

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 21, 2015 – 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 Lee Adams, Sierra County, called the meeting to order at 9:05 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
Kim Dolbow Vann	Colusa
Dave Finigan	Del Norte
Michael Ranalli	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Rick Farinelli	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
John Pedrozo	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Tim Fesko	Mono
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
John Fenley	Trinity
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Matt Rexroad	Yolo
Roger Abe	Yuba

Absent

Cliff Edson	Calaveras
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Anthony Farrington	Lake
Diane Dillon	Napa

Nate Beason	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Allen Ishida	Tulare

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Jeff Engel, Plumas County
Supervisor Brian Veerkamp, El Dorado County
Supervisor Richard Forster, Amador County
Jim Brown, Merced County CAO
Michelle Gibbons, 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
Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate
Justin Caporusso, Director of Public Affairs
Sarah Bolnik, Office Manager
Randall Echevarria, Legislative Analyst
Santinia Pasquini, Legislative Analyst
Nick Konovaloff, Legislative Analyst

Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2014

Chair, Lee Adams, Sierra County, called for approval of the minutes from the December 10, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor John Pedrozo, Merced County, motioned to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Abstaining:

Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County; Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County; Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County

Member County Concerns and Issues

Chair, Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, welcomed the new Delegates to the first RCRC Board of Directors meeting of the year. Supervisor Adams also thanked all of the former RCRC Board Chairs for their leadership and guidance.

Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County, discussed the Veterans' Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014. The Act provides that a veteran may elect to receive medical services from a non-Department facility that is closest to the residence of the veteran if the veteran resides more than 40 miles from the medical facility of the Department. In Trinity County the Veteran's Administration is measuring the 40 miles "as the crow flies" as opposed to road miles.

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, reported that the U.S. Department of Justice issued a memo regarding marijuana growing on tribal lands and Mendocino County is very concerned. Supervisor Brown also informed the Board that the animal rights groups that have threatened multiple counties regarding the lack of a CEQA document when approving the US Fish and Wildlife trapper contracts, have sued Mendocino County. Mendocino County is going forward with the suit and is interested in joining forces with other counties facing the same issue.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, discussed the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Coho recovery plan. In Siskiyou County, the number of Coho desired for recovery in one stream is unattainable. Currently 200-300 Coho populate the stream and the DFW want the number of Coho to reach 4700.

Supervisor Rick Farinelli, Madera County, reported that he is working with the new county assessor regarding funding for the Williamson Act. Supervisor Farinelli also discussed his concerns regarding human trafficking becoming more prevalent in rural counties.

Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, raised questions about the 3 acre exemption from Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) such that landowners can clear space for building sheds or other outbuildings.

Public Comments

None.

Committee Appointments

RCRC Chair Supervisor Lee Adams announced his committee appointments which are as follows:

- **Legislative Committee:**
Chair – Supervisor Kim Dolbow Vann, Colusa County
Vice Chair – Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County
- **Regulatory Committee:**
Chair – Supervisor John Pedrozo, Merced County
Vice Chair – Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County
- **Water and Natural Resources Committee:**
Chair – Supervisor Roger Abe, Yuba County
Vice Chair – Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County

RCRC Chair Supervisor Lee Adams then announced his recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair of the two RCRC Joint Powers Authorities:

- **CHF:**
Chair – Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County
Vice Chair – Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County
- **ESJPA:**
Chair – Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County
Vice Chair – Supervisor Mary Rawson, Alpine County

RCRC Chair Supervisor Lee Adams requested that the Board confirmed his recommended appointment of the ESJPA Chair, Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, and ESJPA Vice Chair, Supervisor Mary Rawson, Alpine County.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the 2015 ESJPA Chair and Vice Chair Appointments. Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, seconded the motion. Motion Passes Unanimously.

President's Report

Greg Norton, President and CEO, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Norton welcomed six new Supervisors to the Board: Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County; Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County; Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County; Supervisor Cliff Edson, Calaveras County; Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County; and Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County.

Mr. Norton reported county visits taken over the past few months, including trips to Calaveras County and Shasta County.

Mr. Norton also announced that there will be a short Executive Committee meeting today at 2:00 p.m.

Election of the 2015 RCRC Executive Committee - ACTION

RCRC Chair Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, 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 2015 RCRC Executive Committee:

- Region 1: Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County
- Region 2: Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County
- Region 3: Supervisor Roger Abe, Yuba County
- Region 4: Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County
- Region 5: Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County

Resolution 15-01: Travel Expense Policy

Greg Norton provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Resolution 15-01, RCRC's Board Travel and Expense Policy. The Travel Policy was approved by the Executive Committee at the November 12, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting. The Board discussed the meal and lodging reimbursement rates, and would like staff to gather data from other county agencies and compare RCRC's rates. Staff will bring this data back to the Board at the next meeting.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve the proposed Board Travel Expense Policy Resolution 15-01.

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, made a motion to approve Resolution 15-01. Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Resolution 15-02: Code of Conduct

Greg Norton informed the Board of Directors that at the August 14, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting, Resolution 14-04: Code of Conduct was approved by the Board of Directors. Mr. Norton explained that the intent was to approve the Code annually at the first Board of Directors meeting of each year.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve Resolution 15-02, the RCRC Board of Directors Code of Conduct.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve Resolution 15-02. Supervisor John Pedrozo, Merced County, seconded the motion. Motion Passes Unanimously.

Revised 2015 Meeting Calendar

Greg Norton explained to the Board of Directors that the approved 2015 Meeting Calendar that was approved at the September 26, 2014 meeting needs to be revised to include an additional Executive Committee Meeting on May 6, 2015.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the revised 2015 RCRC Meeting schedule as proposed.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, made a motion to approve staff recommendations. Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Overview of the 2015-16 Budget

Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate, provided an overview of the Governor's 2015-16 Budget. Mr. Smith reviewed with the Board "*The Rural Rundown*," a summary of the Governor's proposed Budget, and its implications for member counties.

Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, reviewed State PILT funding. Currently there is \$644,000 budgeted for State PILT payments to counties for 2015-2016. RCRC is sponsoring legislation which is authored by Senators Wolk and Nielsen, to address the PILT arrears.

Ms. Mannion also discussed proposed funding in the State Budget for flood control. The proposed appropriations will deplete the Proposition 1E monies.

Ms. Mannion reviewed Groundwater Management funding in the Governor's proposed Budget. \$6 million has been allocated for the Department of Water Resources to provide technical assistance to local agencies.

Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate, discussed Health and Human Services. There continues to be problems with implementation of the new state computer system that determines a person's eligibility for Medi-Cal. The Brown Administration recognizes that the system is not working well in most counties. There is money allocated to address the additional costs being faced by the counties in the Governor's proposed 2015-16 state Budget.

Ms. Hillery reported that there is no additional fix for the cut in the Medi-Cal provider reimbursement rates. RCRC participates in a large coalition working to resolve this issue and members of that coalition are considering a ballot measure in 2016.

Ms. Hillery reported that CalFire's budget this year is effectively funded at the same level as it was last year. The bump up in revenues is due to special drought funding to address the extensive fire season. No local grants from the SRA fee were proposed.

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, discussed climate change, and \$1 billion that will come from the Cap-and-Trade Auction proceeds. Ms. Heaton reported that the additional \$130 million will be allocated to three places; the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, and the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program. Resource-based projects are proposed to be funded at the same level as 2014-15.

Adoption of RCRC's 2015 Policy Principles

Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President, discussed the proposed 2015 Policy Principles. Board Members previously provided edits and comments to RCRC staff. RCRC Staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the proposed Policy Principles as presented.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the proposed 2015 Policy Principles. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

General Update

Patricia Megason reminded the Board of Directors about the 2015 Reception and Installation of Officers that will be held later this evening from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the California Chamber of Commerce's California Room on the 14th floor.

Wildfire Strategy Update

Cyndi Hillery provided an update regarding the 2014-15 Wildfire Strategy. Ms. Hillery thanked the 21 counties who have adopted resolutions thus far, and encouraged those who had not yet done so to adopt the resolution as soon as possible. Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Director, added that once RCRC receives 25 resolutions, RCRC will be submitting an Op-Ed piece outlining the importance of increasing the pace and scale of forest management projects on federal lands.

State Legislation

Kathy Mannion reported on Senate Bill 122 relating to reforms of the California Environmental Quality Act. Several Senators plan to try to reach a consensus on a limited number of CEQA-related issues.

Paul Smith discussed the issue of restoring the exemption from reinstatement to the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) for elected officials. This exemption was statutorily revised in pension reform legislation adopted several years ago. In the past two years, there have been two attempts to restore the exemption via an act by the Legislature; however, there has been resistance in the Brown Administration. In light of the failure to re-enact the exemption, CalPERS feels compelled to begin addressing this aspect of the pension reform statutes. Absence an act by the Legislature, it is likely a policy will be adopted that would require a retired annuitant serving in elected office to either waive compensation and remain a retired annuitant or reinstate into CalPERS. The timing is unclear on when CalPERS could adopt these policies. Paul Smith will keep the Board updated as this remains a high priority for RCRC.

Mr. Smith reviewed legislation proposing to create a state regulatory framework for medical marijuana. Currently, there is one fully-constructed measure which RCRC has provided suggested amendments to address the concerns outlined in the RCRC Policy Principles. Mr. Smith added that in the near future we can expect to see other bills introduced regarding medical marijuana and the success of these bills will be influenced by the involvement of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

Federal PILT / Secure Rural Schools Update and Reauthorization Status

Paul A. Smith provided an update on Federal PILT/SRS, stating that earlier this month Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced that counties would receive payments for 2014 under the Twenty-Five Percent Receipts Rule. This announcement was made in light of Congress' inability to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) for 2014. California's counties are expected to receive \$8.6 million in lieu of SRS payments for FY 2014, compared to more than \$35 million counties would receive under SRS – a more than 75 percent decrease.

Mr. Smith noted that if Congress were to enact SRS funding for 2014, it is expected such an action would need to occur in the coming weeks to avoid exercising the 25 Percent Receipts Rule; however, it is expected that if reauthorization were to occur much later, adjustments to SRS payments would be made to account for monies being forwarded to counties that receive payments from the Receipts Rule. Complicating matters is that Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments would also need to be adjusted in light of an absence of SRS reauthorization. Federal PILT readjustments would occur at a much later date.

RCRC Staff and our federal advocates continue to advocate for reauthorization and long-term funding for SRS through a multi-pronged advocacy and media strategy urging Congress to reauthorize funding and to retroactively fund Fiscal Year 2014 SRS. Mr. Smith urged members to review the template PILT/SRS resolutions, incorporate local information, and adopt both at the County Board level as soon as possible.

Groundwater Update

Kathy Mannion reported on a groundwater meeting she attended with Supervisor Williams and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). There will be a series of meetings as DWR seeks to identify issues and solutions by working with interest groups to assist in their effort to develop regulations to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Ms. Mannion also mentioned the importance of compliance with the groundwater elevation monitoring program (CASGEM). Entities who qualify to act as groundwater monitoring entities will not qualify to receive Proposition 1 grants if not in compliance with CASGEM requirements.

State Water Board Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP)

Staci Heaton reported that the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) is proposing to develop a regulatory program for grazing operations and has begun public outreach, with the goal of developing a final proposal for Water Board approval sometime in 2016. Ms. Heaton urged the Board of Directors to distribute information on the GRAP proposal to appropriate county staff. At the Board's request, RCRC has developed a template letter for counties to use to express their individual concerns related to GRAP.

CalEPA Use of CalEnviroScreen for "Disadvantaged Communities"

Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, reported on the status of the definition of "disadvantaged communities" being used by the state to disseminate various grant funds. Senate Bill 535 requires CalEPA to identify a specific list of disadvantaged communities (DACs). This bill also requires that state agencies allocate 25% of available funds in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to projects that provide benefits to DACs. Ms. Pitto explained the CalEnviroScreen tool uses a combination of pollution burdens and population characteristics to define DACs for cap-and-trade grant funding programs, and how inequitable it is to rural communities. The CalEnviroScreen precludes 29 counties, 26 of which are RCRC member counties, from having any communities qualifying as a DAC. RCRC is mounting a campaign to change the manner in which it is imposed, or redefining DAC to include other metrics.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 12:11 p.m.