

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, March 16, 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 9:11 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
Doug Teeter	Butte
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
Diane Dillon	Napa
Jim Holmes	Placer
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
John Fenley	Trinity
Allen Ishida	Tulare
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Roger Abe	Yuba

**Absent**

Anthony Farrington	Lake
Carre Brown	Mendocino
John Pedrozo	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Tim Fesko	Mono

Nate Beason	Nevada
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
Lynn Compton	San Luis Obispo
Matt Rexroad	Yolo

### **Others in Attendance**

Supervisor Ray Haupt, Siskiyou County  
Supervisor Richard Forster, Amador County  
Connie Stewart, California Center for Rural Policy, Humboldt State University  
Dustin Reilich, Senior Director of Municipal Development, HERO  
Cara Martinson, CSAC  
Wanda Ishida

### **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  
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, 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  
Maggie Chui, Governmental Affairs Assistant

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Approval of Minutes – January 20, 2016**

Chair, John Viegas, Glenn County, called for approval of the minutes from the January 20, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting.

**Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

### ***Abstaining:***

***Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Allen Ishida, Tulare County***

## **Member County Concerns and Issues**

Supervisor Kim Dolbow Vann, Colusa County, informed the Board of Directors that a company called Neighbor Works recently filed papers with the USDA Rural Development on behalf of 11 different counties, without prior approval from said counties. Supervisor Vann advised the Sacramento Valley counties to be aware of this group. Since they are building with federal funds, they are claiming they do not need to follow local land use requirements and are not building according to Colusa's land use standards.

Supervisor David Rodgers, Madera County, raised the issue of water availability. Currently in Madera County water is still not being provided for agricultural deliveries, but is being released for endangered fish.

Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, stressed the concern Mariposa County is having with the loss of state road funding. Currently, Mariposa roads are rated at a 44. With the loss of additional funding, Mariposa County will lose an additional \$700,000 in State funding. Supervisor Cann is asking for advice and suggesting Boards of Supervisors write letters of opposition.

Supervisor Cann discussed State Fair funding with the Board of Directors. The Mariposa Fair Board recently attended the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors meeting and requested the BOS consider providing roughly \$150,000 - \$200,000 to supplement the funds needed to continue the maintenance and upkeep of the fairgrounds and facilities. The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors believes the facility is important to the County's character and economy, and has little choice but to provide the funds. Supervisor Cann discussed a meeting that took place this morning with Fiona Ma, a member of the State Board of Equalization. Supervisor Cann believes that slowly but surely things will start to change for the positive.

Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County, raised the issue of Medi-Cal reimbursements. Recently, the oldest independently-owned pharmacy in the state has had to shut its doors. An additional independently-owned pharmacy will be following in the near future. Something needs to change in order to keep these businesses in operation.

Supervisor Goss informed the Board of Directors that Plumas County recently won their lawsuit with High Sierra Rural Alliance.

Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, informed the Board of Directors that five days before Christmas, Inyo County's five member hospital board and CAO resigned, and therefore the county hospital was forced to close. Due to county efforts, the hospital was able to reopen two weeks ago.

Supervisor Kingsley raised the issue of recent decision by the California Public Utilities Commission to deny Inyo County a grant from the California Advanced Services Fund to provide broadband services to currently unserved areas of the County.

Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County, discussed a joint letter sent by Colusa and Sutter Counties in hopes to halt the SMUD and WAPA proposed transmission alignment.

### **Public Comments**

Dustin Reilich, Senior Director of Municipal Development, Renovate America HERO Program, addressed the RCRC Board of Directors in regards to the HERO program and its advantages to RCRC's member counties. Mr. Reilich reported that HERO operates in 40 of the 58 California counties, and he hopes to expand that number by supporting RCRC in any way possible.

Connie Stewart, California Center for Rural Policy, Humboldt State University, discussed two pieces of legislation that are of extreme concern to rural broadband deployment. Senate Bill 1250 (McGuire) is a bill that Ms. Stewart hopes the RCRC Counties will take a support position on. The measure would require telecommunications providers to better report outages. Assembly Bill 1758 (Stone) makes needed reforms to the California Advanced Services Fund, including additional monies for grants for broadband deployment as well as altering eligibility requirements for grants that would fund better download/upload speeds.

### **President's Report**

Greg Norton, President & CEO, officially welcomed Mary-Ann Warmerdam to RCRC. Mary-Ann rejoins RCRC as a Legislative Advocate covering a variety of water and natural resources issues.

Mr. Norton reported recent staff visits to Tuolumne, Calaveras, Glenn, Mendocino, Yuba, and Sierra Counties. Mr. Norton also provided an overview of how hard the Governmental Affairs staff is working on issues relating to RCRC member counties.

Mr. Norton and Justin Caporusso, Director of Public Affairs, informed the Board of Directors that RCRC is sponsoring a Regional Information Summit on Human Trafficking in Redding on April 7, 2016. The North State Summit is hosted by the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Institute, an innovative research-based think tank developed to bring together leaders from multiple state and local systems to create a unified and comprehensive system of support to respond to and prevent human exploitation and trafficking. Mr. Caporusso encouraged northern counties to attend.

### **NACo and Federal Advocacy**

The RCRC Officers recently attended the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. Chair, Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, First Vice Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, Second Vice Chair, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, and Immediate Past Chair, Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, all discussed their time in Washington attending informative meetings and meeting with key legislative staff. Supervisor Kevin Cann attended as RCRC's representative on NACO's Western Interstate Region. Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, also attended the NACo Legislative Conference. These supervisors all lobbied on RCRC's behalf on topics such

as Secure Rural Schools, Payment in-lieu-of Taxes, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act and Tribal Acknowledgement and Recognition issues.

### **Additional Revisions to Policy Principles**

Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President, reported to the Board of Directors on a few revisions that were requested to the current Policy Principles. Ms. Megason reminded the Board of Directors that the Policy Principles were approved by the Board of Directors at the January 20, 2016 meeting. Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, raised the issue of Butane Honey and Hemp Oil production. Supervisor Baugh provided language for addition to the Policy Principles document. Supervisor Baugh addressed the Board regarding the reason behind the revisions.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends the adoption and inclusion of the above policy principle in the 2016 RCRC Policy Principles.

**Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, called for approval of the revised Policy Principles. Supervisor Mary Rawson, Alpine County, seconded the motion. Motion passes.**

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

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided the RCRC Board of Directors an update on the California State Tree Mortality Task Force (Task Force). Ms. Heaton explained that the Task Force meets once a month, however the subcommittees of the group meet multiple times each month. Ms. Heaton currently sits on the Task Force along with RCRC Board Members from Mariposa County and Tuolumne County. Ms. Heaton applauded CAL FIRE for being a voice and presence at the meetings, even applying resources that they do not currently have, to meet with counties, identify storage areas, log decking locations, and for attempting to have the SRA fee funds applied towards tree mortality. The biggest hurdle being discussed currently is biomass capacity.

### **RCRC Board of Directors Meeting April 20-21, 2016**

Patricia Megason provided an overview of the April 20-21, 2016 Board of Directors meeting taking place in Glenn County, the county of the current RCRC Chair.

Chair, Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, provided a detailed description of the different events that will be taking place in Glenn County during this two-day gathering. The Board of Directors is asked to please RSVP to Sarah Bolnik, Office Manager, with the form provided. Reservation deadline is April 13, 2016.

### **Senate Bill 987 (McGuire) Medical Marijuana Excise Tax**

Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate, provided the Board of Directors a summary of Senate Bill 987 (McGuire) relating to medical marijuana. SB 987 would impose a statewide excise tax on the sale of medical marijuana. Mr. Smith discussed the RCRC amendments which would preserve county taxing authority. Mr. Smith advised the Board to take a "Support if Amended" position on the bill.

### **Staff Recommendation**

RCRC recommends the Board of Directors adopt a “Support if Amended” position for SB 987. The amendments RCRC are requesting would explicitly preserve county taxing authority.

**Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County, made a motion to approve the recommendations above. Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County, seconded the motion. Motion passes.**

### **Medi-Cal Funding and Accountability Act**

Paul A. Smith discussed the benefits of the Medi-Cal Funding and Accountability Act (Act). Mr. Smith stated that this ballot measure is slated for the November 2016 ballot. The un-numbered ballot measure, which qualified several years ago, would require voter approval of changes to the hospital fee program to ensure that proceeds are used to support Medi-Cal patients and help pay for healthcare for low-income Californians.

### **Staff Recommendation**

RCRC staff recommends the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position on the Medi-Cal Funding and Accountability Act.

**Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County, made a motion to approve the recommendations above. Supervisor Mary Rawson, Alpine County, seconded the motion. Motion passes.**

### **State Legislation**

Paul A. Smith discussed Senate Bill 1302 (McGuire) which would better notify homeowners of availability of insurance under California FAIR Plan.

Mr. Smith reviewed the benefits of Assembly Bill 2678 (Gray) which would direct a small percentage of state sales and use taxes collected on the fairground property and direct it to small and –medium-sized fairs. RCRC is supporting this bill. Mr. Smith stated this bill will face difficulties in the Legislature.

Mr. Smith raised awareness of Assembly Bill 1758 (Stone). This RCRC-supported bill deals with grants under the California Advanced Services fund program to better deploy broadband.

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Legislative Advocate, reviewed Senate Bill 1396 (Wolk), which would establish an inner coast range conservancy. Staff will bring a suggested recommendation for a position on the measure to the Board at the April Board of Directors Meeting.

Staci Heaton reviewed Assembly Bill 1780 (Medina), which would continuously appropriate 25% of greenhouse gas reduction funds (GGRF) to a Sustainable Trades Corridor. RCRC opposed this bill since 60% of the GGRF is already continuously

appropriated. This would then leave only 15% of the funds available to discretionary projects, such as forestry, watershed, and solid waste projects.

Ms. Heaton also discussed RCRC-supported Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez), which would require an additional 25% of greenhouse gas reduction go to a new definition of disadvantaged communities, based strictly on household income level as opposed to the CalEnviroScreen definition currently used.

### **Federal Legislation**

Paul A. Smith informed the Board of Directors that federal Secure Rural Schools (SRS) payments will be issued to recipient states in the coming days. California counties are anticipated to receive approximately \$29 million in federal SRS payments, which is roughly half of what the program received when first enacted.

### **California Water Fix Project**

Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, reported on the January 28 State Water Resources Control Board Pre-Hearing Conference on the California Water Fix (twin tunnels). RCRC filed a notice of intent to submit a policy statement on California Water Fix and submitted the policy statement on February 26. Ms. Mannion stressed that the main concern continues to be the insufficiencies of data provided in the Joint Petition for a change in water rights and the potential impact of the project on upstream and in-Delta water right holders. Ms. Mannion reported on the recent Pre-Hearing Conference Ruling which revised the hearing schedule. The start of the California Water Fix hearing has been postponed from April 7 to May 6.

### **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**

Kathy Mannion provided a review of the Draft Emergency Regulations for Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) and Alternatives. The comment deadline has been extended a week to April 1. Staff is currently preparing joint comments on the GSP regulations with CSAC.

### **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)**

Kathy Mannion summarized staff's activities relating to the \$8 Million in arrearages owed to the 36 California counties for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). Ms. Mannion reminded the Board that the final State Budget Package eliminated this money for counties after both the Senate and the Assembly Budget Subcommittee's had approved the funding. The Governor's State Budget for 2016-17 does include \$644,000 to pay State PILT, however the additional \$8 Million in arrearages was not included.

Ms. Mannion discussed RCRC-sponsored legislation, authored by Senator Mike McGuire, which would amend the Fish and Game Code Section 1504 back to the original language of "shall" pay vs. "may" pay.

### **Revised Proposal on Updates to CEQA Guidelines Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA**

Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on current concerns with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) draft proposal of the

Transportation impacts analysis in CEQA. SB 743 requires OPR to establish alternative criteria, other than level of service (LOS), for determining the significance of transportation impacts of projects within transit priority areas in Metropolitan Planning Organizations to aid in infill development. The proposal however applies the new metric of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) statewide. Staff submitted comments opposing its statewide applicability.

**Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 12:37 p.m.