



"To protect, enhance, and support Butte County natural resources and agriculture by working with willing landowners and citizens through education, land management, and on-the-ground projects."

150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste. A, Oroville, CA 95965 * (530) 693-3173 * bcrd@carcd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 18th , 2024

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Location: Klamath Conference Room

202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA 95965

Or Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88974119154?pwd=V01CaUpYVEw3VFpNQS84YkFSSmJkQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 7411 9154

Passcode: 575904

Join via phone +1 408 638 0968

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President

- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Chair Dave Lee, Directors Andy Sohnrey and Allen Harthorn, Treasurer Colleen Hatfield, District Manager Thad Walker, Staff Wolfy Rougle

- 3. REVISIONS TO AGENDA** (only emergency situations requiring the need to take immediate actions may be added as action items pursuant to Gov. code 549954.2(b))

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (on non-action items)

(1) (3 min. limit per speaker/topic, 15 minutes/person/meeting total) (2) Public comment is encouraged. Any member of the public may address the Board with any comment related to the Resource Conservation District's areas of concern.

*However, no action can be taken by the Board on such items at this current meeting. The Board may direct staff to agendaize such items for consideration at a future meeting. (3) *Please note that all action items will have time set aside for public comment prior to the vote occurring. After a motion*

is made and seconded by two BCRC D Directors, the Chair will first ask for any further discussion from the Directors and Associate

Directors and then Chair will open up the item for brief public comment limited to 2 minutes/person. After the public comment period closes a vote will be held.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 6 /28/2024 – Andy moved to approve the minutes, Allen seconded; motion passed with 3 in favor and Colleen abstaining since she was not present at the June meeting. May 2024 draft minutes will need to be approved at a future meeting when Samantha is present.

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield -This month and next will have extra information to pay attention to in the financials, since our fiscal year ended June 30. Our combined assets, including fixed assets, are about \$1.8M (subtracting the Cottonwood endowment, it's about \$576,000). Colleen would now like to close out acct -4716 (our old general account) to simplify things. Board does not need to formally vote on this but everyone agreed it was a good idea. Credit card statements are included in financials starting this month (and for this month's, CC statements go back to the time of opening the cards, so the Board has a complete picture). Colleen stated she needs to increase the credit card balance because in the first month we spent right past it (although in the second month we didn't spend anywhere near it). Our purchasing needs fluctuate widely from month to month. Colleen is in search of a savings account where our reserves account can earn reasonable interest because Mechanics Bank's interest rates are extremely low. Ideas for interest-bearing accounts included Golden Valley bank, Umpqua, and Credit Karma Save. Allen moved to accept the financials; Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- b) Review and approval of 2024/ 2025 Budget -Colleen Hatfield - \$5.5M total receipts are projected for the coming fiscal year, with \$5.4M in expenses. Acting as pass-through for many projects and agencies is a major way we contribute to our community and mission. Projected profit of about \$111,000. This refined 24-25 budget reflects updates to insurance costs, the cost of 2 audits (22-23 and 23-24), a new vehicle e.g. a Subaru, full implementation of our reserves policy, and a business manager. Colleen moved, Allen seconded to accept the budget; motion passed unanimously
- c) Review of Changes to BCRCD Policies and Procedures Section II updates -David Lee ~~and Samantha Lewis~~ Samantha was not present today or in June and was not able to respond much to inquiries in the interim. Item tabled until August board meeting.
- d) Agreement with ECORP to provide Biological Assessment report-writing assistance in Upper Butte - Wolfy Rougle – ECORP, an environmental consulting firm with a Chico office, was the lowest qualified bidder on this request for proposals to re-do the BA to include the new California Spotted Owl listings and project-level plan amendment components required by Region 5. Allen moved, Colleen seconded to approve the agreement; motion passed unanimously.
- e) Grant agreement with Sierra Nevada Conservancy for Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) Round 3 funding (SNC-1710) - Wolfy Rougle –Specifically, the funding includes:
 - 2.5 years of funding for CSE to provide GIS support to tribes as needed
 - Two years of funding for a half-time “BCCG Projects Coordinator,” housed at BCRCD, most likely Faith, to help members grow their own capacity and get projects shovel-ready (this can include help w GIS, project development, CEQA, grantwriting)
 - Funding for NCRLT to complete environmental compliance on their plan for their Deer Creek property
 - Modest pot of money for local Tribes to use for project development or CEQA
 - Funding for BCRCD, BCFSC, and CSE staff to work together with BCCG orgs to create a collaborative monitoring plan that all orgs can use (esp. for State-funded projects, following forthcoming State guidance)

Andy moved to accept the SNC-1710 grant agreement, Allen seconded, motion passed unanimously.

- f) BCRC D Strategic Plan Document for Board Review and Feedback -Thad Walker – Thad reviewed the items Joy asked the board to reflect on further, such as reviewing the work plan and making sure items are prioritized and nothing is missing, and selecting 5 core values from the list. Regarding the list of values, Dave emphasized sustainability, adaptability and flexibility, as well as restoration of natural systems/protection of the land. Colleen added that the RCD has been successful so far because of collaboration (which includes the value “relationship building”) and trustworthiness. Andy emphasized adaptability, which is how RCD will be able to switch back and forth between different programs as the State makes them available, and meet different community needs as they arise. Thad mentioned he would also like to bring the staff back to review the values again, as the time we worked on generating them together was very productive and generated insights. Allen would like to see a “goal” dedicated to natural resource management and speculated that Ventura RCD might have a strategic plan we could borrow elements from as it’s an RCD that’s very active in ag and healthy soils.
- g) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

Dave is open to meeting in Chico in the future as long as it is not at the Chico RCD office. However, August meeting will be in Oroville

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

- a) Project Updates – Board will notice fewer updates this month, since it hasn’t been much more than 2 weeks since last board meeting! **Next week** will see bid walk for Centerville Rd, continued discussions with CAL FIRE to expend the rest of our agreement funds, and kicking off the Forks of Butte NEPA effort with BLM, among other items of interest. **Crane Valley:** this past week and next, surveys and cross-sections are kicking off. Final report will probably not be developed until next year but it’s a priority to get surveying done this year so writing can take place after snow flies. Allen asked, are our **project updates available anywhere on the website?** –No, our website just has very basic summaries of our projects, not much depth or progress. We have a regular PBA newsletter and could put more energy into a regular projects newsletter or website updates, it just depends on what the Board wants to ask for. More public-facing communication could be an element of the strategic plan if the Board wants. **Business Manager position** will be posted to Indeed, CARCD sites. CSDA (if they have a job board)? Dave will check to see if the County jobs website would post ours too.

8. PARTNERS’ REPORTS (5-minute limit per group) - none

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- b) Butte County departments
- c) Community groups

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

- a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Directors are welcome to report – Colleen reported that the final settlement from the legal action that commenced in 2017 has now been reached. A moderate restitution to BCRC D will arrive in the coming weeks.

10) ADJOURNMENT – 10:15 am

NOTE: The Butte County Resource Conservation District (BCRCD) distributes its Board meeting agendas electronically at least 24 hours in advance of meetings. If you would like to be added to, or removed from, the email list, please notify the Butte County RCD at (530) 534-0112, ext. 122 or by email to: bcrcd@carcd.org. The BCRCD also publicly posts notice and agenda of meetings 72 hours in advance of meetings at the Butte County RCD office located at 150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A, Oroville, CA. **Reasonable Accommodations:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Butte County RCD Manager at (530) 534-0112, ext. 122.

Please note that all action items will have time set aside for public comment prior to the vote occurring. After a motion is made and seconded by two BCRCD Directors, the Chair will first ask for any further discussion from the Directors and Associate Directors and then the Chair will open up the item for brief public comment limited to 2 minutes per person. After the public comment period closes, a vote will be held