

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, July 12, 2023 – 8:00 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 9:02 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor

David Griffith
Doug Teeter
Jack Garamendi
Daurice Smith
Darrin Short
Lori Parlin
Rex Bohn
Matt Kingsley*
Rusty Robinson
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Miles Menetrey
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan
Anne Cottrell
Sue Hoek
Jim Holmes
Angela Curro
Bob Nelson
Tim Garman
Lee Adams
Michael Kobseff
Mitch Mashburn
Mat Conant
Bill Moule
Jill Cox
Dennis Townsend
Kathleen Haff
Gary Bradford

County

Alpine
Butte
Calaveras
Colusa
Del Norte
El Dorado
Humboldt
Inyo
Kings
Lassen
Madera
Mariposa
Merced
Modoc
Mono
Napa
Nevada
Placer
San Benito
Santa Barbara
Shasta
Sierra
Siskiyou
Solano
Sutter
Tehama
Trinity
Tulare
Tuolumne
Yuba

Absent

Brian Oneto	Amador
Thomas Arnold	Glenn
Michael Kelley	Imperial
EJ Crandell	Lake
Glenn McGourty	Mendocino
Chris Lopez	Monterey
Kevin Goss	Plumas
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
James Gore	Sonoma
Angel Barajas	Yolo

*Attendance via Zoom

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- a. **May 12, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Governance Policies Update**
 - i. **Policies for “Public Comments During ‘Brown Act’ Meetings of RCRC and Affiliated Entities,” “RCRC Member County Concerns and Issues,” and “Time and Place of Meetings”**
- c. **Proposed 2023 RCRC Revised Operating Budget**

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 Geri Byrne, Modoc County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

Guest Speaker – California Environmental Protection Agency

Yana Garcia, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on CalEPA’s initiatives, particularly on implementation of Senate Bill 1383, hazardous waste management, air quality in wildfire areas, and water rights.

Secretary Garcia and the RCRC Board of Directors engaged in a question and answer period. Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, invited Secretary Garcia to return for further conversations at a future Board Meeting.

Governor's Behavioral Health Modernization Proposal Overview

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, and Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an overview of the Governor’s behavioral health modernization proposal, and RCRC’s key priorities. A summary of the bond measure, Assembly Bill 531 (Irwin), and the Behavioral Health Services Act, Senate Bill 326 (Eggman), was provided.

Ms. Dukett took a moment to provide an update on Senate Bill 525 (Durazo), relating to employment.

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.

Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, introduced individual members that make up the Legal Department.

RCRC Chair's Report

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, welcomed supervisors to the July RCRC Board of Directors meeting. Supervisor Teeter discussed the progress of his chairmanship and expressed his appreciation for RCRC.

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, regarding the timing of the Community Economic Resilient Fund Catalyst Program's funding;
- Supervisor Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County, regarding the opioid crisis and settlement agreements;
- Supervisor Tim Garman, Shasta County, regarding job openings in the county and recent hiring of a County Administrative Officer;
- Supervisor Dennis Townsend, Tulare County, regarding the importance of maintaining rural roads and insufficient funding for them;
- Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, announced that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Chuck Bonham recently visited Lassen County;
- Supervisor Bill Moule, Tehama County, noted the importance of inviting California agency leaders to visit rural communities;
- Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, shared Supervisor Moule's sentiments, adding the importance of inviting those in leadership roles to visit rural communities, and to include them in Rural Alliance, Inc.'s (RCRC affiliate entity) program of work;
- Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, surveyed RCRC Board Members on their respective Board of Supervisors' handling of the Pledge of Allegiance during meetings; and,
- Supervisor Dusty Robinson, Kings County, regarding the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act's effects on Kings County.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, and Sheryl Cohen, Partner, American Continental Group, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. At the state level, Ms. Warmerdam discussed the State Budget, recent leadership changes, and the legislative calendar.

Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, presented on the housing and homelessness budget and the AT HOME plan.

John Kennedy, Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC's sponsored bills relating to solid and organic waste recycling, and hazardous materials. Mr. Kennedy also discussed bills relating to energy, biomass energy facilities, and underground storage tanks.

At the federal level, Ms. Cohen provided an update on RCRC's priorities for the 118th Congress, including the status of key legislation involving protection of California's giant sequoias, government employee housing, cannabis banking, rural hospitals, and disaster relief. Among other topics, Ms. Cohen examined Farm Bill reauthorization, FY 2024 appropriations, and the PFAS/CERCLA Liability Protection Act.

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided an update on current issues involving California water policy, including Governor Newsom's infrastructure proposal that now excludes the Delta Conveyance Project, and key water-related bills.

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, including an update on the California Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps, U.S. EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards requirements, and key state and federal wildfire and forest health-related bills.

Establishment of Board of Directors Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Property Insurance

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, presented on the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Property Insurance (Committee) to review issues pertaining to property insurance availability and affordability in rural communities. Meetings of the Committee are expected to all occur prior to the December 2023 RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

Chair, Doug Teeter, Butte County, recommended the addition of Supervisor Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County, to the membership roster.

Staff Recommendation

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, and RCRC staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Property Insurance.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the establishment of a Board of Directors Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Property Insurance, as amended. Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update

ESJPA Chair, Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, and Staci Heaton, in her capacity as the ESJPA Deputy Executive Director, provided an update on current activities of the Rural Counties’ Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority (ESJPA), including the Little Hoover Commission’s release of its final report on California’s organics recycling mandates, and ESJPA Business Plan implementation status.

Ms. Heaton highlighted the recent joining of Kings County, as well as the recent appointment of ESJPA Technical Advisory Group’s Tedd Ward, Del Norte County, to serve on the Advisory Board for the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate, and Leigh Kammerich, Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC’s involvement at the California Public Utilities Commission. Topics covered include RCRC’s engagement on the Center for Biological Diversity’s petition on biomass facilities, electrical transmission facilities proceeding, Wildfire Mitigation Plans, and the Rule 20A program.

President/CEO Annual Compensation

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on how the RCRC Executive Committee reached the decision to approve the RCRC President and CEO Patrick Blacklock’s annual compensation. At their June 14th meeting, the RCRC Executive Committee completed the annual performance evaluation. Supervisor Teeter orally reported the recommendation for final action on Mr. Blacklock’s compensation.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the following as just and reasonable:

- A one-time performance incentive for the President/CEO in the amount of \$20,000, effective July 14, 2023.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the recommendations on the President/CEO Annual Compensation. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

Rural County Photo Contest

Chris Egan, Management Analyst, presented the three finalist photos for the RCRC's 7th Annual Rural County Photo Contest to the RCRC Board of Directors for their consideration. The winning photo will be displayed at RCRC's 2023 Annual Meeting and may be used in various marketing materials or work products throughout the next year.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors to cast their votes on the selected three finalist photos to determine a winner.

Photo "1": Del Norte County; El Dorado County; Madera County; Mariposa County; Napa County; Nevada County; Santa Barbara County; Shasta County; Solano County; Trinity County; Tulare County; Tuolumne County; Yuba County

Photo "2": Alpine County; Butte County; Colusa County; Inyo County; Kings County; Lassen County; Merced County; Modoc County; Mono County; San Benito County; Sierra County; Siskiyou County

Photo "3": Calaveras County; Humboldt County; Placer County; Tehama County

Not Voting: Sutter County

Subsequently, the following winners were announced:

- **Grand Prize Winner** – Photo "1" by Arlene Winfrey, a photo of a flowing river among green hills and a snow-peaked mountain range in Tulare County
- **Second Place Winner** – Photo "2" by Scott Suppus, a photo taken of a wooden barn on a stormy day in Mono County
- **Third Place Winner** – Photo "3" by Greta Wilson, a photo of a scenic road through a redwood forest in Humboldt County

Annual Meeting - County Basket Auction & Drawing

Eric Will, Policy and Local Assistance Manager, outlined RCRC's 2023 Annual Meeting basket auction and drawing process and procedure. The proceeds from the auction provide support for a handful of local charities in the county of the RCRC Chair. This year's Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, has selected the following charities to benefit from the proceeds: Chico Velo, Magalia Park, Honey Run Covered Bridge, Butte County Search and Rescue, Kirschner Animal Sanctuary, and Four Winds of Indian Education.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 12:30 p.m.