

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, June 17, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.  
Mono County  
Mammoth Mountainside Conference Center  
10001 Minaret Road  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546**

**MINUTES**

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

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, called the meeting to order at 8:30 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
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
EJ Crandell	Lake
Gary Bridges	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Miles Menetrey	Mariposa
Glenn McGourty	Mendocino*
Lloyd Pareira	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
Les Baugh	Shasta*
Lee Adams	Sierra
Bob Williams	Tehama
Jeremy Brown	Trinity
Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Kathleen Haff	Tuolumne

Randy Fletcher                      Yuba

**Absent**

Brian Oneto	Amador
Paul Barr	Glenn
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
James Gore	Sonoma
Mat Conant	Sutter
Angel Barajas	Yolo

**Others in Attendance**

Supervisor Rodrigo Espinoza, Merced County  
Supervisor Scott Silveira, Merced County  
Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County  
Supervisor John Peters, Mono County  
Supervisor Bob Gardner, Mono County\*  
Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz, Mono County  
Supervisor Mary Rickert, Shasta County\*  
Supervisor Anaiah Kirk, Tuolumne County\*  
James Brown, CEO, Merced County  
Alishia Hayes, Assistant County Administrative Officer, Humboldt County  
Ingrid Braun, Sheriff-Coroner, Mono County  
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency  
Josh Fryday, Chief Service Officer, California Volunteers  
Randy Phillips, Retired, U.S. Forest Service  
Randy Hanvelt, Associated California Loggers\*  
Matt Driscoll, Sierra Nevada Conservancy\*  
Julie Tone, AT&T  
Robbie Bendorf, Capitol PFG  
Calvin Rossi, SoCal Edison  
Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund  
Kevin Cann

**Staff in Attendance**

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO  
Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer  
Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President  
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs  
Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate  
Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer  
Arthur Wylene, General Counsel  
Tracy Rhine, Senior Legislative Advocate  
John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate\*  
Sarah Dukett, Legislative Advocate  
Sidd Nag, Legislative Advocate  
Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator/Clerk of the Board

Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Advocate  
Milena De Melo, Controller\*  
Dorothy Poole, External Affairs Coordinator  
Layne Frederickson, IT Director  
Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer  
Sarah Bolnik, Economic Development Officer  
Carolyn Jhajj, Communications Director  
Elizabeth Jensen, Assistant Controller\*  
Greg Norton, GSNR President

\*Attendance via Zoom

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Review and Approval of April 28, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, called for approval of the minutes from the April 28, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.

**Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, motioned to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:**

**Not Voting: Mendocino County**

### **RCRC Chair’s Report**

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, welcomed supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting in Mono County. Supervisor Corless highlighted the tours planned over the next several days, which include the Mono Lake Basin, Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve, and Mammoth Mountain. Supervisor Corless thanked RCRC staff as well as sponsors for making this event possible.

Supervisor Corless announced that she has selected the charities to receive the upcoming September RCRC Annual Meeting’s Basket Auction proceeds. They include: the Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra; the Mono Art Council; and, funds to support the Walker community in Mono County following a devastating wildfire.

### **Recognition of Randy Phillips, Forest Service Liaison to NACo and County Governments (Retired), U.S. Forest Service**

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, recognized retired U.S. Forest Service Forest Service Liaison to the National Association of Counties and County Governments Randy Phillips. Supervisor Corless presented a commemorative plaque to Mr. Phillips in recognition of his service to California’s rural counties throughout the years.

## **Member County Concerns and Issues**

Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, shared her concern about a major online retailer's redistribution of sales and use tax and kick-back agreements with cities. In response to Supervisor Parlin's concern, Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, discussed Senator Steve Glazer's bill - Senate Bill 792 - which would require specific retailers to include with their sales tax returns a schedule that reports the gross receipts from sales of property for each local jurisdiction where it shipped or delivered to a purchaser in that jurisdiction. RCRC will be in support of this bill.

Supervisor Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County, shared her frustration regarding the overuse of unemployment benefits, and would like the Governor to end the allocation of unemployment benefits so people can return to work.

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, discussed Senate Bill 12 which relates to fire hazard planning responsibilities on local governments, and noted that there are no funding mechanisms. Del Norte County is very concerned about this bill.

Supervisor Hemmingsen also discussed his ongoing concern regarding Del Norte County's inability to upgrade its jail facilities. Supervisor Hemmingsen also discussed his ongoing concern regarding Del Norte County's California Public Employees' Retirement System's growing unfunded liabilities.

Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, spoke about housing availability issues whereby Mariposa County had to return approximately two-thirds of its rental assistance funding. Supervisor Menetrey would like a more flexible infrastructure funding program that would create more units.

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, echoed Supervisor Haff's concern regarding overuse of unemployment benefits. Supervisor Rogers also echoed Supervisor Menetrey's concern regarding housing availability issues, and the rising cost of lumber to build homes.

In addition, Supervisor Rogers shared that Madera County recently passed its allocation under the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies formation, and conveyed that it is not scalable. Supervisor Rogers shared that it is difficult for counties to do groundwater recharge and expansion of conveyance projects.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, voiced her concern that Modoc and Siskiyou Counties are facing a zero-percent surface allocation of water.

Supervisor Byrne shared absent RCRC member Supervisor Michael Kobseff's (Siskiyou County) request of RCRC to advocate for full funding of the Williamson Act in the State Budget.

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, thanked Supervisor Staci Corless (Mono County) for her assistance in helping Alpine County build a stronger relationship with the U.S. Forest Service.

Supervisor Gary Bridges, Lassen County, shared his continued concern regarding the closure of the California Correctional Center (CCC) in Lassen County. While Supervisor Bridges recognize that it would be an uphill battle, Lassen County is attempting to find ways to keep the CCC open.

Supervisor Bob Tiffany, San Benito County, shared his support of full funding of the Williamson Act in the State Budget. Supervisor Tiffany also discussed the following issues: San Benito County's limited revenue sources; homelessness solutions; road repairs; and, broadband.

### **President's Report**

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, welcomed supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting in Mono County. Mr. Blacklock provided an update on RCRC's strategic planning process, communications plan development, recent county visits, and the ongoing work with broadband development. Mr. Blacklock welcomed Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs Mary-Ann Warmerdam, and highlighted recent Governmental Affairs Department's advocacy efforts, including: ongoing participation in the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC), including Frontier Communication's broadband expansion as well as the public safety power shutoff (PSPS) guidelines; ongoing efforts by a coalition of stakeholders on the In-Home Supportive Services collective bargaining budget proposal; ongoing progress on the restructuring of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC); and, the decision by the Office of Management and Budget to delay a final decision on the Metropolitan Statistical Area designation.

### **Guest Speakers – California Natural Resources Agency and California Volunteers**

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency, presented to the RCRC Board of Directors on emerging natural resources issues and county engagement efforts and resources. Following Secretary Crowfoot's presentation, supervisors and Secretary Crowfoot engaged in an extended discussion regarding drought, water, forest management, and wildlife resiliency.

Josh Fryday, Chief Service Officer, California Volunteers, discussed the importance of service, volunteer, and civic engagement throughout the state. Mr. Fryday also encouraged supervisors to reach out to him if anyone is interested in being considered for various volunteer opportunities.

### **Approval of the 2020 RCRC Audited Financial Statements**

Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer, briefly informed supervisors that Moss Adams LLP, independent auditors, had concluded its audit for year ended December 31, 2020. Moss Adams LLP issued financial statements that contained an unmodified audit opinion. Moss Adams LLP also issued the required communication

letter to Those Charged with Governance, noting no significant matters were identified. The financial statements and the communication letter have been approved by the RCRC Executive Committee at their May 12, 2021 meeting.

### **RCRC 2021 Local Area Investment Fund (LAIF) Authorization**

Lisa McCargar briefly informed the RCRC Board of Directors that RCRC maintains investments in Local Area Investment Fund (LAIF) with the California State Treasurer's Office. The President and Chief Financial Officer have authority to transfer funds to and from LAIF. As a result of the prior President retiring, it was recommended that the recently appointed President, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer, and Senior Vice President be those charged with authority to transact on behalf of RCRC. As such, the recently appointed President as well as Senior Vice President are to be added to the list of authorized individuals and positions.

### **Staff Recommendations**

Staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors 1) review and approve the 2020 audited financial statements and communication letter as presented; and, 2) approve the removal of prior President's authority and add recently appointed President and Senior Vice President as authorized individuals to deposit or withdraw funds in LAIF.

**Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve 1) RCRC 2020 audited financial statements and communication letter; and, 2) approve the RCRC 2021 Local Area Investment Fund (LAIF) Authorization. Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:**

**“Aye”:** Alpine County; Butte County; Calaveras County; Colusa County; Del Norte County; El Dorado County; Humboldt County; Imperial County; Inyo County; Lassen County; Madera County; Mariposa County; Mendocino County; Merced County; Modoc County; Mono County; Monterey County; Napa County; Nevada County; Placer County; Plumas County; San Benito County; San Luis Obispo County; Shasta County; Sierra County; Tehama County; Tulare County; Tuolumne County; Yuba County

**“No”:** None

**Abstaining:** None

**Not Voting:** Lake County; Trinity County

### **Rural County Photo Contest**

Dorothy Poole, External Affairs Coordinator, announced RCRC's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural County Photo Contest (Contest). The Contest was created to promote tourism and local economic development. RCRC will accept photo submissions beginning July 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021. The winning image will be unveiled at the upcoming September

RCRC Board of Directors meeting, and may be used in various RCRC materials throughout 2022.

### **2021-22 State Budget Update**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided a brief initial analysis of the 2021-22 State Budget, which remains incomplete. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, both houses of the Legislature approved the main 2021-22 State Budget (Assembly Bill 128). It is expected remaining issues will be considered and adopted over the next several days and weeks. Ms. Warmerdam highlighted items that are 1) not included in the State Budget Packet, but expected or already in print in forthcoming trailer bills; 2) major funding packages to be determined in future trailer bills; and, 3) key issues included in the State Budget Package.

### **State & Federal Legislative Update**

The Governmental Affairs Department provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. At the federal level, Staci Heaton highlighted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to revise the Waters of the United States definition, efforts to fully fund the Payment in Lieu of Taxes funding for fiscal year 2022, update on the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act, and the Biden Administration's '30 by 30' report whereby it details the goals of conserving 30 percent of the country's lands and waters by 2030.

At the state level, John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, highlighted DTSC's recent release of the revised governance reform to address the structural deficit. Mr. Kennedy also discussed the following: Senate Bill 37 (Cortese) regarding the California Environmental Quality Act; Senate Bill 38 (Wieckowski) which would replace the existing Beverage Container Recycling Program with a new stewardship program established and operated by industry; and, Senate Bill 619 (Laird) regarding organic waste recycling. Sarah Dukett, Legislative Advocate, highlighted the following: Senate Bill 335 (Cortese) regarding workers' compensation liability; and, Senate Bill 759 (McCarty) which would require an election for all county-wide offices be held at the presidential general election.

### **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 highlighted the following: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force; RCRC's Wildfire Prevention and Response Package, which include Assembly Bill 9 (Wood), Assembly Bill 267 (Valladares), Assembly Bill 431 (Patterson), Assembly Bill 1431 (Frazier), Senate Bill 11 (Rubio), and Senate Bill 456 (Laird). Of importance, AB 1431 is currently awaiting action in the Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee which is expected to pass, and may is also expected to become a larger package; and, Senator Dianne Feinstein's Wildfire Emergency Act of 2021.

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

In the interest of time, Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, focused the discussion on CPUC's new and modified PSPS guidelines, for which RCRC has been an

active participant. RCRC continues to maintain that CPUC needs to conduct regular, thoughtful reviews of utilities to ensure PSPS events are used as a tool of last resort.

### **Water Issues Update**

Sidd Nag, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on issues involving California water policy. In the interest of time, Mr. Nag focused the discussion on the State Water Resources Control Board's Emergency Actions and Governor Newsom's and the State Legislature's drought budget proposals.

### **Strategic Plan Development**

Patrick Blacklock and Carolyn Jhaji, Communications Director, presented the strategic plan development timeline and process. 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. Ms. Jhaji shared RCRC staff's input, including staff input on vision, challenges, and opportunities. Following the presentation, Ms. Jhaji led the RCRC Board of Directors to an engagement session and asked for their input on areas of focus for RCRC for the next 3 to 5 years. The RCRC Board of Directors provided their input for the following questions: 1) What are the strengths of RCRC?; 2) How can RCRC better serve the needs of rural counties?; 3) What are the key challenges facing rural counties in the next 3 to 5 years?; and, 4) What opportunities to address these challenges would you want RCRC to explore? Due to time constraints, Ms. Jhaji will share the results at a future RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

### **Closed Session: Initiation of Litigation**

Conference with Legal Counsel pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 subdivision (d)(4). One case.

The RCRC Executive Committee convened a closed session at 12:01 p.m. per Section 54957 and Section 54957.6 of the Government Code.

The RCRC Executive Committee reconvened into open session at 12:32 p.m.

### **Report of any Action taken under Item IX Pursuant to Section 54957.1 of the Government Code**

Arthur Wylene, General Counsel, reported the following:

The RCRC Board of Directors in closed session authorized the General Counsel, with concurrence of the President, to initiate litigation of one case upon certain conditions. When and if the action is formally commenced, the title and nature of the action, the defendants, and other particulars shall be disclosed to any person upon inquiry, unless to do so would jeopardize RCRC's ability to effectuate service of process on one or more unserved parties, or that to do so would jeopardize RCRC's ability to conclude existing settlement negotiations to its advantage.



**The approval vote was unanimous with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”  
The following members were not present for the closed session and did not  
vote:**

**Not Voting: Amador County; Glenn County; San Benito County; Siskiyou  
County; Sonoma County; Sutter County; Yolo County**

**Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 12:34 p.m.