

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, January 20, 2016 – 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 John Viegas, Glenn County, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<b><u>Supervisor</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
Mary Rawson	Alpine
Brian Oneto	Amador
Cliff Edson	Calaveras
Kim Dolbow Vann	Colusa
Dave Finigan	Del Norte
Michael Ranalli	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Matt Kingsley	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
Jim Holmes	Placer
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
Lynn Compton	San Luis Obispo
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
John Fenley	Trinity
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Roger Abe	Yuba

### **Absent**

Doug Teeter	Butte
Anthony Farrington	Lake
Nate Beason	Nevada
Allen Ishida	Tulare
Matt Rexroad	Yolo

### **Others in Attendance**

Supervisor Shiva Frentzen, El Dorado County  
Ralph Cordova, CEO, Imperial County  
Connie Stewart, Executive Director, California Center for Rural Policy  
Graham Knaus, CSAC

### **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  
Justin Caporusso, Director of Public Affairs  
Sarah Bolnik, Office Manager  
Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer  
Randall Echevarria, Legislative Analyst  
Santinia Pasquini, Legislative Analyst

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2015**

Chair, John Viegas, Glenn County, called for approval of the minutes from the December 9, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting.

**Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, motioned to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

### ***Abstaining:***

***Supervisor Cliff Edson, Calaveras County; Supervisor Kim Dolbow Vann, Colusa County; Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County***

### **RCRC Incoming Chair's Remarks**

Chair John Viegas welcomed all of the Supervisors to the first Board of Directors meeting of the year. Chair Viegas is looking forward to another great, but challenging,

year for rural counties. He thanked his peers for placing their trust in him to represent RCRC as Chair in 2016.

### **Member County Concerns and Issues**

Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, inquired if any other county has an employee recognition program set in place as Mariposa is looking to start one.

Supervisor Cann also raised the issue of state funding for county fairs. The Mariposa County Fair currently has one year of funding left in the bank.

Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County, raised the need for geothermal and biomass energy to the Board of Directors. Supervisor Kelley discussed Senate Bill 350, and Imperial County's involvement in raising awareness of a balanced renewable energy portfolio. The Imperial County webpage has a wide range of information on the topic.

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, discussed fee-to-trust legislation. Supervisor Brown has suggested updated language for CSAC's policy language regarding broadband in rural areas. Supervisor Brown urged members of the RCRC Board of Directors to participate on the call which will take place on Friday from 10-12 p.m.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, raised the issue of wild horses on U.S. Forest Service land. Currently Modoc County has over 4,000 wild horses in the county.

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, stressed need for water storage in Madera County. Tree Mortality and drought issues will still be a huge threat if the counties do not figure out a way to store the water that is collected during the wet winter months.

Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, discussed the need to clean up the forests from overgrowth to prevent major fires in the future.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, informed the Board that Mr. Jim Kellogg resigned from the California Fish and Game Commission. Supervisor Bohn noted that this is a huge loss to rural counties.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **President's Report**

Greg Norton, President & CEO, reported recent visits to Glenn and Tuolumne Counties. Mr. Norton also reported that Mary-Ann Warmerdam has accepted one of the open Legislative Advocate positions, officially rejoining RCRC on February 22, 2016. RCRC Legislative Advocate Kathy Mannion has agreed to delay her retirement through April 2016 to assist with the transition.

## **Approval & Acceptance of San Luis Obispo County**

Greg Norton discussed the approval and acceptance process of San Luis Obispo County per the RCRC's Bylaws. If approved by the RCRC Board of Directors, San Luis Obispo County would place RCRC's membership at thirty-five of the fifty-eight counties and would begin membership in January 2016.

### **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the following:

1. Accept San Luis Obispo County as an RCRC Member County;
2. Set San Luis Obispo County's annual membership dues at \$14,000 prorated to \$5,833.33 for the remainder of 2015-16;
3. Assign San Luis Obispo County to Region Five pursuant to the RCRC Bylaws; and
4. Reassign Inyo County from Region Five to Region Four.

**Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, motioned to approve the recommendations. Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

## **RCRC Committee Appointments**

RCRC Chair John Viegas announced his committee appointments which are as follows:

- **Legislative Committee:**  
Chair – Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County  
Vice Chair – Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County
- **Regulatory Committee:**  
Chair – Supervisor John Pedrozo, Merced County  
Vice Chair – Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County
- **Water and Natural Resources Committee:**  
Chair – Supervisor Roger Abe, Yuba County  
Vice Chair – Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County

RCRC Chair John Viegas then announced his recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair of GSFA and ESJPA:

- **GSFA:**  
Chair – Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County  
Vice Chair – Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County
- **ESJPA:**  
Chair – Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County  
Vice Chair – Supervisor Mary Rawson, Alpine County

### **Election of the 2016 RCRC Executive Committee**

Chair Viegas and Greg Norton reviewed the election procedure for the Executive Committee. Supervisors from each region convened to caucus and selected a Board Member to serve on the Executive Committee along with the four Officers. Following this time, the Board reconvened and reported the following selections for the 2016 RCRC Executive Committee:

- Region 1: Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County
- Region 2: Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County
- Region 3: Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County
- Region 4: Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County
- Region 5: Supervisor John Pedrozo, Merced County

### **Resolution 16-01: Travel Expense Policy**

Greg Norton provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Resolution 16-01, RCRC's Board Member Travel and Expense Policy. The Travel Policy was approved by the Executive Committee at the October 21, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve the proposed Board Travel Expense Policy Resolution 16-01.

**Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, made a motion to approve Resolution 16-01. Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

### **Resolution 16-02: Code of Conduct**

Greg Norton informed the Board of Directors that at the January 21, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting, Resolution 15-02: Code of Conduct was approved by the Board of Directors. Mr. Norton explained that the Code must be approved annually at the first Board of Directors Meeting.

### **Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve Resolution 16-02, the RCRC Board of Directors Code of Conduct.

**Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County, motioned to approve Resolution 16-02. Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, seconded the motion. Motion Passes Unanimously**

### **ESJPA Revolving Loan**

Greg Norton reported to the RCRC Board of Directors information regarding the long-term financial future for the Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority. Mr. Norton informed the Board that ESJPA's operating expenses for 2016 have been reduced, and the savings will allow for a break-even for the year ended December 31, 2016. Mr. Norton reported that ESJPA will be operating in an economically feasible manner, but it is recommended that the standing revolving loan to ESJPA stay in place. The RCRC

Executive Committee reviewed and approved the revolving loan at their November 18, 2015 meeting.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommend the RCRC Board of Directors approve the authority to make up to \$100,000 (cumulative) in revolving business loans to the ESJPA to assist with current and future cash flow needs. Such revolving loan shall remain in effect until cancelled.

**Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, motioned to approve the proposed recommendation. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

### **Overview of the State Budget**

The RCRC Governmental Affairs staff presented an overview of the Governor's 2016-17 Proposed Budget. While California's overall fiscal picture remains positive, Governor Brown continues to urge Budget restraint in anticipation of the next economic recession. To reflect this, the Governor's 2016-17 Proposed Budget continues to bolster the State's Rainy Day Fund and pay down State debts and liabilities, many of which continue to satisfy K-12 education obligations.

Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate, addressed funding levels for local jail construction, continued funding for the support of county fairs (including both operations monies and capital projects), funding the implementation of the regulatory framework for the medical marijuana industry, and support for counties' losses associated with the Valley Fire in Lake County and the Butte Fire in Amador/Calaveras Counties.

Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, reported that the Governor's 2016-17 proposed Budget includes \$644,000 in funding to pay counties State Payment in Lieu of Taxes (State PILT) for the fiscal year. She reminded the Board that a 2015-16 Budget Trailer Bill included language making State PILT payments permissive by changing Fish and Game Code Section 1504 from "shall" to "may". Senator Lois Wolk has agreed to author legislation which will change the "may" back to "shall". Additionally, Ms. Mannion reported that RCRC will again work to secure the State PILT arrearages of approximately \$8 million owed to 36 counties.

The question of Williamson Act subventions was raised, and Ms. Mannion explained that once again the proposed Budget includes \$1,000, and that while both Republicans and Democrats express support for funding Williamson Act subventions it is not a priority for them. Several Board members commented on the topic. Supervisor Vann asked the Board for a show of hands as to how many RCRC member counties have stopped accepting new contracts and only three counties indicated doing so.

Ms. Mannion reported on the January 14 release of the updated California Water Action Plan (CWAP), and the funding contained in the Budget to implement CWAP.

Santinia Pasquini, Legislative Analyst, reported that the Governor's 2016-17 proposed Budget proposes no changes to the implementation of AB 97, which cut rates to a

variety of Medi-Cal providers, including Distinct Part/Skilled Nursing Facilities, pharmacies, and other fee-for-service activities by 10 percent. Additionally, the Governor's Budget proposes to restore the current 7 percent across the board reduction to IHSS service hours, which is projected to cost the state \$507 million.

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, discussed the Governor's proposed spending plan for the estimated \$3.1 billion in Cap-and-Trade revenues for the 2016-17 Budget year. Among the programs important to counties, the Governor is proposing to allocate \$1 billion to the transportation sector including \$500 million to the Transit and Intercity Capital Rail Program, as well as \$150 million to CALFIRE for forest health projects for removal of dead and dying trees from pest infestation, and \$100 million to CalRecycle for waste diversion programs.

### **Adoption of RCRC's 2016 Policy Principles**

Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President, discussed the proposed 2016 Policy Principles. Board Members previously provided edits and comments to RCRC staff. It is recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the proposed Policy Principles as presented.

**Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the proposed 2016 Policy Principles. Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

### **California Tree Mortality Task Force**

Staci Heaton provided an update on the California Tree Mortality Task Force (Task Force) convened to carry out the provisions of the Governor's proclamation of a State of Emergency issued on October 30, 2015. Led by the Governor's Office, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES), the Task Force is comprised of a wide range of stakeholders assembled to tackle the urgent issue of tree die-off due to invasive pests in California. The Task Force held its first meeting on November 16, 2015, and has met twice since then, with plans to meet on a monthly basis. The Task Force has developed an Incident Action Plan, and has broken up into subgroups to address the various components of the plan. RCRC will continue to update the RCRC Board of Directors on the progress of the Task Force, and requests feedback on any county-specific needs related to the issue of tree mortality.

### **State Legislation Update**

Paul A. Smith provided an update on the status of Assembly Bill 21 (Wood), which makes two urgently needed changes to the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act. AB 21 removes a provision of Assembly Bill 243 (Wood) – commonly known as "C 4" – which suggests a March 1, 2016 deadline for localities to have cultivation ordinances in place, otherwise the State would become the sole licensing authority for medical marijuana cultivation. Following the RCRC Board of Directors meeting, AB 21 secured passage in its second policy committee – Senate Health. This hearing was delayed a week due to concerns about a second component – the revision/repeal of

Section G (the local control provision on personal grows and patient caregiver grows), which was also inadvertently included in the enacted AB 243.

Mr. Smith added that while counties would very much prefer to see Section G retained in full, there is much concern with the legal ramification of a repeal of Section G. Last week, a compromise to revise Section G was reached that included cities, counties, the police chiefs and patient advocacy groups, and that agreement was placed into AB 21 during Wednesday's hearing. Mr. Smith stated that the recently-amended version of AB 21 will move forward and reach the Governor's Desk later this month and staff will continue to keep the Board updated.

### **Federal Update**

Paul A. Smith reminded the Board that in the coming weeks, the RCRC Officers, accompanied by Patricia Megason, Paul Smith, and advocates from Van Scoyoc, will be in Washington D.C. for the NACo Legislative Conference. Mr. Smith noted that some of the top priorities while visiting the Capitol will be the Secure Rural Schools program as well as Federal PILT.

### **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation**

Kathy Mannion reported on the status of the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and Alternative Plan regulations. The Department of Water Resources' goal is to release draft GSP and Alternative Plan regulations in late January 2016 for public comment. Ms. Mannion recommended that member counties with high and medium priority basins actively engage during the GSP regulatory process as the various impacted regions/basins may have unique situations that need to be considered and addressed during development of the regulations. Ms. Mannion added that the department is required to adopt the regulations by June 1, 2016.

### **EPA Exceptional Events Rule**

Staci Heaton presented the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed revisions to its Exceptional Events Rule. Key stakeholders, including RCRC, submitted comments requesting language to counteract unintended restrictions on prescribed burning for forest management resulting from the newly finalized 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone. The proposed amendments to the Exceptional Events Rule clarify and simplify the procedures for reporting prescribed burns as exceptional events, making it easier for local air districts to exclude those burns from their monitoring data for regulatory purposes. RCRC will be filing comments on the Rule revisions, which are due on February 3, 2016, and will update the RCRC Board of Directors on the progress of the Exceptional Events Rule revisions including implementation once they are finalized by the EPA.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Viegas adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:27 p.m.