

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, September 25, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
The Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel
El Dorado County, CA**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
Mary Rawson	Alpine
Richard Forster	Amador
Kim Dolbow Vann	Colusa
Dave Finigan	Del Norte
Michael Ranalli	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
John Pedrozo	Merced
Jim Wills	Modoc
Tim Fesko	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Nate Beason	Nevada
Jeff Engel	Plumas
Margie Barrios	San Benito
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
John Fenley	Trinity
Allen Ishida	Tulare
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Matt Rexroad	Yolo
Roger Abe	Yuba

Absent

Doug Teeter	Butte
Cliff Edson	Calaveras
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Anthony Farrington	Lake
Jim Holmes	Placer

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Ed Valenzuela, Siskiyou County
Supervisor Dennis Garton, Tehama County
Supervisor Chuck Winn, San Joaquin County
Lew Bauman, Monterey County
Wendy Tyler, Trinity County
Carmel Angelo, Mendocino County
Arthur Wylene, Tehama County
Thane Young, Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc.
Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc.
Karen Keene, CSAC
Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund
Tim Ray, AT&T
Alice Perez, AT&T
Ed Horton, Placer County Water Agency
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
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
Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer
Santinia Pasquini, Legislative Analyst
Layne Frederiksen, IT Manager

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2015

Chair, Lee Adams, Sierra County, called for approval of the minutes from the August 19, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Mary Rawson, Alpine County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Abstaining:

Supervisor Kim Dolbow Vann, Colusa County; Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County; Supervisor Margie Barrios, San Benito County; Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County; Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County; Supervisor Roger Abe, Yuba County

RCRC Chair's Report

Chair, Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, thanked everyone for attending the 2015 RCRC Annual Meeting, and for making this year's conference one of the best attended events to date. Supervisor Adams was humbled by the generosity shown during the basket raffle and auction. Greg Norton, RCRC President & CEO announced that \$24,990 was raised for Sierra County charities from the ticket sales and live auction.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, thanked Tehama County Counsel Arthur Wylene for his hard work and dedication to issues affecting rural counties. Supervisor Williams presented Mr. Wylene with a Welcome Sign for his office compliments of the Trinity County basket Supervisor Williams won the night before.

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, discussed two different internet outages that occurred recently in Mendocino County.

Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, talked with the Board of Directors about his seat on the NACo WIR. Current topics of interest for the WIR Board of Directors include the Endangered Species Act as well as the federal Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program.

Public Comments

Tim Ray, AT&T Regional Vice President, addressed the Board of Directors regarding a new program that AT&T is launching called Connect America Fund. Mr. Ray discussed this six year program and the benefits to rural counties.

President's Report

RCRC President & CEO Greg Norton reported that the RCRC County Basket Fundraiser held September 24, 2015 during RCRC's Annual Meeting raised \$24,992.00 for six Sierra County charities including the Sierra County Historical Society, the Sierra County Animal Rescue Fund, Golden Rays Senior Citizens of Sierra County, Incorporated Senior Citizens of Sierra County, the Downieville Lions Club, and the Loyalton Rotary. Mr. Norton thanked RCRC staff who made the conference successful.

Adoption of the 2016 RCRC Meeting Schedule

Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President, presented the Board of Directors with the 2016 Board Meeting schedule.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the 2016 RCRC Board Meeting Schedule as proposed.

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, motioned to approve the 2016 RCRC Board Meeting Schedule. Supervisor John Pedrozo, Merced County, seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Marijuana Legislation Update

Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate, provided a brief analysis of the recently-adopted legislative package to create a medical marijuana licensing and regulatory framework. In the final hours of the 2015 regular Legislative Session, the Legislature adopted three medical marijuana licensing/regulatory framework bills – Assembly Bill 266 (Bonta), Senate Bill 643 (McGuire), and Assembly Bill 243 (Wood). Each measure awaits the consideration of the Governor; however, since the Administration was extensively involved in the construction of the final package, a signature is anticipated. Mr. Smith stated that the package addresses the priorities of rural counties in a licensing/regulatory framework.

2015 End of Session Update

RCRC staff provided an update on the final days of the 2015 Legislative Session, highlighting legislation relating to groundwater and mining. Specifically, Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on Assembly Bill 1390 (Alejo) and Senate Bill 226 (Pavley).

Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on mining legislation including RCRC-supported Assembly Bill 1142 (Gray) and Senate Bill 209 (Pavley).

Federal Affairs Update

RCRC's Federal Advocates Thane Young & Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc Associates, provided an update on various federal issues of importance to California's rural counties including federal PILT, Fee-to-Trust Land Acquisition, Wildfire Suppression Funding, and the Floodplain Executive Order and Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Basin Boundary Regulations

Kathy Mannion informed the Board of Directors that RCRC and CSAC recently submitted comments on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) draft emergency basin boundary regulations. Both RCRC and CSAC have been working in cooperation with the SGMA County Working Group. Ms. Mannion noted that member counties with high and medium priority basins where a basin boundary revision may occur should closely follow the regulatory process and engage in preliminary discussions with other potentially impacted agencies.

Proposition 1 – Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program Draft Guidelines and Counties with Stressed Basins Proposal Solicitation Package

Kathy Mannion informed the Board of Directors that the tentative schedule calls for final Proposition 1 grant funding awards to be announced in March 2016. Ms. Mannion recommended that member counties start planning now to take advantage of this opportunity to secure funds to pursue county groundwater management activities and projects. Ms. Mannion also stated that many of RCRC member counties will qualify for the program, which has a maximum award of \$500,000 for basins which are critically overdrafted.

Governor's Office of Planning and Research Initiatives

Kathy Mannion reported on the two initiatives that the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is currently undertaking. OPR is planning to host a series of two regional workshops in six different regions on Aligning Land Use & Water Management, and Rural Community Outreach Roadmap. Each of these workshops will allow up to 40 participants. Ms. Mannion recommended that each member county ensure they are represented at the workshops.

California Forest Watershed Alliance Update

Cyndi Hillery updated the Board of Directors on the ongoing efforts of the California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA). Ms. Hillery reported on multiple meetings with high level members of the Administration to deliver CAFWA's message. Ms. Hillery reported on the first meeting of the emergency task force on tree mortality, which took place on September 24, 2015. Ms. Hillery reported that Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE, attended the meeting and apologizes that he was not able to be at the Board of Directors meeting today, as he had planned to be.

Justin Caporusso, Director of Public Affairs, reported on the development of the CAFWA brand identity. Mr. Caporusso stated that over the past few months a problem statement, statement of purpose, a logo, a website, and a leave-behind piece have all been completed by the CAFWA Communications Subcommittee. The website is expected to be live in November.

State Water Board Grazing Regulatory Action Project

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, announced that at the state level the Grazing Regulatory Action Project is dead. Ms. Heaton stated that the state and regional water boards are working together and RCRC staff will continue to follow activity on this topic at the regional boards, but this is a win for the rural counties.

2015-16 Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan

Staci Heaton reported that Governor Brown and the Legislature did not reach an agreement on the 2015-16 Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds expenditure plan. Ms. Heaton stated that discussions have been put on-hold until after the Legislature completes the special session on transportation infrastructure. Ms. Heaton reviewed with the Board of Directors a letter that RCRC sent to the Speaker of the State Assembly requesting that the funds be distributed to the California Department of

Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

Updates to the CEQA Guidelines

Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, announced that the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has released the preliminary draft of changes to the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines. Ms. Pitto stated that this was last done in the 1990's. The draft contains changes and additions to 27 sections. The draft is intended to make the process more efficient and also ensure environmental protection. Ms. Pitto reviewed some of the major changes with the Board of Directors. Ms. Pitto also stated that OPR is soliciting comments until the October 12th deadline, and encouraged member counties to review the draft and share any concerns and comments with RCRC staff.

CalRecycle's Assembly Bill 341 Report to the Legislature

Mary Pitto provided a summary of Assembly Bill 341 which established a policy goal for the state to reduce, recycle, or compost 75% of all solid waste by the year 2020. Ms. Pitto stated that CalRecycle is recommending five strategies to reach this goal, with the number one priority being moving organics out of landfills as organics are the largest waste stream in the landfills. Ms. Pitto informed the Board of Directors that staff will be monitoring and participating in all upcoming conversations regarding new regulations and legislation pertaining to our solid waste reduction goals and will make sure to keep the member counties up-to-date.

Transportation Update

Paul A. Smith provided an update on efforts at the state level to secure new transportation revenues and reforms. Mr. Smith stated that the Legislature adjourned without adopting measures to better fund the state and local transportation system. The formation of a Conference Committee on Transportation was created, and this committee could meet at any time during the Legislative Recess, or may wait until the 2016 regular Legislative Session, which begins in January 2016. Mr. Smith stated that the goal of the Conference Committee on Transportation is to reach an agreement that would couple new transportation revenues with reforms of the transportation system.

Mr. Smith briefly discussed the status of the Federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF).

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 11:00 a.m.