

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 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 9:48 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
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Linda Arcularius	Inyo
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
John Pedrozo	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Tim Fesko	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Nate Beason	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Roger Abe	Yuba

Absent

Brian Veerkamp	El Dorado
Anthony Farrington	Lake
Terry Swofford	Plumas
Anthony Botelho	San Benito

Debra Chapman	Trinity
Allen Ishida	Tulare
Jim Provenza	Yolo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Richard Forster, Amador County
Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County
Ed Horton, Placer County Water Agency
Howard Arcularius
Marcia Basque
Les Cohen

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President & CEO
Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President
Craig Ferguson, Vice President
Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer
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
Randall Echevarria, Legislative Analyst
Santinia Pasquini, Legislative Analyst

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – September 26, 2014

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

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Abstaining:

Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, informed the Board that Madera County recently formed a groundwater JPA, and the State Department of Water Resources has been forwarding letters to water agencies in the county relating to “will-serve” letters.

Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County, informed the Board that Mono County recently passed the Wildfire Resolution.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, informed the Board that Humboldt County recently passed a Wildfire Resolution; Supervisor Bohn advised the Board to keep an open dialogue with the local forest service. Supervisor Bohn also discussed possible legislation addressing properties slated for possible subdivision that are located in the State Responsibility Area. Currently, there is a strict prohibition on subdividing properties located in the State Responsibility Area if there is no commensurate structural fire protection.

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, discussed a recent legal matter where Mendocino County was sued by several different environmental groups based on lacking a CEQA evaluation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' trapping program contract. Supervisor Brown requested any advice from any other counties who had experienced this before.

Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, reported that Lassen County passed a resolution for Assembly Member Brian Dahle regarding keeping the lead ammunition ban a county-by-county decision. Supervisor Albaugh is encouraging other counties to do the same as Assembly Member Dahle is considering legislation on this topic.

Supervisor Kim Dolbow Vann, Colusa County, discussed her county's MS4 Permit. Colusa County has been requesting waivers, and is interested to know if other counties have any experience in this process. Colusa County is being threatened with fines each day. The agency is not working with Colusa County on the stormwater discharge issue.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, informed the Board that homeowners in the areas surrounding the Rim Fire are seeing an increased rate of insurance cancellations, denials and/or rate increases. Supervisor Hanvelt also discussed the issue of the reduction of the fish planting hatchery program.

Supervisor Linda Arcularius, Inyo County, presented a heartfelt speech to the Board and staff of RCRC regarding her time served. Supervisor Arcularius also presented RCRC a tree round branded with RCRC.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, suggested that each county being sued for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife trapper contracts should join forces and develop a CEQA document that could cover all contracts.

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, discussed the Grazing Regulatory Action Project (State Water Board). Supervisor Williams urged the Board to keep a close eye on this.

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, informed the Board that in Butte County, U.S. Forest Service Region 5 is trying to make the Pacific Crest Trail a wilderness

experience, which will create a corridor of an undetermined width that spans the length of the entire trail.

Supervisor Merita Callaway, Calaveras County, asked the Board if any of their counties that are still accepting Williamson Act contracts would accept contracts with reduced parcel sizes. Calaveras County is considering this, and she would like to report any information back to the Calaveras County Planning Department. Supervisor Callaway also discussed the State Department of Water Resources' Flood Awareness map that was approved years ago; Calaveras County mistakenly adopted these maps and this has been an economic nightmare and time consuming for staff.

Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, reported that Nevada County had a very high voter turnout in the November General Election. Supervisor Beason responded to Supervisor Callaway in regards to the Williamson Act - Nevada County is reviewing on a case-by-case basis related to the relative probability of property being developed.

Supervisor Beason reported on the Joint Officers Meeting attended by RCRC, CSAC, and UCC officers that occurred at the CSAC Annual Conference in Anaheim CA. Supervisor Beason asked how well each county's RCRC delegate and CSAC representative are communicating with each other at the county level and encouraged RCRC Board delegates to work with their corresponding CSAC representative to coordinate on important issues.

Public Comments

None

President's Report

Greg Norton, President & CEO, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Norton discussed county staff visits to a number of counties including Lake, Shasta, Glenn, El Dorado, Madera, Tuolumne, and Sierra. Mr. Norton then introduced Marcia Basque, former President of RCRC and Les Cohen former lobbyist for RCRC, both of whom were in attendance for Supervisor Arcularius's last RCRC Board Meeting as a Supervisor. Mr. Norton presented the Supervisors who were not returning to the RCRC Board with a personalized clock. Supervisor Merita Callaway, Calaveras County; Supervisor Linda Arcularius, Inyo County; and Supervisor Debra Chapman, Trinity County (Absent from the meeting) who will all be missed greatly.

Western Interstate Region (WIR) Report

Supervisor Kevin Cann (Mariposa) provided an overview of NACo's Western Interstate Region (WIR), and distributed a historical packet on WIR's efforts to lobby for public lands issues on behalf of 15 western states.

Election of the 2015 RCRC Officers and Corporate Officers - ACTION

Greg Norton explained the election process for the 2015 RCRC Officers and shared that Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, submitted an expression of interest in the Second Vice Chair position. The Officers will be sworn in at the Annual Installation of

Officers on January 21, 2015. Nominations from the floor were opened and closed, for each of the officer positions.

Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, called for approval of the 2015 slate of Officers as presented:

Chair	Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County
First Vice Chair	Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County
Second Vice Chair	Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County
Immediate Past Chair	Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the ascension of the 2015 RCRC Officers. Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, motioned to approve Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County be elected to RCRC Second Vice Chair for 2015. Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Greg Norton nominated the following individuals to serve, in addition to himself, as the 2015 RCRC Corporate Officers:

Patricia Megason	Secretary
Lisa McCargar	Treasurer
Craig Ferguson	Assistant Secretary

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, called for approval of the 2015 RCRC Corporate Officers. Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Investment Policy Renewal - ACTION

Greg Norton informed the Board of Directors that the 2015 Investment Policy Renewal was reviewed and approved by the RCRC Executive Committee at their November 12, 2014 meeting. The only revision besides applicable date changes is clarification that the review of security brokers/dealers will only be performed on those that are utilized.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve the 2015 Investment Policy as presented.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the staff recommendations. Supervisor John Pedrozo, Merced County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

RCRC 2015 Proposed Budget - ACTION

Greg Norton summarized highlights of the proposed 2015 RCRC Operating Budget. The proposed operating budget was reviewed and approved by the RCRC Executive Committee at their November 12, 2014 Meeting.

Staff Recommendations

The proposed 2015 budget was presented to the RCRC Executive Committee on November 12, 2014. The Executive Committee approved submission of the following recommendations to the Board of Directors:

1. Approve the attached proposed 2015 RCRC Operating Budget.
2. Approve the RCRC contract service fees at the following amounts:
CHF - \$1,461,275; ESJPA - \$46,320; and NHF - \$2,558,900.
3. Approve the RCRC contract Performance Fee from CHF based on projected CHF housing program net revenues (Gross revenues, less direct primary expenses) generated in 2015 in the amount of \$1,150,000.
4. Approve receipt of excess resources transferred from NHF, per the NHF bylaws, in the amount of \$1.9 million, to be transferred in equal quarterly amounts of \$475,000 beginning January 2015.
5. Approve 2015 member county dues at the calculation levels approved by the Board on June 13, 2012.
6. Approve the attached proposed 2015 pay rate schedule.

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

Patti Mattingly Annual Award

Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President, informed the Board that the Executive Committee selected Assembly Member Susan Eggman and CALFIRE Chief Ken Pimlott as the recipients of the 2014 Patti Mattingly Award. The Awards will be presented at the RCRC Annual Installation of Officers and Reception on January 21, 2015, which will be held at the California Chamber of Commerce California Room in Sacramento.

2014-15 Policy Principles

Patricia Megason presented the 2015 proposed Policy Principles to the Board for review. These principles help guide staff when they review proposed legislation or regulations in order to determine the appropriate RCRC position. Board Members were requested to review the draft Principles and provide all edits, amendments and comments, in writing, to Patricia Megason, no later than January 5, 2015 so they can be included in the January Board Packet and considered at the January Board meeting.

Governmental Affairs Update

Patricia Megason notified the Board of Directors that the 2015 Reception and Installation of Officers will be held Wednesday, January 21, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the California Chamber of Commerce's California Room. Invitations were distributed to the Board of Directors.

State Legislation

Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, reported that RCRC is still hopeful that the Governor's proposed 2015-16 State Budget will contain monies for the state payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) program as a result of discussions with the Brown Administration.

Federal Legislative Efforts/Reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools/PILT Update

Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate, reported that Congress passed and sent to the President H.R. 3979, known as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). While the primary purpose of NDAA is to set national defense policy, the measure included a federal lands package which provides a \$70 million appropriation for the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. Additionally, the House included \$372 million for Federal PILT in H.R. 83 as part of the Interior Appropriations Bill, bringing total Federal PILT funding to \$442 million – just under historic Federal PILT funding levels. It appears that Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (SRS) funding will not be reauthorized in the closing days of the 113th Congress, and thus FY 2014 SRS payments remain in doubt. Mr. Smith added that in the coming weeks RCRC staff will be encouraging counties that are impacted by SRS to adopt resolutions in support of reauthorization. Congress passed as part of the Budget omnibus bill a provision that restricts the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from listing the greater sage grouse as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. The restriction is effective for 2015, but will be lifted for 2016 if a similar provision is not included in next year's spending scheme.

Update on the California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA) Advocacy Efforts on the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (WDFSA)

Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate, updated the Board of Directors on a recent trip to Washington D.C. with the California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA). Ms. Hillery reported that CAFWA was well received on Capitol Hill, and many individuals thanked them for forming such a group and lobbying on forestry issues. Ms. Hillery reported that protecting forest management dollars from being spent on fire fighting was one of the high priority topics discussed at the meetings in Washington. Ms. Hillery reported that there are increases in wildfire funding in both the Department of the Interior and the United States Forest Service Budgets, but there continues to be no protection of the fire prevention and forest management funding from being swept up by fire borrowing.

Proposed USFWS Listing of West Coast Distinct Population of Fisher

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, reported that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to list the West Coast distinct population of fisher as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The listing will trigger special protections for the species under the ESA, as well as potential future critical habitat designations. Ms. Heaton urged members of the Board to distribute information on the proposed fisher

listing to appropriate county staff for their review. Comments on the proposal are due Monday, January 05, 2015.

Office of Planning and Research – Alternative Method of Transportation Analysis for CEQA

Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, reported that the Governor's Office of Planning and Research is in the process of developing alternative metrics for transportation impact analysis in the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines. As proposed, the traditional level of service (LOS) will be replaced with vehicle miles traveled to be applicable statewide by January 1, 2016. Additional case studies and methodologies should be considered for rural areas before a statewide application is required.

CalRecycle Diversion Enforcement Efforts

Mary Pitto reported that CalRecycle seems to have increased their enforcement efforts. In the last year, one RCRC member county has been placed on a Compliance Order, one has been sent to the enforcement unit for evaluation for a Compliance Order, and one is being evaluated as to whether it should be sent to the enforcement unit. Ms. Pitto stressed that when county staff is looking to improve the county diversion programs, it should be taken very seriously. Ms. Pitto informed the Board that if found not in compliance the county can be fined. However, the process allows counties the chance to make corrections and avoid the penalties.

Implementation of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014

Kathy Mannion presented on three upcoming joint Groundwater Management Act workshops sponsored by RCRC, the Association of California Water Agencies, California State Association of Counties, and California Water Foundation (an initiative of Resources Legacy Fund). These workshops are targeted to key decision makers and staff from medium to high priority groundwater basins that are most likely to be engaged in groundwater management. Ms. Mannion stressed that space is very limited and online registration is required.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 11:57 a.m.