

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 26, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 – Conference 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 9:06 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
Brian Oneto	Amador
Doug Teeter	Butte
Kim Dolbow Vann	Colusa
David Finigan	Del Norte
Brian Veerkamp	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
David Rogers	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
John Pedrozo	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Tim Fesko	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Nate Beason	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Terry Swofford	Plumas
Jerry Muenzer	San Benito
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Stan Cleveland	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
Debra Chapman	Trinity
Allen Ishida	Tulare
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Roger Abe	Yuba

Absent

Mary Rawson	Alpine
Merita Callaway	Calaveras
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Linda Arcularius	Inyo
Anthony Farrington	Lake

Aaron Albaugh Lassen
Carre Brown Mendocino
Jim Provenza Yolo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Richard Forster, Amador County
Supervisor Rick Farinelli, Madera County
Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County
Supervisor Frank Ruhstaller, San Joaquin County
Karen Lange, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.
Farrah McDaid Ting, CSAC

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President
Karl Dolk, Chief Financial Officer
Craig Ferguson, Vice President
Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate
Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate
Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate
Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Randall Echevarria, Legislative Analyst
Nick Konovaloff, Legislative Analyst
Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Specialist
Sarah Bolnik, Office Manager, Executive Assistant

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2014

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, called for approval of the minutes from the January 22, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, motioned to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

***Abstaining: Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County
Supervisor Stan Cleveland, Sutter County***

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Kim Dolbow Vann discussed Colusa County's concern with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule on "Waters of the U.S." Colusa County is currently crafting a comment letter.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, thanked RCRC Staff for their work regarding groundwater issues, including the hosting of meetings and keeping the Board informed. Supervisor Hanvelt informed the RCRC Board of Directors that a group came to the Tuolumne Board of Supervisors meeting in hopes of securing their support on a bear hunting bill. Supervisor Hanvelt also discussed a call he received from Tim Townsend, Legislative Director for Assemblyman Brian Nestande, regarding a metal theft bill. Tuolumne County also wanted the RCRC Board of Directors to be aware that the County sent a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack regarding the cause of the Rim Fire and have received a response that they will be discussing at the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, updated the Board of Directors on the public trust doctrine groundwater legal case in Siskiyou County. The hearing is currently scheduled for April 11, 2014.

Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, expressed his concern with Senate Bill 1270 (Pavley) regarding the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) regulations.

Supervisor Richard Forster, Amador County, announced he was requesting CSAC to get involved in the Fair issue and urged the RCRC members to take action in regards to ramping up the Fair issue. Supervisor Forster reminded everyone to talk to those involved in their local Fairs.

Supervisor Kim Dolbow Vann, Colusa County, mentioned HR 4300 and suggested that RCRC add it to the agenda for our next RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

Public Comments

Supervisor Frank Ruhstaller, San Joaquin County, addressed the RCRC Board of Directors regarding the Water Bond.

President's Report

Greg Norton, President and CEO, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Norton reported that last week, the Rural Alliance Inc., a 501 (c) (3) entity, had a Board Meeting as did the National Homebuyers Fund Board of Directors. Mr. Norton reported that recent county visits include Butte, Trinity and Tehama Counties. Mr. Norton also reported the while Supervisor Mary Rawson, Alpine County, was unable to attend the meeting today due to weather, she wanted to inform the Board of Directors that 2014 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Alpine County.

Federal Advocacy Efforts and NACo Update

The RCRC Officers discussed their recent trip to Washington DC for the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference. Supervisor Adams, Sierra County, believes that this coming year will be very different with an election in the future. Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, reported on a meeting the officers had with the Counsel to the Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife, Mr. Michael Bean. Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, recapped the trip in general and reminded

the members of the RCRC Board to continue lobbying their elected federal representatives.

Medical Marijuana Policy Principals

Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate, presented a comprehensive set of policy principles concerning medical marijuana, specifically addressing aspects unique to rural counties. Mr. Smith described the two major changes to the revised policy principle. The first change would ensure that the local pre-emption for land-use activities is tied to a state regulatory framework. The second major change requires those obtaining a state license document be compliant with local rules.

Mr. Smith thanked Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Frank Lynch, Trinity County Senior Planner; Debbie Vaughn, Tulare County Administrative Analyst; Arthur Wylene, Tehama County Counsel, and Alison Barratt-Greene, Nevada County Counsel, for all their assistance and knowledge on the issue.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the adoption and inclusion of the attached policy principles in the 2014 RCRC Policy Principles.

Supervisor Kim Dolbow Vann, Colusa County, motioned to approve the proposed 2014 Medical Marijuana Policy Principles. Supervisor Dave Finigan, Del Norte County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Williamson Act

Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, reported on a recent Williamson Act Assembly Budget Subcommittee hearing. Ms. Mannion reported that Assembly Member Eggman attended the hearing to request funding for the Williamson Act. Members of the Williamson Act Coalition also testified in support of funding. The issue of the dollar level of funding will be discussed at a later date. Ms. Mannion reported that staff is currently working on securing a spot on the Senate Budget Subcommittee in late April.

Ms. Mannion reported on several Williamson Act related bills that have been introduced including Assembly Bill 2241 (Eggman) and Senate Bill 1953 (Nielson). RCRC supports both bills.

Ms. Mannion urged member counties to help support Williamson Act funding efforts by thanking their Assembly Member or Senator if they signed onto the legislative letter supporting Williamson Act or if an RCRC Member County Assembly Member or Senator did not sign onto the legislative letter, write them a letter urging them to support Williamson Act subvention funding.

State PILT

Kathy Mannion also reported on State Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT), another Budget related issue. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has not made PILT payments to 36 counties in over a decade. State PILT will be on the agenda at the Senate Budget

Subcommittee hearing tomorrow, and RCRC will be advocating for county-owed money. Senate Bill 1410 (Wolk) is an RCRC-sponsored bill. If enacted, it would provide \$19 million from the General Fund for past due payments and \$2 million for ongoing annual payments. Senator Wolk will be at the Budget Subcommittee hearing tomorrow and will speak in support of the inclusion of funding in the State Budget.

Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Specialist, reviewed the recent media push made by RCRC in relation to State PILT.

2014 Water Bond

Kathy Mannion discussed the various proposed water bonds that have been introduced to replace the \$11 billion bond currently on the November ballot. June 26th is the deadline to pass a revised bond. RCRC is not taking a support or oppose position on any of the bond proposals at this time; however, RCRC is offering comments and proposed amendments as needed.

California Drought Legislation

Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate, explained to the RCRC Board of Directors an emergency package in relation to the drought that contains two bills in the Senate and two bills in the Assembly.

Senate Bill 103 is a Budget Bill, and Senate Bill 104 is policy-related. The package was put together quickly; hearings were arranged with little time to weigh in on any of the issues.

RCRC has updated our website with all of the current drought issues.

Other State Legislation

Cyndi Hillery reviewed Senate Bill 1270 (Pavley). The goal of this bill is for the state to take over duties under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), currently a county obligation. County entities are concerned as this measure could strongly impact counties' land use planning authority. RCRC is involved with a stakeholder working group including the sponsors of the bill, Sierra Fund, industry members, and local government interests. RCRC is hoping to get amendments to the bill which would allow for the greatest possible authority to remain at the county level, if counties wish to retain it.

Ms. Hillery also briefly reviewed:

Assembly Bill 1970 (Gordon) Grants for GHG reduction projects

Senate Bill 1166 (Vidak) Home-to-school transportation

Senate Bill 1429 (Steinberg) Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA)

Senate Bill 1805 (Skinner) Medi-Cal reimbursement rate

Assembly Bill 2066 (Hall) Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund (SDF)

Assembly Bill 2703 (Quirk-Silva) County Veterans Services Offices (CVSOs)

Groundwater Management

Kathy Mannion reported that a lot is going on relating to groundwater management reform. The Administration has put this issue on the fast track and intends to make changes to the law in a State Budget trailer bill. RCRC staff recently attended a workshop on the Brown Administration's draft groundwater proposal and made verbal comments. Staff is currently working on written comments. On April 16th there will be a second workshop.

Ms. Mannion encouraged member counties to submit comments to the Administration in response to the questions posed in the draft framework for soliciting stakeholder input. Additionally, Ms. Mannion suggests that copies of County comment letters be sent to your Senator and Assembly Member as reforms will be made through the legislative process.

Forestry Coalition Update

Justin Caporusso reviewed the Op-Ed piece that was run in the *San Jose Mercury News*.

Cyndi Hillery discussed various joint advocacy pieces that the coalition is creating together. In addition, a letter was sent from RCRC independently regarding the authority the Farm Bill grants to state Governors to designate areas of high risk of disease or insect infestation to be treated under quicker environmental review. Money for these projects was authorized in the Farm Bill but has not been allocated in the Budget.

Assembly Bill 32 Scoping Plan Update

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, reported that a new draft was released last month that incorporates stakeholder comments from last year. Comments on the new draft will be accepted until April 28th. Ms. Heaton is hoping that by chipping away at the Air Resources Board, forest management will become an integral part of their climate change strategies. Cal Fire is also assisting in adding forestry to the draft. Our hope is that this is the final plan.

Ms. Heaton urged RCRC Board Members to distribute information on the Draft Proposed First Update to appropriate county staff for their review and comment.

Safeguarding California Climate Adaptation Plan

Staci Heaton reported to the RCRC Board of Directors on the status of the Climate Adaptation Plan. This plan focuses on seven different issues relevant to climate adaptation. Ms. Heaton explained these seven issues to the Board: Public Health, Biodiversity, Ocean and Coastal Resources, Water Management, Agriculture, Forestry, and Transportation & Energy Infrastructure. RCRC filed comments on the first draft of the plan and will keep the Board informed of future activity.

Air Resources Board In-Use Diesel Regulations Activities Update

Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, updated the RCRC Board of Directors on the Air Resources Board Diesel Regulations for the private on-road vehicles. In the past

year the ARB was inundated with comments regarding the financial hardship the regulation is causing in rural areas, especially among small fleet owners. Because of these complaints, the ARB is responding and has released a proposed rule that has additional extensions and provisions that will help rural areas and small fleets. A meeting will be held on April 24 and 25 to discuss the proposed amendments and to adopt the changes. RCRC staff will support all extensions that will benefit rural areas.

USFS Land Management Planning Rule Federal Advisory Committee (FACA) Meeting

Staci Heaton attended a recent FACA meeting and updated the Board on the outcome of the meeting. Coordination was a big topic. The FACA members are very sensitive to coordination and frustrated that not all forests are complying. RCRC was the only local government representative invited to the meeting.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:13 p.m.