

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, September 16, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.
Napa Valley Marriott Hotel & Spa
Napa Ballroom
3425 Solano Avenue
Napa, California 94558**

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 10:02 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
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
Jeremy Brown	Trinity
Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Kathleen Haff	Tuolumne
Angel Barajas	Yolo
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

Absent

Brian Oneto	Amador
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Lynda Hopkins	Sonoma

*Attendance via Zoom

Public Comment

Connie Stewart, Humboldt State University (HSU), distributed HSU-branded hats to attendees, and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to attend the RCRC Annual Meeting.

Mike Rockenstein, CGI, spoke about his company and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to attend the RCRC Annual Meeting and connect with RCRC Member Counties.

Consent Agenda

- a. **August 17, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Resolution TC009-22: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the RCRC Board of Directors Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361**
- c. **Adoption of the 2023 RCRC Meeting Schedule**

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

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

RCRC Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, welcomed supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting in Napa County. Supervisor Miller thanked everyone for attending the 2022 RCRC Annual Meeting. The 2022 RCRC Annual Meeting County Basket Auction & Drawing raised approximately \$67,000 for the charities Supervisor Miller selected, which include the Nevada County Law Enforcement and Fire Prevention Council, the Kare Crisis Nursery, the Nevada County Senior Center (dba, Gold Country Senior Services), and the Bright Futures for Youth (dba, The Friendship Club).

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: Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County, regarding early childhood education credential requirements; Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County, regarding a five-year extension of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, regarding the decline of State Payment In Lieu of Taxes payments; Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County, regarding the massive undertaking of the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Court (CARE Court) program; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, regarding Project Coyote, and RCRC's assistance on coordinating a government-to-government meeting on water; and, Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, regarding the Mosquito Fire and the importance of RCRC's advocacy work on forest management and forest resiliency.

Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee Report

Supervisor Doug Teeter (Butte County) and the Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) Chair, and Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, provided a report of findings from the work of the Committee, which included comprehensive updates to the RCRC Forest and Public Lands Stewardship Policy Principles.

Committee Recommendations

The Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the RCRC Board of Directors accept this final report as the conclusion of the Committee's work.

Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County, motioned to approve the above-listed recommendations. Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:

Not Voting: Inyo County

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 state wildfire and forest resilience priorities in the State Budget, forest/wildfire-related bills, and the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's "Zone Zero" regulations.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

John Kennedy, Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC's involvement at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), including the Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) proceedings, the undergrounding proceedings, and energy-related bills.

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided an update on current issues involving California water policy, including the water policy priorities and appropriations in the State Budget, as well as water-related bills.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, and Sheryl Cohen, Senior Partner, American Continental Group, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. On the state level, Ms. Warmerdam discussed the State legislative calendar, RCRC priorities, and RCRC's summary of the final 2022-23 State Budget Package.

John Kennedy provided an update on the status of bills relating to the solar panel exemption for wildfire rebuilds, utility vegetation management, and utility undergrounding. Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided an update on the status of bills relating to CARE Court, sheriff-coroner, cannabis, and the Brown Act.

On the federal level, Ms. Cohen discussed the current federal landscape, providing an update on the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, Farm Bill reauthorization, and the Wildfire Protection Act.

Closed Session: Existing Litigation

Conference with Legal Counsel 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 11:35 a.m. per Section 54956.9 of the Government Code.

The RCRC Board of Directors reconvened into open session at 11:50 a.m.

Report of any Action taken under Item 8 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 11:51 a.m.