

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 17, 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 9:00 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
David Griffith	Alpine
Doug Teeter*	Butte
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Denise Carter	Colusa
Gerry Hemmingsen*	Del Norte
Lori Parlin	El Dorado
Paul Barr	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley*	Imperial
Matt Kingsley*	Inyo
EJ Crandell	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Leticia Gonzalez*	Madera
Glenn McGourty*/Maureen Mulheren*	Mendocino
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Chris Lopez*	Monterey
Diane Dillon	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Bob Tiffany*	San Benito
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Tim Garman*	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff*	Siskiyou
Lynda Hopkins*	Sonoma
Mat Conant*	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Kathleen Haff*	Tuolumne

Randy Fletcher

Yuba

Absent

Brian Oneto

Amador

Miles Menetrey

Mariposa

Kevin Goss

Plumas

Bob Nelson

Santa Barbara

Mitch Mashburn

Solano

Jeremy Brown

Trinity

Angel Barajas

Yolo

*Attendance via Zoom

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma addressed the RCRC Board of Directors, and highlighted various programs that are currently offered by the California State Treasurer's Office to local governments and its constituents.

Guest Speaker – Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Patricia Poppe, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), highlighted various endeavors PG&E is undertaking in the communities they serve. The RCRC Board of Directors engaged in an extended discussion with Ms. Poppe regarding PG&E's ongoing efforts and ways to strengthen communication with local governments.

Other Public Comments

None

Consent Agenda

- a. **June 16, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Resolution TC008-22: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the RCRC Board of Directors Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361**
- c. **RCRC Bylaws Amendment Regarding Committee and Deputy Chair Appointments**
Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO
- b. **RCRC Revised Pay Rate Schedule**

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 consent agenda items. Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:

Not Voting: Placer County

RCRC Chair's Report

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, welcomed supervisors attending the RCRC Board of Directors meeting. Supervisor Miller shared his enthusiasm about the upcoming RCRC's 2022 Annual Meeting taking place in Napa County.

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: Ned Coe (Modoc) regarding Assembly Bill 2201 (Bennett); David Griffith (Alpine) regarding a local ballot measure dealing with biomass; Michael Kobseff (Siskiyou) regarding the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and trouble with public noticing requirements in newspapers; Aaron Albaugh (Lassen) regarding staffing challenges in jails, and elimination of shooting sports in schools; Denise Carter (Colusa) regarding jail funding; Paul Barr (Glenn) regarding sites reservoir, as well as echoing Supervisor Albaugh's concern regarding the elimination of shooting sports in schools; Mary Rickert (Shasta) echoed Supervisor Albaugh's concerns regarding staffing challenges in jails; and, EJ Crandell (Lake) inquired if any counties have ordinances that address trespassing and illegal dumping.

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. Ms. Warmerdam discussed recent staffing changes in state agencies, key bills of interest, and the Public Policy Institute of California's survey on Californians and the Environment. Ms. Cohen discussed the current federal landscape, as well as an update on RCRC's federal priorities, including the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization strategic plan, pending defense wildfire grant technical fix legislation, proposed electric vehicle charging standardization, and cannabis legislation.

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided an update on the status of bills relating to the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Court Program (CARE Court), cannabis, and sheriff-coroner.

*Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County departed the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

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, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's community wildfire defense grants, state wildfire and forest resilience State Budget, and forest/wildfire-related bills.

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag provided an update on current issues involving California water policy, including the new water conservation strategy, water-related bills and State Budget proposals, and a recent ruling on the dispute between the Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission and the State Water Resources Control Board relating to water quality certifications.

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), including the Little Hoover Commission's upcoming hearing on forest resilience and wildfire mitigation, local assistance for Senate Bill 1383 implementation in the State Budget, and upcoming grant events in ESJPA Member Counties.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

John Kennedy, Policy Advocate, and Leigh Kammerich, Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC's involvement at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), including fast trip outages, microgrids, PG&E's remote grids, affordability proceedings, the Rule20 program, and the public water system acquisitions proceedings.

Other Regulatory Committee Issues

Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's (BOF) Fire Safe Regulations. The BOF has issued a final "Statement of Reasons" that has caused serious concern. RCRC staff expect a closed session discussion relating to the existing litigation between RCRC and BOF to be called at the September RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee Update

Supervisor Doug Teeter (Butte County) and the Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee Chair, and Staci Heaton, provided an update on the work of the Committee. The Committee will issue a final report and recommendation at the September RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

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 an update on the work of the Committee and its recent meeting take took place on August 4th.

Cannabis Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Update

Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono County) and the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee Chair, and Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided an update on the work of the Committee.

Strategic Plan Mid-Year Update

Carolyn Jhajj, Communications Director, provided a mid-year update on implementation of the 2022-2025 RCRC Strategic Plan as of June 30, 2022.

Rural County Photo Contest

Carolyn Jhajj presented the three finalist photos for the RCRC's 6th Annual Rural County Photo Contest to the RCRC Board of Directors for their consideration. The winning photo will be displayed at RCRC's 2022 Annual Meeting and may be used in various marketing materials or work products throughout the next year.

Potential revisions to the rural county photo contest official rules relating to photo rights were discussed. RCRC staff will review the official rules and assess for possible revisions.

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": Alpine County; Colusa County; Imperial County; Napa County; Tulare County

Photo "2": Butte County; Calaveras County; Del Norte County; Humboldt County; Lake County; Madera County; Placer County; San Luis Obispo County; Sierra County; Tuolumne County

Photo "3": El Dorado County; Glenn County; Lassen County; Modoc County; Mono County; Monterey County; Nevada County; San Benito County; Sutter County; Tehama County; Yuba County

Not Voting: Inyo County; Mendocino County; Merced County; Shasta County; Siskiyou County; Sonoma County

Subsequently, the following winners were announced:

- **Grand Prize Winner** – Photo "3" by Jay Coberly, photo of a mountain range and surrounding valley in Inyo County
- **Second Place Winner** – Photo "2" by Andrew Scheer, photo of a sunset vista from Mount Lassen in Lassen County
- **Third Place Winner** – Photo "1" by Lynda Cortright, photo of a fall vineyard in El Dorado County

Annual Meeting Update

Dorothy Poole provided an update on RCRC's 2022 Annual Meeting, September 14–16, 2022 in Napa County. Thus far, 67 sponsors have committed to supporting the event.

Ms. Poole highlighted the panel discussions, and encouraged RCRC Board Members to visit the RCRC Annual Meeting website for the most up-to-date information.

Annual Meeting - County Basket Auction & Drawing

Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer, outlined RCRC's 2022 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 Dan Miller, Nevada County, has selected the following charities to benefit from the proceeds: Nevada County Law Enforcement and Fire Prevention Council; Kare Crisis Nursery; Nevada County Senior Center (dba, Gold Country Senior Services); and, Bright Futures for Youth (dba, The Friendship Club).

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:30 p.m.