

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday June 16, 2022 – 10:30 a.m.
Nevada County
The Gold Miner's Inn
121 Bank Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945**

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 10:31 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
David Griffith*	Alpine
Brian Oneto*	Amador
Doug Teeter	Butte
Amanda Folendorf	Calaveras
Daurice Kalfsbeek Smith	Colusa
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Lori Parlin	El Dorado
Paul Barr	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
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
Jim Holmes	Placer
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Bob Tiffany	San Benito
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Bob Nelson*	Santa Barbara
Tim Garman	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Mitch Mashburn*	Solano

Mat Conant	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Kathleen Haff	Tuolumne
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

Absent

Michael Kelley	Imperial
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Lynda Hopkins	Sonoma
Jeremy Brown	Trinity
Angel Barajas	Yolo

*Attendance via Zoom

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

None

Consent Agenda

- a. **April 27, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Resolution TC006-22: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the RCRC Board of Directors Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361**
- c. **Process and Timing for Appointments Made by the RCRC and GSFA Boards**
- d. **Reassignment of Glenn County from Region 3 to Region 1**
- e. **RCRC 2022 Local Area Investment Fund (LAIF) Authorization for Transfer of Funds**
- f. **Rural County Photo Contest**
- g. **Recent Population Shifts in RCRC Counties**
- h. **Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update**

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

Supervisor Matt Conant, Sutter County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Amador County; Lake County; San Luis Obispo County

RCRC Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, thanked supervisors for attending the RCRC Board of Directors meeting in Nevada County. Supervisor Miller highlighted the

tours, which included the North Star Museum and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Air Attack Base.

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

Member County Concerns and Issues

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada 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: Robert Poythress (Madera County) presented a new Madera County plaque for RCRC office; Lori Parlin (El Dorado County) regarding housing shortages; Geri Byrne (Modoc County) regarding the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund; Jim Holmes (Placer County) regarding mentally ill inmates; Ned Coe (Modoc County) regarding water and groundwater recharge; Glenn McGourty (Mendocino County) regarding temporary housing permits; Paul Barr (Glenn County) regarding sustainable funding for firefighting efforts; Kathleen Haff (Tuolumne County) regarding the Climate Action Plan; Bob Tiffany (San Benito County) regarding property tax revenues; Dan Miller (Nevada County) regarding Nevada County's 2023 RCRC delegate; Tim Garman (Shasta County) regarding motorhomes; Chris Lopez (Monterey County) regarding homeless encampments; Randy Fletcher (Yuba County) regarding the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) tree removal activities; Daurice Kalfsbeek Smith (Colusa County) regarding drought impact on agriculture; Mat Conant (Sutter County) regarding county budgeting; Aaron Albaugh (Lassen County) regarding fire; David Griffith (Alpine County) regarding fire and post-fire restoration and recovery; and, Brian Oneto (Amador County) regarding PG&E's tree removal activities.

Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee Proposed Amended RCRC Forest and Public Land Stewardship Policy Principles

Supervisor Doug Teeter (Butte County) and Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee Chair, and Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, presented the proposed amendments to the RCRC Forest and Public Land Stewardship Policy Principles, which are in response to recent policy questions surrounding fire suppression and mitigation on and near federally managed lands in California.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommended adoption by the RCRC Board of Directors of the Committee's proposed amended RCRC Forest and Public Lands Stewardship Policy Principles.

Following discussion, the RCRC Board of Directors concurred that the RCRC Forest and Public Lands Stewardship Policy Principles should be further revised to explicitly express RCRC's support for long term maintenance of fuel breaks.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the proposed amended RCRC Forest and Public Land Stewardship Policy Principles, with the further revisions noted above. Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Sutter County

Drought and Water Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee Update

Supervisor Chris Lopez (Monterey County) and the Drought and Water Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee Chair, and Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided a report on the inaugural meeting held in June 2022. The Drought and Water Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee is expected to complete its work by December 2022.

Cannabis Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Update

Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono County) and the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee Chair, and Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided a report on the inaugural meeting held in June 2022. The Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee is expected to complete its work by December 2022.

2022-23 State Budget Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided a brief update of the 2022-23 State Budget, which remains incomplete. On June 13th, the Legislature approved and sent to the Governor for signature, the Budget Bill, Senate Bill 154, which contains the agreement reached between the two houses. It is expected that negotiations will last well into August.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam and Sheryl Cohen, Senior Partner, American Continental Group, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. John Kennedy, Policy Advocate, provided an update on the status of bills relating to the California Environmental Quality Act, energy, and fire. Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided an update on the status of bills relating to cannabis, emergency management, Ralph M. Brown Open Meetings Act, and the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Court.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

Leigh Kammerich, Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC’s involvement at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), including the affordability proceeding which addresses the rapidly rising costs of electricity.

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag provided an update on current issues involving California water policy, including the Newsom Administration’s water-related proposal as contained in the May Revise, and ongoing discussions on water-related legislation.

Designate One Member of the RCRC Board to Fill Vacancy on the Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. Board of Directors

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, discussed the need to designate one member of the RCRC Board of Directors to fill a vacancy on the Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. (GSNR) Board of Directors caused by the departure of Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono County). Supervisor Miller recommended the appointment of Supervisor Geri Byrne (Modoc County) to fill the vacancy on the GSNR Board of Directors.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Chair recommend, and that the RCRC Board of Directors appoint, one member of the RCRC Board of Directors to serve the remainder of Supervisor Corless' unexpired term on the GSNR Board of Directors.

Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County, motioned to approve the designation of Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, to fill a vacancy on the GSNR Board of Directors. Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Mendocino County; Santa Barbara County; Sutter County

Abstain: Tuolumne County

Approval of the 2021 RCRC Audited Financial Statements

Milena De Melo, Controller, presented on RCRC's audited financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, issued by Moss Adams LLP. The financial statements contain an unmodified (“clean”) audit opinion.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve the 2021 audited financial statements and communication letter as presented.

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, motioned to approve GSFA 2021 Audited Financial Statements. Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Mendocino County; Santa Barbara; Sutter County

President/CEO Annual Compensation

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on how the RCRC Executive Committee reached the decision to approve the RCRC President/CEO Patrick Blacklock's annual compensation. At their May 11, 2022 meeting, the RCRC Executive Committee completed the annual performance evaluation. Supervisor Miller orally reported the following recommendation for final action on Mr. Blacklock's compensation:

Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the following:

- A 10% increase in the President/CEO's annual salary, to \$407,000, effective June 27, 2022;
- A further 2.5% increase, to \$417,175, effective on the first day of the last pay period in June 2023; and,
- A further 2.5% increase, to \$427,604, effective on the first day of the last pay period in June 2024.

The RCRC Executive Committee will continue to evaluate the President/CEO's performance on an annual basis, and may recommend an additional one-time bonus in future years if warranted.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the recommendations on the President/CEO Annual Compensation. Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:

Not Voting: Mendocino County; Santa Barbara; Sutter County

Closed Session: Existing Litigation

Conference with Legal Counsel regarding litigation that has been formally initiated, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 subdivision (d)(4). 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 1:28 p.m. per Section 54956.9 of the Government Code.

The RCRC Board of Directors reconvened into open session at 1:41 p.m.

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

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

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:42 p.m.