

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 21, 2013 – 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 Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
Richard Forster	Amador
Doug Teeter	Butte
Merita Callaway	Calaveras
Kim Dolbow Vann	Colusa
Brian Veerkamp	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
John Pedrozo	Merced
Carre Brown	Mendocino
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Tim Alpers	Mono
Nate Beason	Nevada
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

Mary Rawson	Alpine
David Finigan	Del Norte
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Linda Arcularius	Inyo
Anthony Farrington	Lake
David Rogers	Madera
Diane Dillon	Napa
Jim Holmes	Placer
Terry Swofford	Plumas
Anthony Botelho	San Benito

Debra Chapman Trinity
Jim Provenza Yolo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County
Ed Horton, Placer County Water Agency
Jim Wiltshire, CSAC
Gary Wyatt, County of Imperial

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President
Karl Dolk, Chief Financial Officer
Paul 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
Nick Konovaloff, Legislative Analyst
Santinia Pasquini, Legislative Analyst
Sarah Bolnik, Executive Assistant
Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Specialist
Nick Walter, IT Manager

Approval of Minutes – June 19, 2013

Chair, Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, called for approval of the minutes from the June 19, 2013 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County, motioned to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2013 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County, inquired about the status of Senate Bill 594 (Hill) dealing with public-sponsored non-profit organizations engaging in statewide ballot measures.

Supervisor Allen Ishida, Tulare County, informed the Board of Directors that Tulare County sent a letter regarding the state Water Bond that is currently slated for the November 2014 General Election ballot, but is likely to be revised before the voters cast their decision.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, raised the issue of watershed enforcement issues involving Regional Water Quality Control Board relating to illegal activities in the national forests. Supervisor Baugh requested RCRC staff to review.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, discussed a lawsuit Siskiyou County is engaged with regarding groundwater. The County has now spent more than \$300,000 in litigation costs and the trial venue has now been moved to Sacramento.

Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, brought up the issue of Senate Bill 740 (Padilla) regarding funding for broadband deployment. Supervisor Viegas requested that counties submit letters of support and make calls to key elected officials.

Public Comments

None

President's Report

Greg Norton, President and CEO, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Executive Committee held a meeting on Wednesday July 31, 2013 covering a variety of items, many of which will be covered today.

A number of county visits to member counties are scheduled in the next few months; recent visits include Calaveras, Butte, Amador, Plumas and Napa Counties.

RCRC President/CEO Annual Compensation

Chair, Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, reported that Greg Norton was given his annual performance evaluation at the July 31, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting. The Executive Committee recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve a five percent increase to Mr. Norton's salary compensation to \$276,672, as well as \$20,000 for President/CEO executive education. Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County called for a motion.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, motioned to approve Mr. Norton's 5% salary increase as well as \$20,000 for executive education. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously

Governmental Affairs Update

General Update

Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President, updated the Board of Directors on the status of the Annual Meeting. All of the various panels that will be held were discussed, and an overview of the Basket Raffle dinner was provided.

Proposed Amendment to the 2013-14 Policy Principles Wildlife Management

Patricia Megason discussed with the Board of Directors a proposed policy amendment related to wildlife management for the 2013-14 Policy Principles. The RCRC Executive Committee approved an amendment to the policy principles at the July 31, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting. However, Siskiyou County presented additional changes to the policy principle prior to this meeting. After a lengthy discussion by the Board, various changes were proposed by Board Members. RCRC staff will revise and present updated language for approval at the September Board Meeting.

State Responsibility Area Fee Update

Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on the status of State Responsibility Area (SRA) fees and the second round billing cycle. Given that all previous legislation to repeal and/or rework the SRA fee has failed, Ms. Hillery noted that staff is pursuing a strategic approach with the media to highlight the issue in member counties. Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Specialist, presented the public affairs campaign strategy, current media results, and efforts to communicate the appropriate appeal process and recourse for protesting the fee. Ms. Hillery discussed how payors can appeal the fee via the Board of Equalization website, and Ms. Hillery noted that in order to appeal the fee or receive a refund, the fee must first be paid. Mr. Caporusso reviewed the current RCRC press regarding the SRA fees.

2014 State Water Bond

Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on the 2014 Water Bond. Ms. Mannion reported that the current \$11.14 billion Water Bond which is slated for the November 2014 ballot has been postponed twice by the Legislature and efforts are underway to draft a revised, less-costly bond. Ms. Mannion reviewed recent informational hearings regarding the Water Bond, and noted that development of a revised smaller bond will most likely take place next year. A working group has been formed, and Ms. Mannion reviewed with the Board some of the proposed principles for the new bond.

Yellow Legged Frog and Yosemite Toad Update

Nick Konovaloff, Legislative Analyst, provided an update on the proposed listing of the Yellow-Legged Frog and Yosemite Toad as an endangered species. Supervisor Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, who presented at the recent Congressional field hearing in Tuolumne County, provided an overall update on the Yellow-Legged Frog and Yosemite Toad. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has extended the comment period until November 18, 2013. Mr. Konovaloff encouraged member counties to submit comments.

Reducing Barriers to Increase Pace and Scale of Forest Restoration on Federal Lands

Cyndi Hillery attended a meeting for the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) Regional Council on July 24 in Plumas County. At the meeting, SNFCI members were requested to provide suggestions regarding barriers within the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) that may be hindering USFS's goal of increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration on their lands. Some examples of the suggested improvements were: better top-down alignment, better alignment of policy/implementation with budgets and funding, improvements to the contracting process, instituting a better prioritization process, and rethinking personnel assignments. Redirection of resources and underutilized tools were also topics of possible improvement. Ms. Hillery requested member counties submit comments and input to RCRC in writing by September 2, 2013.

State Water Board General Industrial Storm Water Permit

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, discussed the redrafted General Industrial Storm Water Permit (Permit), which was released in 2012 after an initial draft was met with opposition. The final draft was released for public comment on July 19, 2013. Ms. Heaton recommends all member counties forward the draft Permit to appropriate county staff for review. Written comments are due September 12, 2013, and Ms. Heaton encourages member counties to write tentative letters in support of this draft Permit, and encourage the Water Board to adopt this final Permit when the time comes. The draft Permit and all associated documentation can be accessed on the Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/industrial.shtml

Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Incentives Program Guidelines

Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, discussed how the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is in the process of updating the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant & Incentives Program Guidelines. This is the third and final round of these grants under Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84). RCRC submitted a letter voicing concern that the new focus areas and using the CalEnviroScreen will limit access of these funds to rural counties. Ms. Pitto reported that the next hearing will be held on September 16, 2013, and updated guidelines are expected prior to the hearing. There will be a thirty-day public comment period following the release of the proposed guidelines.

Senate Bill 731 (Steinberg) - CEQA

Kathy Mannion provided an update on SB 731 (Steinberg) which proposes various changes to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The coalition of public agencies has asked for numerous amendments to the measure. SB 731 passed out of the Assembly Local Government Committee on August 14, 2013 and is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Ms. Mannion met with the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to review their proposed amendments. The bill will be brought for action next week. RCRC has taken an "Oppose Unless Amended" position. Staff will keep the RCRC Board of Directors updated as discussions surrounding the bill progress.

Update on Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund (SDF) Allocation – Assembly Bill 1042 (Hall)

Cyndi Hillery summarized recent activities surrounding AB 1042 (Hall), and possible county distributions from the Indian Gaming SDF. AB 1042 would provide a statewide allocation of \$13 million in SDF monies this year. Currently, AB 1042 awaits approval in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Ms. Hillery is encouraging member counties who receive SDF to start the process of adopting a "Support" position on AB 1042 immediately, but hold off on sending an official letter until the bill reaches the Governor.

Other State Legislation

Staff reviewed with the Board of Directors a number of important bills moving through the legislative process, including: Assembly Bill 900 regarding Medicaid reimbursement cuts; Senate Bill 594 (Hill) dealing with public-sponsored non-profit organizations

engaging in statewide ballot measures; Senate Bill 740 (Padilla) regarding funding for broadband deployment. SCA 3 which would eliminate the state's requirement to reimburse localities for various mandate associated with the Public Records Act and the Brown Act. MICRA, which is not currently a bill but could surface as a bill before the Legislature adjourns on September 13, was discussed with the Board of Directors. MICRA, protects health care access in rural counties by keeping medical malpractice insurance rates lower. The current effort to change MICRA, the "38 is Too Late" campaign, was reviewed.

Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization

Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate, and Patricia Megason summarized two legislative efforts pending in Congress to reauthorize Secure Rural Schools. S. 783 (Wyden, D-Oregon), and H.R. 1526 (Hastings, R-Washington). A one-year extension of the SRS program was successfully attached to S. 783, the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013. Considered a "must-pass" bill before October 1, 2013, the bill was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on June 18, 2013, but has not yet been scheduled for debate in the full Senate. H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act was approved (with amendments) by the House Natural Resources Committee on a voice vote. RCRC staff will continue to keep the reauthorization of SRS as a high priority for 2013, and will continue to keep the Board of Directors informed.

Federal Postal Reform Efforts

Paul A. Smith reported that Congress is considering a number of reform efforts to the U.S. Postal Service to ensure its financial solvency and continued viability. Mr. Smith presented an update on the status of two measures introduced in Congress, H.R. 2748 (Issa), and S. 1486 (Carper and Coburn). RCRC staff recommended that RCRC adopt a "Support" position for S. 1486, and submit a support letter that includes a request for language contained in the House proposal which would limit the closure of rural post offices.

Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, motioned to approve the staff recommendations. Supervisor Richard Forster, Amador County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Absent: Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County; Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:36 p.m.