

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 13, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 – Board 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 9:01 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
Dave Finigan	Del Norte
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Carre Brown	Mendocino
John Pedrozo	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Tim Fesko	Mono
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

Brian Veerkamp	El Dorado
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Linda Arcularius	Inyo
Anthony Farrington	Lake
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Diane Dillon	Napa
Terry Swofford	Plumas

Anthony Botelho	San Benito
Debra Chapman	Trinity
Jim Provenza	Yolo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Richard Forster, Amador County

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President & CEO
Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President
Craig Ferguson, Vice President
Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate
Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate
Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate
Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Specialist
Sarah Bolnik, Office Manager

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – June 12, 2014

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, called for approval of the minutes from the June 12, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, motioned to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Abstaining:

Supervisor Merita Callaway, Calaveras County; Supervisor Dave Finigan, Del Norte County; Supervisor John Pedrozo, Merced County; Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Mary Rawson, Alpine County, had concerns regarding two small lakes located in Alpine County whose dam fees have gone up 5%. Carson City Conservancy owns and operates these lakes, and Supervisor Rawson is interested to know if other counties have experienced similar fee increases.

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, informed the Board of Directors that Madera County's aquifer has lost 50 feet of water elevation in the last three months.

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, has received complaints from homeowners who have had dramatic homeowner's insurance premium increases in Butte County.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, reported that a private dam in Tuolumne recently had major failure. Supervisor Hanvelt also reported that Tuolumne County recently submitted a letter of support in regards to the Biomass Crop Assistance program. Tuolumne County also submitted a letter to Governor Brown suggesting that Assembly Bill 32 monies be used to help aid fire recovery. Tuolumne County also wrote a letter of opposition in regards to Senate Bill 1139 (Hueso) which addresses renewable energy.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, discussed a recent fire that occurred in Modoc County, where CalFire did not reach out to local people for assistance as they were not next on the "list" of people to call for aid.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, raised the issue of county trappers. The Board discussed at length this issue affecting many rural areas.

Supervisor Allen Ishida, Tulare County, informed the Board of Directors that a home mortgage was rejected in Tulare County due to the decline of water levels in the well. Supervisor Ishida has contacted the State Department of Water Resources.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, discussed Siskiyou County's legal cases. The County lost the first round in the Siskiyou groundwater case but they are appealing. Supervisor Kobseff stressed that this issue will soon affect all counties. This outcome was unexpected.

Supervisor Richard Forster, Amador County, discussed the issue of fair funding. Supervisor Forster stressed that fairgrounds are not just a place to host social events, but also a gathering place during an evacuation. The Amador County Fairgrounds was used during the recent Sand Fire.

Public Comments

None

President's Report

Greg Norton, President & CEO, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Norton introduced Lisa McCargar, RCRC's new Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Norton summarized Ms. McCargar's employment history and explained what a huge asset she is to the RCRC team. Mr. Norton noted recent staff visits to both Amador County and Tuolumne County.

RCRC Annual Meeting

Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President, gave a summary of the 2014 Annual Meeting which will be held September 24-26 at the Resort at Squaw Creek in Placer County. Some panel topics include the Endangered Species Act, Marijuana in Colorado One Year Later, Ethics in Politics, Gambling in California, and Rural Economic Development.

Resolution 14-04, Code of Conduct - ACTION

Greg Norton informed the Board of Directors that at the July 23, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting, a draft Code of Conduct was approved for presentation to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors discussed at length the need for such a Code of Conduct, and decided to edit Item #16 by deleting the term “or remove” from the sentence.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve Resolution 14-04, the RCRC Board of Directors Code of Conduct.

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, motioned to approve the staff recommendations. Supervisor John Pedrozo, Merced County, seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye – Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lassen, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba

Nay - Amador, Mono, Shasta, Siskiyou

RCRC President and CEO Annual Compensation - ACTION

Chairman, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, addressed the Board of Directors in regards to the Executive Committee’s unanimous decision to approve the President and CEO’s annual compensation.

Recommendations

Following completion of the President/CEO’s annual performance evaluation, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to make the following recommendations for approval by the RCRC Board of Directors. It is recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve:

1. An increase to the President/CEO base compensation of 7% to \$296,039, effective June 2, 2014; and,
2. A one-time bonus of 10% of base compensation totaling \$27,667.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, motioned to approve the Executive Committee recommendations. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Abstaining: Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County

NACo Annual Conference Update

The RCRC Officers recently attended the NACo Annual Conference in New Orleans. Chairman, Supervisor Nate Beason; First Vice Chair, Supervisor Lee Adams; and Second Vice Chair, Supervisor John Viegas gave an update on their visit and meetings they attended.

Governor Brown

Governor Jerry Brown addressed the RCRC Board of Directors. The Governor spent time with the Board of Directors answering questions related to rural county issues including the need for a water bond, State Responsibility Area Fees, the need for better forest management, issues related to marijuana cultivation, providing monies to counties under the State Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, the status of county fairs, and criminal justice realignment. A number of Board Members expressed their appreciation for the Governor's time and consideration.

Wildfire Strategy

Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate, presented a historical timeline of advocacy efforts related to forest management and wildfire prevention activities on federal lands. This was followed by initial discussions of a broader, more comprehensive strategic plan to be unveiled at the September Board Meeting in Placer County. Ms. Hillery presented a request for member counties to engage state and federal officials by adopting county resolutions regarding the inadequate forest management and wildfire prevention activities on federal lands within California. RCRC staff stressed the importance of focusing on the public safety implications of wildfire. While the resolution may be tailored to include more localized messaging, it is imperative that the final paragraph stating the actual resolution remain intact.

Assembly Bill 1826 – Organics Recycling

Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate, provided the Board of Directors an update on Assembly Bill 1826 (Chesbro) regarding mandatory organics recycling. This bill has been amended and satisfies two core concerns that RCRC counties had: 1) ensuring generators/local governments are not penalized or face costly burdens when an organics recycling infrastructure simply does not exist; and, 2) providing a temporary reprieve from the mandate for rural county/city solid waste managers where virtually no viable organics recycling can/will occur in the near future. Mr. Smith noted that RCRC intends to take a support position on this bill. It was noted that the current version of the bill provides an exemption for counties with a population of 70,000 or less. This will benefit 19 of the 34 RCRC member counties.

Senate Bill 1262 – Medical Marijuana

Paul A. Smith provided an update on Senate Bill 1262 (Correa), which would establish a state regulatory framework for medical marijuana. Mr. Smith noted that RCRC and county staff have spent a lot of time on this bill and have offered a variety of amendments. While amendments will likely still be made, RCRC will likely remain in opposition. Mr. Smith outlined the key issues in the bill that will affect rural counties.

Senate Bill 1168 / Assembly Bill 1739 - Groundwater

Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, presented on the Legislature's concerted effort to enact changes to groundwater management law prior to the end of the 2014 Legislative session. Two bills have been introduced – SB 1168 (Pavley), and AB 1739 (Dickinson). The Brown Administration has also put forward a draft groundwater management proposal, although for now the Administration is working jointly with the two authors. The Brown Administration and the two bill authors held a series of stakeholder meetings

during the Legislative Summer Recess to receive input and identify changes needed to existing law to ensure sustainable groundwater management takes place throughout the state. As most recently amended, the two bills now mirror each other. Ms. Mannion noted that the main concern to rural counties is the potential impact of groundwater management legislation on local land use authority. RCRC has taken an “oppose unless amended” position on both bills and has been actively seeking amendments.

Senate Bill 1219 – Elected Officials / CalPERS

Paul A. Smith provided an update on the status of Senate Bill 1219 (Torres) regarding elected officials’ exemption from reinstatement within CalPERS. SB 1219 secured passage in the Senate with unanimous vote. RCRC is in strong support of this bill and has been working with Senator Torres staff as well as CalPERS to ensure passage in its current form.

Water Bond Update

Kathy Mannion discussed the most current status of the Water Bond. Currently there are discussions to replace the existing \$11.1 billion water bond on the November ballot with a smaller water bond. The bond is set to be taken up for a vote by the Legislature later today.

State Legislation

Cyndi Hillery gave a brief overview of several state legislative issues. Ms. Hillery reported that bills relating to Timber Harvest Plan exemptions are moving forward. Additionally, Ms. Hillery reported on the status of Home-to-School Transportation as well as the concurrent enrollment issue associated with K-12 schools and community colleges. Ms. Hillery informed the Board of Directors that all efforts regarding Medi-Cal reimbursement rates are dead for the year. Additionally, she reported that there will be no Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund allocation this year due to the Fund’s insolvency. Ms. Hillery additionally reported on RCRC-opposed Assembly Bill 2311 which would require unlimited county General Assistance (GA) payments to veterans.

Highway Trust Fund Update

Paul A. Smith discussed the passage of a short-term extension to finance the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) through May 31, 2015. The HTF is the nation’s primary source of transportation funding, investing approximately \$50 billion annually to support highways, public transportation, and passenger rail transportation services. RCRC staff and our federal advocates will continue to work with key Congressional members to press for a long-term funding solution for the HTF.

Wildfire Disaster Funding Update

Cyndi Hillery reported on the current status of wildfire disaster funding at the federal level. To date, two bills have been introduced - S. 1875 (Wyden) and H.R. 3992 (Simpson) which are companion measures that seek to change the way wildfire disasters are funded. These bills would place wildfire disasters on a level playing field in regards to funding other types of disasters. RCRC will remain in full support of protecting fire prevention funding by creating a separate funding mechanism for major

wildfire disasters, and will remain engaged in the issue of wildfire funding until final resolution of the issue.

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 would expand the EPA’s jurisdiction over specific water bodies under the Clean Water Act, greatly impacting local permitting and jurisdiction. Ms. Heaton urged Board Members to distribute information on the EPA Waters of the U.S. regulations to the appropriate county staff for their review and comment. Additionally, Ms. Heaton encouraged Member counties to write and call California’s representatives in both the House and Senate to encourage them to pressure the EPA and the Corps to withdraw the proposed rule. The EPA is accepting written comments on this proposed rule until October 20, 2014.

California Forest Climate Action Team

Staci Heaton informed the Board of Directors that she has been invited to sit on the State’s Forest Climate Action Team (FCAT), a group of federal, state, and local agency representatives that will be working to develop the California Forest Carbon Plan over the next two years. California has initiated several climate action teams since the adoption of AB 32 in 2006 to develop strategies for greenhouse gas emissions mitigation in several different areas, but this is the first time the state has focused on forest carbon issues.

Federal Tribal Acknowledgement / Appeals

Cyndi Hillery reported on the Federal Tribal Acknowledgement rulemaking activities. The Bureau of Indian Affairs proposed a change to the rules governing Federal Acknowledgment of Indian tribes. Comments are due September 30th and two additional public meetings are to be held via conference call on September 3rd and 5th. Additionally, the Department of Interior has instigated its own rulemaking regarding the appeals process outlined by the new Acknowledgement regulation. RCRC will be filing formal comments on the Acknowledgement rulemaking, and is still considering separate comments regarding the appeals process. Ms. Hillery urged any counties concerned about federal tribal issues to weigh in with their own concerns either in a written form or through the public comment opportunities.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

Kathy Mannion summarized RCRC’s concerns on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). Ms. Mannion stated that RCRC is advocating that the plan be significantly revised and then recirculated for public comment. A key concern is the 50 year permit term and the lack of assurances for areas upstream of the Delta and in-Delta which are not party to the BDCP. The nature of operational changes at upstream reservoirs is not discussed, future water demands north of the Delta are not discussed, and there is no analysis of the potential impact on existing city/county General Plans and potential constraints on future local government projects and activities. Ms. Mannion reported that this document is seriously deficient.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:50 p.m.