

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 23, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 – Conference Room
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
Mary Rawson	Alpine
Brian Oneto	Amador
Doug Teeter	Butte
Merita Callaway	Calaveras
Kim Dolbow Vann	Colusa
Brian Veerkamp	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Nate Beason	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
Allen Ishida	Tulare
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Roger Abe	Yuba

Absent

David Finigan	Del Norte
Linda Arcularius	Inyo
Anthony Farrington	Lake
Carre Brown	Mendocino
John Pedrozo	Merced
Tim Fesko	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Terry Swofford	Plumas

Anthony Botelho
Debra Chapman
Jim Provenza

San Benito
Trinity
Yolo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Richard Forster, Amador County
Professor Brian E. Gray, University of California, Hastings
Wanda Ishida

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President
Karl Dolk, Chief Financial Officer
Craig Ferguson, Vice President
Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate
Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate
Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate
Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Randall Echevarria, Legislative Analyst
Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Specialist
Sarah Bolnik, Office Manager, Executive Assistant
Maggie Chui, Governmental Affairs Assistant

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2014

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, called for approval of the minutes from the March 26, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, motioned to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, notified the Board of Directors that Madera County voted to form a Groundwater Management Joint Powers Authority. Supervisor Rogers asked the Board of Directors if any other counties operate a JPA and if so, could they provide Madera County materials to assist in reaching an agreement on terms and conditions.

Supervisor Allen Ishida, Tulare County, discussed Tulare County's watershed management/forestry letter. He discussed how phase one and phase two are both now complete.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, discussed a letter that Tuolumne County received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/U.S. Forest Service in response to a letter sent by Tuolumne County regarding the Rim Fire letter. Tuolumne County has sent another letter rejecting U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's letter saying that it did not address the County's questions and concerns. Supervisor Hanvelt is happy to share the letter with the RCRC Board of Directors.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, informed the Board of Directors that Modoc County is concerned about proposal by the State Department of Fish & Wildlife regarding the possible elimination and/or regulations involving predatory hunts.

Public Comments

None

President's Report

Greg Norton, President and CEO, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Norton announced that Karl Dolk, the organization's CFO since 2006, will be retiring at the end of April. Mr. Norton along with the Board of Directors thanked Mr. Dolk for his time and contribution to RCRC and wished him well in retirement. Mr. Norton announced that Mrs. Lisa McCargar will start as the organization's new CFO on April 28, 2014, and will be introduced to the Board in June.

Mr. Norton reported on recent county visits. Patricia Megason and Sarah Bolnik visited Nevada County, Staci Heaton visited Yolo County, and in May, Kathy Mannion, Justin Caporusso and Greg Norton will visit Tulare County.

Governmental Affairs Update

Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President, informed the Board of Directors about the next Board meeting taking place on June 11-12, 2014 in Nevada County. Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason presented the agenda and described in detail a tour of Nevada County that he has put together. Supervisor Beason has arranged a wonderful dinner at the Old Five Mile House restaurant and he has arranged the Board of Directors meeting to take place at the historic Miners Foundry located in Nevada City.

EPA – Waters of the United States

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, reported that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a proposed rule, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), to alter the definition of what constitutes a "water of the United States." This proposed rule would expand EPA's jurisdiction over specific water bodies under the Clean Water Act, greatly impacting local permitting and jurisdiction. The EPA is accepting written comments through July 21, 2014 on the proposed rule. Ms. Heaton urged Members to distribute information on the EPA Waters of the United States regulations to the appropriate county staff for their review and comment, as well as to talk to their federal representatives about the rule. RCRC will also be filing comments, and will update the Board on the progress of the regulations.

State Water Board Wetland Area Protection Policy

Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, reported on the State Water Board Wetland Area Protection Policy, and recent activity on the State level. The Wetlands Coalition, of which RCRC is a member, has once again spelled out significant issues of concern with the January 2013 staff draft policy given the change in the membership of the State Water Board over time. One of the main concerns is the proposed California definition of “wetland” which differs from the federal definition. According to the State Water Board staff schedule, the draft policy will be released for public comment in Fall 2014.

Assembly Bill 1826

Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate, and Ms. Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, reported on Assembly Bill 1826 (Chesbro) regarding mandatory organics recycling, and requested that the Board of Directors take a position on the legislation. While RCRC generally opposes any new unfunded mandates, staff recommended a “Support in Concept” position on the measure as it gives the authority for development and enforcement of the organics regulation to CalRecycle, as opposed to the Air Resources Board. As a condition of any support position, any bill or regulation must contain language that protects rural counties if there is not facility-capacity to meet the requirements, provided the local jurisdiction has made a “good faith effort” to assist in the implementation of the organics recycling program that is under its control.

RCRC staff recommended that the Board allow RCRC staff to continue its work with both CalRecycle and Assemblyman Chesbro to be in a position of “support” for the mandatory commercial organics recycling effort, provided certain conditions are addressed. A thorough conversation occurred with a number of specific question addressed to staff. In addition, RCRC staff was encouraged to work with legislators representing RCRC counties on further amendments to AB 1826 to protect rural areas of the State.

Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County, motioned to approve the staff recommendations. Supervisor Brian Veerkamp, El Dorado County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Senate Bill 1270

Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate, provided an analysis of Senate Bill 1270 (Pavley) relating to surface mining operations. Ms. Hillery noted that RCRC opposes this measure in both its existing and proposed amended form.

Senate Bill 1270 will be heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on April 29, 2014. Ms. Hillery urged the Board of Directors to submit comment letters. An updated version of SB 1270 incorporating proposed amendments was passed out to the Board.

Other State Legislative Issues

Cyndi Hillery reported on the status of several other bills relevant to RCRC as well as SB 1270 above.

Kathy Mannion reported on a number of bills, including:

Senate Bill 1451 which was recently amended on April 21st and addresses the California Environmental Quality Act. This RCRC-supported CEQA bill deals with the issue of document dumping.

Senate Bill 1410 relating to the Department of Fish & Wildlife's Payment-in-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The bill gained passage in the Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee and will next be reviewed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill has multiple coauthors.

Ms. Mannion discussed the various water bond bills including: Assembly Bill 1331(Rendon), Assembly Bill 2686 (Perea), Assembly Bill 2043 (Bigelow and Conway), and Senate Bill 848 (Wolk).

Ms. Mannion also discussed two groundwater management bills: Assembly Bill 1739 (Dickinson), and Senate Bill 1168 (Pavley). Both bills will need further amendments and the authors have acknowledged that much work needs to be conducted..

Paul A. Smith reported on Assembly Bill 1894 (Ammiano) and Senate Bill 1262 (Correa), both of which attempt to create a medical marijuana regulatory framework. RCRC is in the process of crafting suggested amendments to Assembly Bill 1894 that reflect the Board-approved Policy Principles. Once those amendments are crafted, they will be shared with the author and AB 1894's sponsors. RCRC has a position of "Oppose Unless Amended" for SB 1262 due to provisions which impose new enforcement requirements on counties. The League of Cities is the co-sponsor of Senate Bill 1262.

Mr. Smith reported on Assembly Bill 2373 (Hernandez) which deals with funding for county probation departments. Mr. Smith advised the Board to keep this bill on their radar screen and consider opposing the recently-amended version. RCRC oppose the measure.

Mr. Smith reported on Senate Bill 1219 (Torres) which relates to the retirement status of elect officials. The overall issue could be very troublesome for many supervisors who currently sit on a board of supervisors. Mr. Smith described the bill in detail and what RCRC is doing to ensure its passage. Mr. Smith urged the Board of Directors to keep a close watch on this bill as amendments are likely to be made in the coming weeks/months. The Board discussed this bill at length.

Speaker, Professor Brian E. Gray, Professor of Law, University of CA, Hastings

Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, introduced Professor Gray to the Board of Directors. Professor Gray presented on "California Water – Infrastructure, Legal, and Current Issues." Professor Gray's presentation was distributed to the Board of Directors.

HR 4300

Kathy Mannion reported that RCRC submitted a support letter on HR 4300 – the Sacramento Valley Water Storage and Restoration Act of 2014 - on April 9, 2014. Supervisor Vann thanked Ms. Mannion for all of her work on this issue.

Sustainable Groundwater Management

Kathy Mannion reported that on March 7, 2014 the Governor released a document titled *California Water Action Plan Sustainable Groundwater Management*. RCRC has submitted comments, and Ms. Mannion reviewed some key points in RCRC's comments. On April 16th a workshop took place on the document that Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County attended. Supervisor Williams gave a briefing about the workshop.

Overview of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

Cyndi Hillery reported on the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. This multi-year project originated out of the Flame Act of 2009. Ms. Hillery noted that this report is the final step in the multi-year process of creating the strategy. One main point that Ms. Hillery noted was that the report acknowledges that while fire may be the right way to maintain the land in its natural setting, the land itself isn't natural anymore. This strategy does not work in California, especially in the west. More land management needs to be implemented and mechanical thinning needs to happen before fire can be reincorporated in the land management strategies here.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 2:00 p.m.