

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, presided. Present were President and CEO Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and Director of Board Operations, Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor

David Griffith
Brian Oneto*
Doug Teeter
Jack Garamendi*
Denise Carter
Gerry Hemmingsen
Lori Parlin
Paul Barr
Rex Bohn
Michael Kelley*
Matt Kingsley
EJ Crandell
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Miles Menetrey
Glenn McGourty
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne*
Stacy Corless
Chris Lopez
Diane Dillon*
Dan Miller
Jim Holmes
Kevin Goss
Bob Tiffany*
John Peschong
Bob Nelson*
Les Baugh*
Lee Adams
Michael Kobseff*

County

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

Mitch Mashburn ⁺	Solano
Bob Williams	Tehama
Jeremy Brown	Trinity
Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Kathleen Haff	Tuolumne
Angel Barajas*	Yolo
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

Absent

James Gore	Sonoma
Mat Conant	Sutter

*Attendance via Zoom

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

None

Consent Agenda

- a. **January 12, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Resolution TC003-22: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the RCRC Board of Directors Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361**

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, motioned to approve the following: minutes from the January 12, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting; and, RCRC Resolution TC003-22. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Madera County; Placer County; Siskiyou County

RCRC Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, announced that today is Supervisor Kathleen Haff’s (Tuolumne County) birthday.

Supervisor Miller provided a recap of the RCRC Officers’ recent trip to Washington, D.C. for the National Association of Counties’ (NACo) 2022 Legislative Conference. The RCRC Officers and RCRC staff also met with representatives from the Administration and members of the California Congressional Delegation. Key talking points include the

⁺ Seated as part of agenda item 9.b. “Approval and Acceptance of Solano Membership and Revision of RCRC Bylaws to Assign Solano County to Region 3 - ACTION” at this meeting.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Act distribution of funds for various programs, Farm Bill Reauthorization, and cannabis legislation.

RCRC 1st Vice Chair Supervisor Doug Teeter (Butte County), RCRC 2nd Vice Chair Supervisor Chris Lopez (Monterey County), RCRC Immediate Past Chair Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono County), and RCRC's NACo Western Interstate Region representative Supervisor Matt Kingsley (Inyo County) were given an opportunity to report out.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, shared his concerns regarding issues with forest management and the National Environmental Policy Act, as well as homelessness and mental health problems across the state. Supervisor Oneto also shared his concern about the California Air Resources Control Board's diesel vehicle regulations.

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, stated that money from external sources are influencing county election outcomes, and requested that a political action committee be formed to support supervisors. In response, Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, and Supervisor Oneto endorsed the request. Chair Miller acknowledged the request and stated that RCRC staff will evaluate.

Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, spoke about the burden of mental health services being shifted to counties, and asked if RCRC will be joining the California State of Association of Counties' (CSAC) efforts on the issue. In response, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, echoed this concern.

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, shared his takeaway from the RCRC Officers' trip to Washington D.C., particularly on his experience with Congress Member Tom McClintock and other representatives. In response, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, shared his previous experience with Congress Member McClintock's staff.

Supervisor Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County, reminded smaller counties to reach out to RCRC Senior Policy Advocate Tracy Rhine for Project Homekey assistance. Supervisor Haff also asked for lobbying firm recommendations for Tuolumne County.

Supervisor Griffith spoke about excess Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund and thanked RCRC staff and stakeholders for addressing the issue. Supervisor Griffith also expressed his concern regarding the emergency authorization of teleconference meetings that include in-person participation.

Supervisor Bohn spoke about road issues and requested counties to rally behind Senate Bill 1 formula for one-time monies. In response, Supervisor Oneto, Supervisor Bob Tiffany, San Benito County, and Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, echoed in support of the funding request. Following, Supervisor Fletcher requested the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to address road issues.

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, noted that with the state experiencing a surplus, he would like to see a push for backfill on Payment in Lieu of Taxes arrears to counties. Supervisor Hemmingsen also spoke about issues regarding jet fuel tax in airports.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, voiced her concern regarding the ongoing drought, and asked for RCRC assistance on creative solutions, possibly through the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee. In response, Supervisor Carter echoed Supervisor Byrne's concern regarding the ongoing drought, particularly domestic dry wells and groundwater not being recharged. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, also agreed with Supervisor Byrne's request of forming an Ad Hoc Committee to address the ongoing drought, including groundwater recharge and curtailments.

Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County, requested the formation of a subcommittee to address cannabis issues to increase statewide involvement.

Supervisor Kobseff spoke about the issue of Senate Bill 1383 implementation and compliance.

Supervisor Fletcher asked fellow supervisors interested in working with a small committee on water to reach out to him.

Supervisor Paul Barr, Glenn County, voiced his concern with how the California Department of Transportation handles road maintenance projects. Supervisor Barr shared what Glenn County has done to address water supply and domestic dry wells issues.

Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, voiced his support for Senator Brian Dahle's run for Governor, and encouraged fellow supervisors to back Senator Dahle's campaign.

President's Report

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided a report on recent activities the organization is engaged on that align with the RCRC Strategic Plan goals. They are:

- **Equitable Access:** exploration of rural health partnership, and housing capacity in rural communities.
- **Impactful Advocacy:** RCRC Officers' Washington D.C. visit, monthly legislative call-ins, RCRC's advocacy work on broadband being recognized by Senator Lena Gonzalez (D–Long Beach), RCRC's opposition led the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's (BOF) Fire Safe Regulations to be tabled, the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) acceptance of RCRC's recommendations on the Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant Program, and biomethane proceeding.
- **Healthy Communities:** electric vehicle infrastructure planning, and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's initiatives.
- **Operational Excellence:** development of RCRC's corporate governance policy and procedures.

RCRC Resolution 22-03: Honoring the Accomplishments and the Memory of Linda Arcularius

Patrick Blacklock discussed the proposed resolution honoring Linda Arcularius for her years of service to the people of rural California.

Supervisor Matt Kingsley (Inyo County) read the proposed resolution aloud in the presence of the Arcularius family. Members of the RCRC Board of Directors, including Supervisors Doug Teeter (Butte County), Bob Williams (Tehama County), Diane Dillon (Napa County), Jim Holmes (Placer County), and Les Baugh (Shasta County) shared memories of Ms. Arcularius.

Staff Recommendation

It was recommended that proposed RCRC Resolution 22-03: Honoring the Accomplishments and the Memory of Linda Arcularius be approved by the RCRC Board of Directors.

Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, motioned to approve RCRC Resolution 22-03: Honoring the Accomplishments and the Memory of Linda Arcularius. Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Madera County

Guest Speakers - California State Association of Counties

Graham Knaus, Executive Director, CSAC, and Supervisor Ed Valenzuela (Siskiyou County), CSAC President, addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on CSAC’s advocacy priorities, partnerships, and programs. Following Mr. Knaus’ and Supervisor Valenzuela’s presentation, supervisors, Mr. Knaus, and Supervisor Valenzuela engaged in a question and answer period.

State Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state level. Ms. Warmerdam noted the legislative bill introduction deadline on February 18th that brought a stream of over 600 new bills, as well as commencement of Budget Committees hearings as part of the State Budget process. The RCRC Board Members were encouraged to participate on the next “legislative call-in,” which is scheduled for March 24th.

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, reported on the following county operations- and public safety-related legislation and items: Assembly Bill 1944 (Lee); Assembly Bill 2449 (Rubio); Assembly Bill 1608 (Gipson); Senate Bill 915 (Min); Senate Bill 1100 (Cortese); Senate Bill 1326 (Caballero); cannabis tax reform; and, the Governor’s Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Court Proposal.

John Kennedy, Policy Advocate, reported on the following legislation: Assembly Bill 1001 (C. Garcia); Assembly Bill 1642 (Salas); Assembly Bill 1749 (C. Garcia); Assembly Bill

2374 (Bauer-Kahan); Senate Bill 54 (Allen); Senate Bill 1404 (Stern); and, Senate Bill 1410 (Caballero).

Following the presentation, the RCRC Board of Supervisors engaged in dialogue with RCRC staff on legislation of interest, including bills dealing with teleconference meeting requirements and employee vaccination requirements.

Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, and American Continental Group's (ACG) Senior Partner Sheryl Cohen, provided an update on issues being addressed at the federal level. Ms. Warmerdam provided a brief overview of the RCRC Officers' recent trip to Washington, D.C.

Ms. Cohen provided an update on FY 2023 appropriations, Bipartisan Infrastructure Act implementation, 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization strategic plan, and the Secure Rural Schools Act bill.

Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate and ESJPA Deputy Executive Director, provided an update of the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority's (ESJPA). Ms. Heaton invited supervisors to the ESJPA Board of Directors meeting taking place tomorrow (March 10th). ESJPA Board Members will consider San Luis Obispo County's application to join ESJPA, discuss the ESJPA Business Plan, and receive an update on implementation of Senate Bill 1383. Ms. Heaton shared that an SB 1383 implementation presentation was recently provided to the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, and invited any interested ESJPA Member Counties to request the same presentation for their Board.

Board of Forestry State Fire Safe Regulations Update

Tracy Rhine provided an update on the BOF's Fire Safe Regulations. Ms. Rhine reminded supervisors that the BOF's latest revised draft on January 3rd triggered a public comment period which closed on January 19th. RCRC, along with a local government working group, submitted comments urging BOF to reconsider its approach of the rulemaking process. At their March 2nd meeting, the BOF tabled further discussion.

Furthermore, Ms. Rhine explained that the emergency fire safe standards regulations expired on March 8th, and the moratorium on ordinance certification is still in effect. RCRC staff will continue to monitor and engage with BOF on the Regulations.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

John Kennedy, Tracy Rhine, and Leigh Kammerich, Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC's involvement at the CPUC. Mr. Kennedy focused on the CPUC holding an Affordability *En Banc*, and the CPUC requiring gas utilities to procure biomethane from landfills.

Ms. Rhine focused on the CPUC establishing \$50 million broadband Local Agency Technical Assistance grant program for eligible local governments and tribes; the CPUC beginning the process to develop Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Fund; and, the CPUC considering the adoption of last-mile broadband allocations for rural and urban counties. Ms. Rhine called attention to the proposed decision regarding broadband infrastructure deployment and the proposed allocation to counties, which will be later distributed to the RCRC Board of Directors.

Ms. Kammerich reported that large Investor-Owned Utilities have filed their 2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan updates.

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided an update on current issues involving California's water policy. Mr. Nag discussed the Legislature's and the Administration's drought response, and the Governor's proposed funding for water and resources.

Mr. Nag also reported on the following water-related legislation: Assembly Bill 2108 (Rivas); Assembly Bill 2451 (Wood); Assembly Bill 2639 (Quirk); Senate Bill 890 (Nielsen); and, Senate Bill 1205 (Allen).

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton 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 United States Forest Service's release of its 10-year strategy, which provides a 10-year nationwide strategy for the USFS to work with partners to strategically manage national forest lands and increase the pace and scale of fuels treatments. The Pacific Southwest Region 5 will be holding Wildfire Crisis Strategy roundtables on March 16-18, 2022, to solicit feedback on how to engage and implement the strategy. Along with Ms. Heaton, Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono County), requested RCRC Member Counties to provide feedback.

Ms. Heaton also reported on the following forest management- and wildfire-related legislation: Assembly Bill 522 (Fong); and, Assembly Bill 1717 (Aguilar-Curry). Ms. Heaton requested RCRC Member Counties to engage on AB 1717, which would expand the definition of "public works" to include fuels reduction work paid for by public funds and will require prevailing wage. RCRC's opposition letter on AB 1717 will be later distributed to the RCRC Board of Directors.

Approval and Acceptance of Solano County Membership and Revision of RCRC Bylaws to Assign Solano County to Region 3

Patrick Blacklock presented Solano County's application to join RCRC, including revising the RCRC Bylaws to assign Solano County to Region 3. If approved by the RCRC Board of Directors, Solano County would place RCRC's membership at thirty-nine (39) of the fifty-eight (58) California counties, and membership would become effective immediately.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed the impacts the new membership may impose upon the organization, and voted to accept Solano County as a member. The RCRC Board of Directors also discussed at length the membership process revisions, including offering a streamlined process to join RCRC affiliated entities.

Solano County Supervisors Mitch Mashburn and John Vasquez were given an opportunity to address the RCRC Board of Directors.

Recommendations

The RCRC Executive Committee considered and approved forwarding the request to the RCRC Board of Directors at its February 9th meeting on a 8-1 vote, and recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the following:

1. Accept Solano County as an RCRC member county;
2. Set Solano County's annual membership dues at \$5,000 for 2021-2022 fiscal year; and,
3. Approve a proposed revision to the RCRC Bylaws to assign Solano County to Region 3.

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, motioned to approve the recommended actions. Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:

"No": Lassen County

Not Voting: Santa Barbara County; Yolo County

Fiscal Update

Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer, provided a report on RCRC's financial standing as of December 31, 2021. Ms. McCargar shared information on 2021 cash activity, and main items contributing to a favorable outcome as a result of consultants' savings, payroll and associated payroll tax savings, sponsorship savings, and Disaster Assistance Program changes. RCRC remains in a strong financial position.

Closed Session: Existing Litigation

Conference with Legal Counsel regarding litigation that has been formally initiated, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (d)(1). The name of the case is *Rural County Representatives of California v. California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, et al.*, Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 22CECG00123.

The RCRC Board of Directors convened a closed session at 3:40 p.m. per Section 54957.1 of the Government Code.

The RCRC Board of Directors reconvened into open session at 3:45 p.m.

Report of any Action taken under Item 10, pursuant to Section 54957.1 of the Government Code

No reportable action had been taken in closed session.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 3:46 p.m.