

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
June 27, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
Niles Hotel
304 S Main Street
Alturas, CA 96101**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, presided. Present were President and CEO Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and Office Manager, Julie Lunn, serving as clerk. The minutes were prepared by Maggie Chui, Director of Board Operations. Chair Byrne called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor

David Griffith
Brian Oneto
Bill Connelly
Martin Huberty
Daurice Smith
Darrin Short
Lori Parlin
Grant Carmon
Rex Bohn
Jen Roeser
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Miles Menetrey
Madeline Cline
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan
Chris Lopez
Anne Cottrell
Sue Hoek
Shanti Landon
Kevin Goss
John Peschong
Bob Nelson
Lee Adams
Michael Kobseff
Matt Hansen
Jill Cox
Mike Holland
Sheila Allen

County

Alpine
Amador
Butte
Calaveras
Colusa
Del Norte
El Dorado
Glenn
Humboldt
Inyo
Lassen
Madera
Mariposa
Mendocino
Modoc
Mono
Monterey
Napa
Nevada
Placer
Plumas
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Sierra
Siskiyou
Tehama
Trinity
Tuolumne
Yolo

Gary Bradford

Yuba

Absent

Ryan Kelley

Imperial

Doug Verboon

Kings

EJ Crandell

Lake

Daron McDaniel

Merced

Mindy Sotelo

San Benito

Kevin Crye

Shasta

Wanda Williams

Solano

James Gore

Sonoma

Mike Ziegenmeyer

Sutter

Dennis Townsend

Tulare

Public Comment

A public comment has been submitted by the Clean California Community. Copies of the handout have been made available to RCRC Board Members.

Mary Rickert, a Shasta County resident, provided comments regarding the wolf issue.

Supervisor Chris Kelstrom, Shasta County, expressed support for establishing a local medical school in Shasta County. Chriss Street, Shasta County's health care consultant, also spoke in favor of the initiative.

Consent Agenda

- a. March 26, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. Approval of Audited Financial Statements – December 31, 2024**
- c. California Public Utilities Commission Update**
- d. Rural County Photo Contest**

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

RCRC Chair's Report

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, welcomed supervisors to the June RCRC Board of Directors meeting, held in Modoc County, and expressed appreciation for their visit to her community.

Guest Speaker – California Natural Resources Agency

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors with an update on CNRA's priorities, including wildfire resilience, wolves, recreation, and energy, emphasizing that California remains strong.

Secretary Crowfoot also recommended forming an ad hoc committee to address wolves and other predator species management issues.

Following Secretary Crowfoot's presentation, the RCRC Board of Directors engaged in an extended discussion with him.

President's Report

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided a brief report on recent activities the organization is engaged in that align with the RCRC Strategic Plan goals, encompassing Equitable Access, Impactful Advocacy, Healthy Communities, and Operational Excellence.

Member County Updates and Priorities

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, invited each Board Member to share brief reports on key updates, initiatives, and priorities from their counties. The RCRC Board of Directors heard from the following supervisors:

- Supervisor Jill Cox, Trinity County, spoke about crosswalk safety and the policies the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) uses to determine funding allocations for pedestrian safety.
- Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, discussed Assembly Bill 263 (Rogers) regarding drought conditions, as well as concerns related to wolves and pesticides.
- Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, invited RCRC Board Members to visit the Golden State Natural Resources' Lassen County site to see its forest resiliency demonstration project.
- Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County, discussed issues with rest stop maintenance by Caltrans.
- Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, shared concerns about challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified staff.
- Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, raised concerns about the streamlining of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- Supervisor Grant Carmon, Glenn County, spoke about Assembly Bill 589 (Gallagher) regarding personal protective equipment for firefighters.

President/CEO Annual Compensation

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, and members of the RCRC Officers addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on how the RCRC Executive Committee reached the decision to approve the RCRC President and CEO Patrick Blacklock's annual compensation. At their May RCRC Executive Committee meeting and a subsequent Special Executive Committee meeting in June, they completed the annual performance evaluation and compensation discussion.

Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, orally reported the recommendation for final action on Mr. Blacklock's compensation.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the following as just and reasonable:

- A 3.0% increase in the President & CEO's annual salary, to \$440,432, effective on the first day of the last pay period in June 2025.
- A one-time performance incentive for the President & CEO in the amount of \$30,000, to be included on the July 15, 2025 payroll.
- Direct the Executive Committee to consider any additional salary adjustment based upon the compensation study at their July meeting, or as soon thereafter as the study results are available

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the recommendations on the President/CEO Annual Compensation. Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

2025 Annual Meeting Overview

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided an overview of the RCRC 2025 Annual Meeting, scheduled to occur September 17-19, 2025, in Placer County at the Everline Resort & Spa in Olympic Valley. Ms. Warmerdam highlighted the processes for registration, the county basket drawing and auction, and sponsorship opportunities.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an update on issues at both the state and federal levels, including the status of key legislation and the State Budget.

The RCRC Board of Directors asked members of the Governmental Affairs Department questions related to health care and water.

Discussion on Predator Species Management

Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an overview of predator species management and led a discussion with the RCRC Board of Directors to gather feedback. RCRC Board Members shared their experiences, insights, and concerns related to the issue. Ms. Heaton also highlighted RCRC's ongoing engagement with state agencies, noting the growing conflict between predator species protections and the needs of rural public safety and agriculture.

The RCRC Board of Directors expressed interest in forming an ad hoc committee to further address the issue.

Presentation and Board Discussion Regarding Reauthorization of the Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee to Guide RCRC's Engagement on Assembly Bill 1156

Patrick Blacklock and Arthur Wylene presented a proposal to reauthorize the Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc), which supports agricultural land preservation while recognizing challenges such as water scarcity. The proposal includes authorizing the Ad

Hoc to guide RCRC's engagement on Assembly Bill 1156 (Wicks) and appointing Supervisor John Peschong to fill a vacant seat.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors take the following actions:

- Appoint Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County, to serve on the Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee (along with the six continuing members noted above).
- Reauthorize and empower the Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee to guide RCRC's engagement on Assembly Bill 1156, including RCRC's official position on that bill.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the above-listed recommendation. Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 11:37 a.m.