

**Rural County Representatives of California
Executive Committee Meeting
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

In accordance with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, the July 14, 2021, RCRC Executive Committee Meeting was facilitated virtually through Zoom with limited in-person attendance.

July 14, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County
Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County
Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County
Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County
Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County (*Ex-Officio*)

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County
Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County
Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County
Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County
Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County

Minutes

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

RCRC Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, called the RCRC Executive Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present were as follows:

<u>Supervisors in Attendance</u>	<u>County</u>
Stacy Corless	Mono
Dan Miller	Nevada*
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte*
Lee Adams	Sierra
Denise Carter	Colusa
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Michael Kelley	Imperial*
Bob Williams	Tehama (Ex-Officio)

Absent Members

Doug Teeter	Butte
Daron McDaniel	Merced

Staff in Attendance

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO
Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President
Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs
Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel
Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer
Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Sarah Dukett, Legislative Advocate*

John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate*
Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate*
Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Advocate*
Layne Frederickson, IT Director
Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator/Clerk of the Board
Milena De Melo, Controller
Elizabeth Jensen, Assistant Controller*
Sanjay Lee, Financial Analyst*
Carolyn Jhaji, Communications Director
Mary Pitto, Consultant*

Others in Attendance

None

*Attendance via Zoom

Pledge of Allegiance

Review and Approval of May 12, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

(Board Members absent from the meeting will be recorded as abstained unless the Board Member indicates otherwise)

Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, motioned to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021, RCRC Executive Committee Meeting. Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.

Public Comment

None

RCRC Strategic Plan Process – Review and Feedback

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, and Carolyn Jhaji, Communications Director, provided an update of the strategic plan 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 presented a “RCRC Strategic Plan: Fundamentals and Engagement” PowerPoint and unveiled the draft vision statement and draft theme results.

During the June RCRC Board of Directors engagement session, the RCRC Board of Directors were asked for their input on areas of focus for RCRC for the next 3 to 5 years. The draft theme results are as follows: equitable access such as broadband, housing, and health services; advocacy such as collective impact, increased federal advocacy, and innovative practices; healthy communities such as wildfire and forest management, regulatory expansion, water, environment, infrastructure, and jobs; and, organizational health such as fiscal health, technology, human resources, member services, communication, and partnerships. Members of the RCRC Executive Committee provided

their feedback and shared their appreciation for the work being done on the strategic plan thus far.

Ms. Jhajj will conduct a facilitated dialogue at the upcoming August RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

Draft Communications Plan – Review and Feedback

Carolyn Jhajj provided an overview of the draft communications plan. Ms. Jhajj presented a “Communications Plan” PowerPoint, and reviewed the current communications (structure and methods, data, key messaging, and targeted audience), peer comparisons, and recommendations going forward. Ms. Jhajj outlined the following recommendations: unify organizational communication; evaluate and enhance effectiveness of current communication methods; and, amplify organizational communication. Members of the RCRC Executive Committee provided their feedback and shared their support for the draft communications plan.

Based on RCRC Executive Committee discussion, Ms. Jhajj will provide a draft communications plan presentation to the RCRC Board of Directors at the upcoming August RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

State & Federal Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. At the federal level, Ms. Warmerdam discussed the bi-partisan infrastructure bill which includes amendments to extend the Secure Rural Schools program for two years and plus up payments to 2017 levels. Additionally, the reconciliation package is expected to be in the \$1-\$2 trillion range.

At the state level, Ms. Warmerdam highlighted the following legislation:

- Assembly Bill 680 (Burke), which would have enacted the California Jobs Plan Act of 2021 and updated guidelines for projects funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Assembly Member Burke has accepted RCRC suggested amendments. RCRC will remove its opposition once the amendments go into print.
- RCRC-sponsored Assembly Bill 1431 (Frazier), which would codify various state forest carbon and resilience goals with annual report out on progress by the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency, passed out of the Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee with a recommendation for consent. The bill will be heard next in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- Senate Bill 37 (Cortese), which relates to the California Environmental Quality Act. Senator Cortese has accepted several RCRC suggested amendments, and RCRC staff are continuing to work with the author on the bill.

On the state regulatory front, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery will now provide technical assistance on self-haul requirements that are implemented.

2021-22 State Budget Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam discussed the recent passage of the 2021-22 Budget Bill Jr. (Senate Bill 129), as well as several trailer bills currently being considered by the Legislature. Ms. Warmerdam highlighted the following trailer budget bills: \$1.45 billion included for Project Homekey (Assembly Bill 128/Senate Bill 129); \$6 billion included for investments in broadband infrastructure (Assembly/Senate Bill 156); consolidation of the three commercial cannabis licensing agencies into the Department of Cannabis Control (Assembly/Senate Bill 160); and, reinstatement of wildfire funding of up to \$1 billion, as needed.

As it relates to the Department of Cannabis Control, Ms. Warmerdam shared the recent Gubernatorial appointment of Nicole Elliot to serve as the Director. RCRC staff will likely bring before the RCRC Executive Committee a recommendation of RCRC to support Ms. Elliot during the confirmation process in the State Senate at a future meeting. Ms. Warmerdam noted that Ms. Elliot has been an instrumental player in the cannabis discussion.

Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, shared that the Governor's Office recently reached out to RCRC regarding the organization's wildfire-related budget requests, which resulted in the reinstatement of wildfire funding in the State Budget Package.

Discussion and Possible Action on Assembly Bill 9 (Wood)

Staci Heaton provided an overview of Assembly Bill 9 (Wood), regarding community preparedness and mitigation activities that are currently under the purview of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF). AB 9, which has been placed on a recommendation for consent, represents the first proposal for a major shift of fire prevention programs away from CAL FIRE and the BOF to other agencies within the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).

Ms. Heaton asked the RCRC Executive Committee for policy guidance since AB 9 opens the prospect for a larger conversation around CAL FIRE's fire prevention responsibilities and whether they should remain the primary agency for California's forest resilience and wildfire prevention programs.

The RCRC Executive Committee discussed at length the pros and cons of engaging on AB 9. Several members of the RCRC Executive Committee shared that this would be a great opportunity to reshape how state agencies conduct their business in a way that would be favorable to RCRC Member Counties. Based on the RCRC Executive Committee discussion, Mary-Ann Warmerdam and Ms. Heaton proposed that RCRC will

be withdrawing its support of AB 9. Thereafter, RCRC staff will reassess the political conditions, and would be poised to determine if an Ad Hoc Committee should be formed.

Nevada County departed the RCRC Executive Committee meeting at 12:30 p.m.

RCRC Supporting the Confirmation of Jenny Lester Moffitt, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, United States Department of Agriculture

Mary-Ann Warmerdam discussed RCRC supporting Jenny Lester Moffitt, President Biden's nominee to serve as the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, at the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA). If approved, RCRC would support Ms. Moffitt during the confirmation process.

Arthur Wylene, General Counsel, reminded the RCRC Executive Committee that the RCRC Bylaws currently do not establish any explicit requirements for supporting federal Presidential nominees. As such, the RCRC Executive Committee could consequently authorize support by a simple majority vote. Nonetheless, the same concerns underlying the RCRC Bylaws provisions addressing state nominees are present. As such, RCRC staff recommended that RCRC engage in the confirmation process only if such action is supported by at least two-thirds of the full membership of the RCRC Executive Committee.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Executive Committee discusses the nomination of Ms. Moffitt and the possibility of providing formal support in the confirmation process.

Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, motioned to approve the formal support of Jenny Lester Moffitt to serve as the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs of USDA during the confirmation process. Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except as follows:

Not Voting: Nevada County

Subsequently, Mr. Wylene inquired if the RCRC Executive Committee have the desire for a future agenda item regarding the process for engaging on Presidential appointments. The RCRC Executive Committee discussed whether to schedule an item to consider amending the Bylaws to require at least a two-thirds of the full RCRC Executive Committee membership for federal nominees. Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, voiced his support for agendizing a Bylaws amendment to require a two-thirds vote of the full RCRC Executive Committee so that it is consistent with how RCRC addresses Gubernatorial appointments. Following the discussion, Mr. Wylene proposed to prepare such a Bylaws amendment and bring it back for consideration at a future RCRC Executive Committee meeting.

Randy Moore, Chief, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service

Mary-Ann Warmerdam briefly discussed the appointment of Randy Moore as Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. The appointment of Mr. Moore is not subject to Senate confirmation. Mr. Moore is set to be sworn in on July 26, 2021. RCRC will be preparing a letter of congratulations to incoming Chief Moore.

RCRC Condensed Balance Sheet (May 31, 2021)

Milena De Melo, Controller, presented the RCRC Condensed Balance Sheet of the Net Position as of May 31, 2021, compared to the audited Net Position as of December 31, 2019 and 2020.

RCRC Quarterly Investment Report (May 31, 2021)

Milena De Melo presented the RCRC Quarterly Investment Report which provided a summary of investment transactions from December 31, 2020 to May 31, 2021.

RCRC Budget vs. Actual Report (May 31, 2021)

Milena De Melo presented the Statement of Revenues and Expenses which provided a summary of budget to actual comparison for period ended May 31, 2021.

RCRC Revised Pay Rate Schedule

Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer, discussed the pay rate schedule for all positions that participate in the California Public Employees' Retirement System. The most recent pay rate schedule was approved by the RCRC Executive Committee and RCRC Board of Directors in conjunction with the approval of the 2021 annual budget. As a result of recent promotions and market rate pay adjustments, approval of the revised pay rate schedule is required. Once approved, the revised pay rate schedule will be forwarded to the RCRC Board of Directors for discussion and formal adoption.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommended that the RCRC Executive Committee approve the revised pay rate schedule.

Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, motioned to approve the RCRC Revised Pay Rate Schedule. Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except as follows:

Not Voting: Nevada County

RCRC Proposed 2022 Meeting Calendar

The RCRC Executive Committee were asked to review the draft RCRC meeting schedule for 2022. Unless revisions are suggested or made by the RCRC Executive Committee members, RCRC staff will submit the schedule for adoption by the RCRC Board of Directors at a future RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

2021 Annual Meeting Update

Lisa McCargar provided an update on the 2021 RCRC Annual Meeting, which will be held in Monterey County on September 29-October 1. Registration is opening soon. This year's program will feature experts discussing a wide range of topics on critical issues shaping California's future.

Barabara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer, shared that RCRC staff are preparing informational materials for RCRC Member Counties on their participation in the county baskets. Each year, the RCRC Chair selects a local charity or charities, to receive the proceeds from the county baskets raffle auction.

Mary-Ann Warmerdam announced that retired Secretary Leon Panetta of the United States Department of Defense has agreed to serve as a guest speaker at the 2021 RCRC Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 29, 2021.

Closed Session: Personnel/Performance Evaluation

Title: RCRC President

The RCRC Executive Committee convened a closed session at 1:07 p.m. per Section 54957 of the Government Code.

The RCRC Executive Committee reconvened into open session at 1:47 p.m.

Report an Action Taken Under Item 10 pursuant to Section 54957.1 of the Government Code

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, reported that no action was taken.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, adjourned the meeting of the RCRC Executive Committee at 1:49 p.m.