

**Rural County Representatives of California
Executive Committee Meeting
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 Board Room
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 447-4806**

July 23, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County
Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County
Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County
Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County
Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County
Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County
Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County
Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County

Minutes

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time; those present were as follows:

<u>Supervisors in Attendance</u>	<u>County</u>
David Rogers	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Diane Dillon	Napa
Nate Beason	Nevada
Bob Williams	Tehama
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne

Absent Members

John Viegas	Glenn
Lee Adams	Sierra

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President
Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer
Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate
Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate
Sarah Bolnik, Office Manager
Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Specialist
Randall Echevarria, Legislative Analyst
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate

Others in Attendance

None

Approval of Minutes of the May 7, 2014 Meeting

(Board Members absent from the meeting will be recorded as abstained unless the Board Member indicates otherwise)

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, motioned to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting. Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Abstaining: Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County

Member County Concerns

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, informed the Executive Committee that Tuolumne County is in a water state of emergency. Tuolumne County has sent letters of opposition on Senate Bill 1139 as well as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, provided an update on Madera County's drought situation. Wells in the county are failing daily and land value is decreasing. Emergency meetings are being held in hopes of developing a water balance plan.

Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, has been talking with a group who is unhappy about the proposed Waters of the U.S. regulation. Supervisor Cann requested information on the USFS groundwater directive. Comments are due August 4, 2014.

Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, attended a Waters of the U.S. seminar at the NACo Annual Conference. Supervisor Beason informed the Executive Committee that NACo has a report on their website that is very informative.

Public Comment

None

Governmental Affairs Update

Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, reported that there is ongoing discussion relating to groundwater legislation during the legislative summer recess. Senate Bill 1168 (Pavley) and Assembly Bill 1739 (Dickinson) are both bills that RCRC has requested changes. Both bills are currently in the other house appropriations committee. OPR has put together a county groundwater discussion group that RCRC has been taking part in. Ms. Mannion reported that Senator Nielsen has said that he also plans to introduce groundwater legislation.

Kathy Mannion discussed the Water Bond and the difficulties in cutting the dollar amount of the bond as opposed to adding funding to the bond. Ms. Mannion reported that the Governor has proposed a \$6 billion bond with \$2 billion of the \$6 billion to be dedicated to

the public benefits associated with surface water storage. The Governor has stated that any water bond must be “tunnel neutral”.

Ms. Mannion also reported that the solar bill as well as the Native American CEQA bill are both up on August 4, 2014 in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, reported on the proposed Waters of the U.S. regulation. The deadline for comments is October 20, 2014. Ms. Heaton reported that the EPA is getting extreme pressure from Congress to withdraw the proposed rule. Most hearings have been attended by a USEPA Deputy Administrator. As of last week he has left the EPA. EPA has had to do a lot of damage control for the negative press on the rule, claiming that stakeholders are causing confusion on the proposal and that staff is currently reviewing the comments and will adjust as appropriate. RCRC is filing comments and Ms. Heaton encourages all RCRC counties to do so as well.

Ms. Heaton reported on Senate Bill 1262 (Correa) which involves setting the statewide regulatory scheme for medical marijuana. This bill has been in the works for a while and would affect both cultivation and dispensaries. RCRC staff is working on amendments on the enforcement portion of the bill.

Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, reported on the organics bill that included the 100,000 county population threshold for an exemption. Immediately after being put in print, haulers and composters voiced a lot of opposition. Their concern is that if counties are allowed to be exempt, those that have existing programs and facilities will drop the programs. Although not officially in print, amendments are proposed to reduce the threshold to 70,000, which will drop the exemptions of Sutter, Yuba, Mendocino, and Nevada counties. It is very doubtful that this threshold will change back to 100,000. Chair Beason stated that while his county will no longer qualify for the exemption, his county is already preparing for the requirement and recommends RCRC support the bill. RCRC will support this bill.

Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate, discussed wildfire funding and the RCRC supported Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (S. 1875 and H.R.3992.) RCRC is part of a large coalition supporting this concept, which would put funding for wildfire disasters on an equal footing with other types of disasters, such as hurricane and flood. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) has also introduced an approach to improving the funding stream for wildfire prevention and suppression which would amend the existing Flame Act, S. 2593.

Ms. Hillery also informed the Executive Committee that the Timber Harvest Plan (THP) exemption bill, Assembly Bill 1867 (Patterson, R-Fresno), is moving forward. RCRC is in strong support of this bill. Ms. Hillery also touched on the new federal rules regarding Tribal Acknowledgment and the appeals process within the acknowledgement process. Comments on the Tribal Acknowledgement rule are due August 1st, but an extension is sought. Comments regarding the appeals process rule for Tribal Acknowledgement are due August 18th. RCRC is submitting comments on the acknowledgement process rule and is considering separate comments on the appeals process.

Quarterly Budget and Investment Reports CHF, NHF and RCRC

Greg Norton presented the Quarterly Investment & Budget Reports and the Cash and Securities Asset Report for the Second Quarter of 2014 (period ending June 30, 2014) for RCRC, CHF and NHF.

CHF Joint Powers Authority Agreement Revisions

Greg Norton reminded the Executive Committee that at the May 7, 2014 meeting, they were presented with revisions to the CHF Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreement, of which they approved and directed staff to present to the CHF Board of Directors. However since that meeting, staff has had additional legal discussions regarding the JPA's ability to establish and administer districts for energy program efforts. Mr. Norton reviewed the additional proposed revisions, which provide clarity to this matter, and also reduce the number of days for action by each Member's board from 90 to 60 days.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Executive Committee review the additional proposed amendments to the CHF Joint Powers Authority Agreement and direct the CHF Executive Director to present all proposed amendments to the January 28, 2004 Agreement to the CHF Board of Directors for approval and subsequent submission to the governing body of each Member.

Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, motioned to approve the staff recommendations. Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Board of Directors Code of Conduct

Greg Norton reviewed the Code of Conduct that was distributed to the Executive Committee at the May 7, 2014 meeting. Chair, Supervisor Beason submitted revisions at the May 7th meeting as well. As of July 11, two additional members have submitted edits to the Code of Conduct. Mr. Norton reviewed the edits with the Executive Committee. Following discussion, the Executive Committee directed that the Code of Conduct would be better received in the form of a Resolution with no signature by Board Members required.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Executive Committee review and discuss the draft Code of Conduct with proposed revisions received to date and provide feedback to staff for subsequent presentation and approval by the RCRC Board of Directors.

Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, motioned to approve the staff recommendations. Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

County Visits Update

Greg Norton reported that since the last Executive Committee meeting, staff has made county visits to Nevada, Tuolumne, and Tulare Counties. Mr. Norton, Patricia Megason, and the RCRC Officers also attended the NACo Annual Conference recently in New Orleans. In the coming months, Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Specialist, and Mary

Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, will be visiting Modoc County as well as other North State Counties.

Housing Update

Greg Norton provided a summary and update on the various housing programs.

Closed Session President/CEO Annual Evaluation

The Executive Committee convened a closed session at 1:01 p.m. pursuant to Section 54954.5(e) and 54957 of the Government Code.

The Executive Committee reconvened into open session at 3:16 p.m.

Report Any Action Taken Under Item IX. Pursuant to Section 54957.1 of the Government Code

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, reported that the Executive Committee is unanimously recommending the RCRC Board of Directors approve a 7% salary increase as well as a one-time 10% Bonus for the President/CEO.

Adjournment

Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, adjourned the meeting of the Executive Committee at 3:17 p.m.