024-2025 RCRC Executive Committee as set forth above. Supervisor Michael Kobseff,

Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Sonoma County

Resolution No. 23-03: Approving the Conflict of Interest Code for Rural County Representatives of California

Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, presented the proposed Conflict of Interest Code for RCRC, which is based on organizational functions and job duties.

Staff Recommendation

Adopt a resolution approving the Conflict of Interest Code for RCRC, and direct staff to forward to the FPPC for final review.

Supervisor Darrin Short, Del Norte County, motioned to approve Resolution 23-03: Approving the Conflict of Interest Code for Rural County Representatives of California. Supervisor Sue Hoek, Nevada County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Sonoma County

California Public Utilities Commission Update

Leigh Kammerich, Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC’s involvement at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Topics covered include CPUC’s denial of the Center for Biological Diversity’s petition regarding biomass power plants, updates on Wildfire Mitigation Plans, CPUC’s consideration of broader changes to electrical transmission facilities, exploration of opportunities for improvements in the utility distribution planning process, and details about upcoming events.

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided an update on current issues involving California water policy. Topics covered include surface water storage, streamlining provisions of the Sites Reservoir Project, and the status of deliveries to State and Central Valley Water Projects. The RCRC Board of Directors discussed key concerns for 2024, emphasizing the importance of RCRC engagement.

Guest Speaker – California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

Nancy Ward, Director, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on CalOES’ 2024 initiatives and vision to the RCRC Board of Directors. Director Ward and the RCRC Board of Directors discussed how CalOES can continue to assist rural communities.

*Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County, departed the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on efforts in the Legislature and various state and federal agencies to address California's persistent and catastrophic wildfire events. Topics covered include recent appointments to key positions, an update on the status of the Zone Zero Regulation, and the ongoing efforts by the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force.

*Supervisor Jill Cox, Trinity County, departed the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

State and Federal Legislative Update

John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on issues being addressed at both the state and federal levels. At the state level, Mr. Kennedy focused on recent leadership and committee changes, the budget outlook, and the legislative calendar. Mr. Kennedy also provided an update on RCRC's sponsored bills related to solid and organic waste recycling.

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC's sponsored bills related to the Brown Act, code enforcement, and cannabis enforcement. Of importance, Ms. Dukett requested Member Counties to submit letters of opposition to Assembly Bill 702 (Jackson), which would revise and recast components of the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act.

At the federal level, Mr. Kennedy provided updates on the Continuing Resolution, the status of the government shutdown, and emergency foreign assistance.

Property Insurance Ad Hoc Committee Final Report

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, Chair of the Property Insurance Ad Hoc Committee, and Staci Heaton discussed the topics covered by the Committee and presented the final report, which includes comprehensive updates to the RCRC Policy Principles on Public Safety and Emergency Management.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed additional revisions beyond the proposed RCRC Policy Principles.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors consider and take action on the recommended additions to the RCRC Policy Principles.

The RCRC Board of Directors deliberated on additional revisions, focusing on supporting the expediting of the FAIR Plan application processes, in addition to the proposed RCRC Policy Principles.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the above-mentioned recommendations. Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:

**Not Voting: Imperial County, Plumas County, San Luis Obispo County,
Solano County, Sonoma County, Trinity County, Yolo County**

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:21 p.m.