

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
September 22, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
The Portola Hotel and Spa at Monterey Bay
Two Portola Plaza
Monterey, CA 93940**

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 10:02 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor

David Griffith
Brian Oneto
Doug Teeter
Amanda Folendorf
Daurice Smith
Darrin Short
Lori Parlin
Monica Rossman
Rex Bohn
Michael Kelley
Matt Kingsley
Doug Verboon
EJ Crandell
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Miles Menetrey
Glenn McGourty
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan
Chris Lopez
Anne Cottrell
Sue Hoek
Kevin Goss
Dom Zanger
John Peschong*
Bob Nelson
Tim Garman
Ray Haupt*
Mat Conant

County

Alpine
Amador
Butte
Calaveras
Colusa
Del Norte
El Dorado
Glenn
Humboldt
Imperial
Inyo
Kings
Lake
Lassen
Madera
Mariposa
Mendocino
Merced
Modoc
Mono
Monterey
Napa
Nevada
Plumas
San Benito
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Shasta
Siskiyou
Sutter

Bill Moule
Jill Cox
Dennis Townsend
Kathleen Haff
Angel Barajas
Gary Bradford

Tehama
Trinity
Tulare
Tuolumne
Yolo
Yuba

Absent

Jim Holmes
Lee Adams
Mitch Mashburn
James Gore

Placer
Sierra
Solano
Sonoma

*Attendance via Zoom

Public Comment

Connie Stewart, Executive Director of Initiatives, Humboldt State University (HSU), distributed HSU-branded merchandise and conveyed her appreciation for RCRC.

Supervisor Bill Moule, Tehama County, commended the keynote speaker program at the RCRC Annual Meeting.

Consent Agenda

- a. **July 12, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Adoption of the 2024 RCRC Meeting Schedule**
- c. **RCRC Contribution to the California Employer's Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT)**
- d. **RCRC Proposed Paydown of Unfunded Pension Liability**
- e. **RCRC Revised Pay Rate Schedule**
- f. **Appointment of External Auditor**
- g. **Forest Management and Wildfire Update**
- h. **Water Issues Update**
- i. **State and Federal Legislative Update**

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:

Not Voting: Del Norte County

RCRC Chair's Report

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, welcomed supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting in Monterey County, and thanked everyone for attending the 2023 RCRC Annual Meeting. The 2023 Annual Meeting County Basket Auction & Drawing

raised approximately \$68,000 for the charities Supervisor Teeter selected, which include the Chico Velo, Magalia Park, Honey Run Covered Bridge, Butte County Search and Rescue, Kirschner Animal Sanctuary, and Four Winds of Indian Education.

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.

Roundtable: 2024 Member County Initiatives and Topics of Interest

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, provided an opportunity for the RCRC Board of Directors to identify member county initiatives and topics of interest on the horizon in 2024. The RCRC Board of Directors heard from the following supervisors:

- Supervisor Aaron Albaugh (Lassen County) discussed H.R. 1435 related to electric vehicle mandates.
- Supervisor Glenn McGourty (Mendocino County) raised concerns about water, unfunded mandates, Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) reporting, and the pressing demand for GSA implementation funding. Supervisors Ned Coe (Modoc County) and Doug Verboon (Kings County) each expressed similar concerns about GSA funding and annual reporting requirements. Supervisor Verboon further stressed the importance of ensuring that Groundwater Sustainability Plans are in place.
- Supervisor McGourty also expressed concerns about the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's water quality plan.
- Supervisors Tim Garman (Shasta County), Rhonda Duggan (Mono County), and Brian Oneto (Amador County) each mentioned ongoing issues with fire insurance.
- Supervisor Garman also discussed problems related to the windmill project in Shasta County.
- Supervisor Geri Byrne (Modoc County) covered various topics, including the need for increased special aviation annual credits, court funding, retired annuitants, voter issues, and the recent shutdown of CDMA technology in Modoc County.
- Supervisor Chris Lopez (Monterey County) emphasized the importance of road funding, which was also raised by Supervisor Oneto. Supervisor Rex Bohn (Humboldt County) called for engagement with the California Department of Transportation to address problematic SB 1 funding allocation. Supervisor Kathleen Haff (Tuolumne County) stated that she supported an overhaul of SB 1 funding and its formula for local communities. Supervisor Rhonda Duggan (Mono County) mentioned concerns about roads not being prepared for winter conditions.
- Supervisor Lopez also advocated for Williamson Act Program funding.
- Supervisor EJ Crandell (Lake County) highlighted challenges posed by the Brown Act quorum requirements on advisory committee meetings. Supervisor Anne Cottrell (Napa County) expressed similar concerns.
- Supervisor Darrin Short (Del Norte County) discussed encampment resolution funding and sought feedback from counties with homelessness solutions.

- Supervisor Anne Cottrell from Napa County discussed the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for wildfire reduction and prevention efforts and expressed a desire to hear feedback from counties with experience.
- Supervisor Oneto also discussed unfunded mandates and a new jail expansion project.
- Supervisor Doug Teeter (Butte County) discussed issues related to roadside vegetation clearance and called for the state to take more action on home hardening and defensible space efforts.

2023 End of Session Update

At the state level, Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided an overview of the 2023 end of session developments. Ms. Warmerdam focused on the legislative calendar and discussed the wins and losses of 2023.

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided an update on key bills relating to labor, health, public safety, elections, the Brown Act, general government, and cannabis.

Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on key bills relating to fuel reduction work, prescribed grazing, and grazing activities.

At the federal level, Gabriel Perez-Alvarez, Associate, American Continental Group, focused on RCRC's priorities. These include the Farm Bill reauthorization, the Rural Partners Network, Secure Rural Schools/Payment in Lieu of Taxes, SAFER Cannabis Banking Act, Save America's Rural Hospital's Act, LODGE Act, and the impending government shutdown.

Environmental Protection Agency's Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC) Update

Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County, a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC), provided an update on its recent work. This month, the FRRCC will submit a recommendation letter to the EPA.

RCRC Closed Session: Existing Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel regarding litigation that has been formally initiated, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 subdivision (d)(1). 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 11:22 a.m. per Section 54956.9 (d)(1) of the Government Code.

The RCRC Board of Directors reconvened into open session at 11:41 a.m.

Report of any Actions taken under Item 8 Pursuant to Section 54957.1 of the Government Code

Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, stated that no reportable action was taken.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 11:41 a.m.