

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, September 29, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.
The Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel
Emerald/Nevada Room
4130 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
David Griffith	Alpine
Brian Oneto	Amador
Doug Teeter	Butte
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Kim Dolbow Vann	Colusa
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Michael Ranalli	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Jim Steele	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
Lloyd Pareira	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Lynn Compton	San Luis Obispo
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
John Fenley	Trinity
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

Absent

Michael Kelley	Imperial
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
Matt Rexroad	Yolo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Ron Hames, Alpine County
Supervisor Terry Woodrow, Alpine County
Supervisor Gary Evans, Colusa County
Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County
Supervisor Shiva Frentzen, El Dorado County
Supervisor Estelle Fennell, Humboldt County
Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County
Supervisor John Peters, Mono County
Supervisor Debbie Arnold, San Luis Obispo County
Supervisor Steve Morgan, Shasta County
Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Sonoma County
Supervisor Candy Carlson, Tehama County
Supervisor Dennis Garton, Tehama County
Supervisor Bobbi Chadwick, Trinity County
Wendy Tyler, Colusa County
Chester Robertson, Modoc County
Connie Stewart, California Center for Rural Policy
Daljit Bains, California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
Glenda Humiston, Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of California
Anne Megaro, Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of California
Ed Horton, Placer County Water Agency
Jean Hurst, Hurst Brooks Espinosa
Elizabeth Howard Espinosa, Hurst Brooks Espinosa
Robert Bendorf Jr., Renovate America/HERO
Doug Weinrib, 32 Advisors
Michael Likosky, 32 Advisors
Russ Gould, Gould Group
Graham Knaus, California State Association of Counties

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President & CEO
Craig Ferguson, Vice President
Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer
Justin Caporusso, Vice President External Affairs
Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs
Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate
Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Arthur Wylene, Governmental Affairs Counsel

Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer
Maggie Chui, Governmental Affairs Coordinator
Santinia Pasquini, External Affairs Coordinator
Sarah Bolnik, Board Relations & Business Development

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – August 16, 2017

Chair, Bob Williams, Tehama County, called for approval of the minutes from the August 16, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting.

It was moved that the August 16, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting minutes be approved with revisions. Motion passes with unanimous consent.

Abstaining:

Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County; Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County

RCRC Chair's Remarks

Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, welcomed supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting, and thanked them for attending the 2017 Annual Meeting. Supervisor Williams also thanked RCRC staff for their work on the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Supervisor Williams announced the next Global Trade Services Workshop will be held in Tehama County on December 14, 2017.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, voiced his concern regarding a decline of volunteer firefighters in Shasta County and asked if other supervisors are experiencing a similar problem. Supervisor Baugh questioned if the decline is due to training requirements.

Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County, thanked supervisors for their concerns and sympathies relating to the Helena Fire in Trinity County.

Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, echoed the concerns of Supervisor Baugh regarding a decline of volunteer firefighters. Amador County is also experiencing a decline of volunteer firefighters.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, also echoed the concerns of fellow supervisors regarding a decline of volunteer firefighters. Supervisor Bohn noted that Humboldt County is in the process of looking into offering tax credits to volunteer firefighters.

Supervisor Dennis Garton, Tehama County, also shared the sentiments of fellow supervisors regarding a decline of volunteer firefighters.

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, responded to supervisors regarding how Alpine County resolved the decline of volunteer firefighters. Supervisor Griffith shared that Alpine County saw an increase in volunteer firefighters after it purchased new equipment and when the fire department experienced an administration change.

Supervisor Griffith also noted that due to recent hurricanes, funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that Alpine County was depending on for road damage repairs will be delayed.

Supervisor Griffith also asked if any supervisors have experience with pension stabilization funds.

Lastly, Supervisor Griffith encouraged supervisors to attend the Alpine Aspen Festival in Hope Valley, California to be held on October 7-8, 2017.

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, voiced his concerns regarding forest health, wilderness areas, and forest management issues.

Supervisor Jim Steele, Lake County, thanked RCRC for providing fire disaster assistance to Lake County.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, voiced his ongoing concern with the FEMA response and Tuolumne County's road repair needs.

Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, echoed his concern of Supervisor Hanvelt regarding FEMA response. Supervisor Cann shared with supervisors that Mariposa County is grappling with the possibility that it may not get FEMA reimbursements if they have to repair roads.

Public Comments

Glenda Humiston, Vice President, Agriculture & Natural Resources at the University of California (UC), provided an overview on the UC's strategic plan to increase local government involvement and promote economic development across the state.

President's Report

Greg Norton, President & CEO, thanked supervisors for attending the 2017 Annual Meeting. Mr. Norton also thanked RCRC staff for their work on the 2017 Annual Meeting. Mr. Norton reported that the RCRC Basket Raffle Dinner netted \$49,370 for five Tehama County charities which include: The Corning Senior Center, Corning Christian Assistance, Tehama County Friends of the Library, Tehama County Senior Nutrition Program and Providing Essentials for Tehama Shelter.

Stemming from the Select USA Foreign Investment Development Conference (Conference) he attended as part of the California delegation, Mr. Norton and RCRC staff have been seeking opportunities that would provide California rural counties greater exposure. In collaboration with the California Governor's Office of Business and

Economic Development, RCRC is surveying member counties for specific economic information to increase the rural counties exposure in future attendance.

Mr. Norton announced the RCRC-sponsored San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties' Conference will take place on November 1-3, 2017.

Mr. Norton provided an update on recent visits by RCRC Board Members and RCRC staff, including Napa, Nevada, Merced, Shasta, Yuba, and other counties. Mr. Norton, Terrance Rodgers, RCRC Economic Development Officer, and Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, attended the RCRC-sponsored Redwood Coast Broadband Forum. Mr. Norton also reported that Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, and Paul A. Smith, RCRC Vice President Governmental Affairs, travelled to Washington, D.C. for the National Association of Counties 2017 Payments in Lieu of Taxes Fly-In. Mr. Smith also travelled to Washington, D.C. regarding the 2018 Farm Bill.

Mr. Smith provided an update on the Governmental Affairs Department's recent advocacy accomplishments, which include: Assembly Bill 524 (Bigelow), Assembly Bill 924 (Bonta), Senate Bill 649 (Hueso), and the Cap-and-Trade expenditure plan. Lastly, Mr. Smith thanked Supervisor Ron Hames, Alpine County, for his legislative idea which ultimately became Senate Bill 447 (Nielsen), which authorizes two or more counties to create Assessment Appeals Boards to hear taxpayer appeals. SB 447 was signed into law by Governor Brown. Mr. Smith presented a commemorative plaque to Supervisor Hames that reads: "Presented to Supervisor Ron Hames of Alpine County on September 28, 2017. In Appreciation of Your Legislative Idea – One Person Can Make A Difference."

Adoption of the 2018 RCRC Meeting Schedule

Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams, presented the Board of Directors with the 2018 Board Meeting schedule.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommended that the Board approve the 2018 RCRC Meeting schedule as proposed.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, motioned to approve the 2018 RCRC Meeting Schedule. Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, seconded the motion. Motion passes.

California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA) Update

Justin Caporusso, RCRC Vice President of External Affairs, and Staci Heaton, RCRC Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on the actions of the California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA), of which RCRC is a Charter Member, and meets monthly.

Mr. Caporusso shared that CAFWA has released its 2018 Farm Bill recommendations. CAFWA recommended that the 2018 Farm Bill addresses the following priorities: wildfire, financial and technical assistance, improved federal forest management, and biomass. CAFWA is tentatively scheduled to travel to Washington, D.C. to lobby on November 7,

2017. In addition, CAFWA recently sponsored a Water Education Foundation tour in El Dorado County.

Ms. Heaton shared that there will be upcoming opportunities for CAFWA and RCRC to coalesce on the “fire borrowing” conversation.

California Tree Mortality Task Force

Staci Heaton, RCRC Regulatory Affairs Advocate, reported on recent activities of the California Tree Mortality Task Force (Task Force), which meets monthly. On September 1, 2017, Governor Brown issued a second Executive Order to address the tree mortality emergency that specifically dealt with tree removal contractor licensing exemptions.

In addition, the Task Force’s Insurance Subgroup continue to work on the issue of homeowners’ insurance cancellations and non-renewals. Ms. Heaton stated that she will continue to engage on this issue to ensure that the Task Force’s concerns will not be dismissed.

Ms. Heaton encouraged supervisors to watch the Netflix special documentary titled “Fire Chasers,” in which Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, has a speaking role.

Water Bond Proposals

In the absence of Mary-Ann Warmerdam, RCRC Senior Legislative Advocate, Paul A. Smith, RCRC Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided an overview on several water bond proposals - Senate Bill 5 (De León) and the “California Water Infrastructure and Watershed Conservation Bond Initiative” - that are expected to be considered by California voters in 2018.

Mr. Smith explained that Ms. Warmerdam was able to secure an informal role in helping craft the “California Water Infrastructure and Watershed Conservation Bond Initiative.” Of particular importance to RCRC Member counties, Ms. Warmerdam successfully advocated for the inclusion of funds to improve forest health and watershed restoration.

Mr. Smith encouraged supervisors to review both water bond proposals with their respective county staff and prepare for a more robust conversation at an upcoming RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

State “Waters of the United States” Proposal

Staci Heaton provided an update on the State Water Resources Control Board’s (SWRCB) proposed amendments to its Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Materials to Waters of the State (Procedures) regulations that incorporate some of the restrictions of the 2015 federal rule that alters the definition of what constitutes a “Water of the United States” (WOTUS). The SWRCB released an amended version of the Procedures that included some of the key components of the WOTUS, most notably expanding the State’s jurisdiction over small streams, creeks, and a greater share of California’s vernal pools.

RCRC has been long-opposed to the implementation of the Procedures, and RCRC staff continues to work with a broad coalition to effect change in the draft Procedures. Ms. Heaton directed supervisors to the joint comment letter to the SWRCB, and encouraged RCRC Member Counties to participate in the public process.

Update on the Status of the 2018 Farm Bill

Paul A. Smith provided an overview on the current status of the 2018 Farm Bill that is set to expire in 2018. While the primary focus of Farm Bills have been commodity-based revenue support to agricultural producers, recent versions have covered a range of concerns across the farm/rural sector.

Mr. Smith noted that RCRC staff and RCRC's federal lobbying team have initiated advocacy efforts with key congressional offices to ensure that the 2018 Farm Bill addresses RCRC's priorities: rural development investments in broadband, water infrastructure, energy efficiency, and housing.

Mr. Smith shared that RCRC staff will make a number of advocacy trips to Washington, D.C. in 2018. Ms. Smith noted that staff will continue to update the RCRC Board of Directors on the progress of the 2018 Farm Bill.

Update on Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools Program

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, and Paul A. Smith provided an update on the status of the Federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self Determination Act (SRS) program.

Mr. Smith, Supervisor Hanvelt, and Supervisor Cann who serves as the National Association of Counties' Western Interstate Region 2nd Vice President, travelled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for continuing the Federal PILT program. The joint effort, known as the PILT Fly-In, allows county officials to inform Congressional offices the importance of these payments to counties. Mr. Smith thanked Supervisor Hanvelt and Supervisor Cann for their remarkable efforts.

Mr. Smith is optimistic that the current Federal PILT funding level at \$465 million will be increased, and likely to be funded beyond 2018. SRS, however, is more precarious. Mr. Smith warned supervisors to not include SRS in their respective county budgets.

Supervisor Hanvelt and Supervisor Cann spoke briefly about their involvement on this advocacy trip. Lastly, Mr. Smith noted that RCRC will continue to work with federal partners to advocate for a reauthorization of Federal PILT and SRS.

Federal Legislative Update

Paul A. Smith noted that RCRC staff has actively engaged on the 2018 Farm Bill, the Federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes program, and the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self Determination Act program.

2017 End of Session Update

RCRC staff provided an update on the final weeks of the 2017 Legislative Session. Paul A. Smith provided an update on Assembly Bill 133 (Assembly Budget Committee), Assembly Bill 653 (Ridley-Thomas), Assembly Bill 668 (Gonzalez Fletcher), Assembly Bill 924 (Bonta), Assembly Bill 1250 (Jones-Sawyer), and Senate Bill 568 (Lara).

Staci Heaton provided an update on the Cap-and-Trade Expenditure Plan (Assembly Bill 109, Assembly Bill 134, Assembly Bill 398, and Assembly Bill 617), Assembly Bill 524 (Bigelow), and Senate Bill 249 (Allen).

Tracy Rhine, RCRC Legislative Advocate, provided an update on the housing package, Assembly Bill 1665 (Eduardo Garcia), and Senate Bill 649 (Hueso).

Senate Bill 623 (Monning) – Water Quality

In Mary-Ann Warmerdam's absence, Paul A. Smith provided an overview of Senate Bill 623 (Monning), a two-year bill, which would establish a fund to assist those who do not have access to safe drinking water. The funding to accomplish these goals include fees on public water system connections and increased taxes to fertilizers and dairy facilities. At the request of RCRC, water systems of 200 service connections or less are exempted from the fee as are specified low-income customers and non-potable uses of water.

Mr. Smith encouraged supervisors to review the materials provided in the RCRC Board of Directors packet titled "*Small Water Systems in RCRC Member Counties.*" Mr. Smith noted that commitments have been made for RCRC to support SB 623 once key amendments are incorporated into the bill.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 11:21 a.m.