

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, August 15, 2018 – 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 Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<b><u>Supervisor</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
David Griffith	Alpine
Brian Oneto	Amador
Doug Teeter	Butte
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Michael Ranalli	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Jim Steele	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
John Fenley	Trinity
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

### **Absent**

Denise Carter	Colusa
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Matt Rexroad	Yolo

### **Others in Attendance**

Supervisor Bobbi Chadwick, Trinity County  
Ed Horton, Placer County Water Agency  
Geoff Neill, California State Association of Counties  
Nick Cronenwett, California State Association of Counties  
Amanda Yang, California State Association of Counties  
Robert Bendorf Jr., Renovate America/HERO

### **Staff in Attendance**

Greg Norton, President and CEO  
Craig Ferguson, Vice President  
Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer  
Justin Caporusso, Vice President External Affairs  
Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs  
Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer  
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate  
Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate  
Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate  
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate  
Arthur Wylene, Governmental Affairs Counsel  
Maggie Chui, Governmental Affairs Coordinator

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2018**

Chair, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, called for approval of the minutes from the June 20, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting.

**Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, motioned to approve the minutes as corrected from the June 20, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, seconded the motion. Motion passes.**

### ***Abstaining:***

***Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County; Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County***

### **Chair's Remarks**

Chair, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, welcomed all of the Supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Bohn shared his enthusiasm for next month's RCRC Annual Meeting in Napa County.

Supervisor Bohn asked for a moment of silence to honor the fallen firefighters and people that lost their lives due to the recent wildfires in California.

### **Member County Concerns and Issues**

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, spoke about the devastating wildfire that is occurring in Shasta County. Supervisor Baugh shared his gratitude to fellow supervisors for their compassion during this time. Supervisor Baugh is looking forward to finding solutions that address California's wildfire issue.

Supervisor Jim Steele, Lake County, spoke about the wildfires impacting Lake County. Supervisor Steele recalled the emergency disaster assistance provided to Lake County by RCRC affiliate, Golden State Finance Authority, during the Valley Fire (2015) and inquired about amending their emergency disaster assistance agreement for support in current wildfires.

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, expressed his concern that due to conflicts between the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, wildfires in Madera County got out of control. Supervisor Rogers asserted that counties need to be proactive as to how wildfires are being contained.

Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, spoke about the devastating wildfires that are impacting his community. The loss of human life has impacted Mariposa County's tight-knit communities. Supervisor Cann also spoke about the small businesses that are financially impacted by these wildfires due to loss of tourism dollars.

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, shared that he is glad Butte County was able to provide beds at their juvenile hall to accommodate Shasta County during the recent wildfires. Supervisor Teeter asserted that while Butte County luckily had space to assist this time, statewide review to assist displaced inmates during these wildfire disasters is needed.

Supervisor Teeter also spoke about the Lassen National Forest conducting their snowmobile vehicle travel management, noting his concern regarding a push to have winter use of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). An agreement between a county and the forest service is necessary to open up the PCT to winter-use. Supervisor Teeter noted confusion surrounding the new inclusion of a "reviewing officer" in the U.S. Forest Service process.

Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, encouraged further advocacy efforts for additional fair funding. Supervisor Oneto noted that funding to fairs and fairgrounds can help people displaced during wildfires.

Supervisor Oneto also shared his thoughts about the use of prescribed burns for wildfire prevention.

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, voiced his concern regarding Representative Jared Huffman's bill regarding public lands.

Supervisor Hemmingsen also voiced his concern regarding Senate Bill 930 (Hertzberg), noting that Del Norte County's Treasurer-Tax Collector is concerned about the inability to accept checks from cannabis-related businesses.

Supervisor Hemmingsen also shared his concern regarding funding for jail renovations.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, commented and approved of the action taken to prevent recent devastating wildfires, noting that Tuolumne County took action into their own hands to minimize wildfire threats. Supervisor Hanvelt also stated the importance of removing dead and dying trees off the ground.

In response to Supervisor Hanvelt's comment regarding public lands, Supervisor Cann shared that he had seen bulldozer tracks along wilderness areas. Supervisor Cann applauded those responsible for stepping outside of policy to tackle these wildfires.

In response to Supervisor Hanvelt's comment, Supervisor Steele asserted the importance of forest management to manage these wildfires.

Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, shared that Mono County is taking legal action against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) for their attempt to end water supply to land that LADWP owns. Supervisor Corless shared that if LADWP is allowed to proceed in ending water irrigation, it would effectively be the end of cattle ranching in Mono County and the Eastern Sierra.

Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, echoed Supervisor Corless' concern regarding LADWP's attempt to end water supply in Mono and Inyo Counties.

Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County, thanked fellow supervisors on approving the iFoster's 1 Laptop Program for Foster Youth (Program) at a previous RCRC Board of Directors meeting. Through the Program, Tulare County recently gifted approximately 80 laptops to eligible foster youth. In response to the positive feedback, Supervisor Crocker is exploring options to extend the Program in his county.

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, voiced his concern regarding the California State Water Resources Control Board's proposal on the final Bay-Delta Plan. Supervisor McDaniel encouraged fellow supervisors to join him on August 20, 2018, at the State Capitol for a rally against the proposal.

Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, spoke about a recent presentation that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) provided to the Yuba County Board of Supervisors, and encouraged RCRC to invite SNC to provide a presentation to the RCRC Board of Directors.

## **Public Comments**

None

## **President's Report**

Greg Norton, President & CEO, announced that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors recently voted to join RCRC's membership, which would bring the total to thirty-six (36) rural California counties. The RCRC Board of Directors will be presented with an action item to consider Sonoma County's membership at the September RCRC Board of Directors Meeting in Napa County.

Mr. Norton provided an update on the RCRC Governmental Affairs Department's recent advocacy accomplishments, which include successfully advocating for the Governor's 2018-19 State Budget Package to include funding for wildfire prevention programs and forest health activities, and RCRC staff's advocacy efforts on advancing California's forest management practices due to the catastrophic wildfire events.

Mr. Norton provided an update on recent county visits by RCRC Board Members and RCRC staff. Counties visited in recent weeks include Amador, Colusa, Lake, Shasta, Sonoma, Tuolumne, and others.

Mr. Norton provided an update on various economic development projects, including RCRC's recent participation at the SelectUSA Foreign Direct Investment Conference, and participation in biomass meeting with investors. Mr. Norton also provided a brief update on recent meetings pertaining to housing rules and regulations in Washington, D.C.

Finally, Mr. Norton shared that sponsorships for the 2018 Annual Meeting have already surpassed previous year's sponsorship levels.

## **RCRC Annual Meeting**

Justin Caporusso, RCRC Vice President External Affairs, spoke of the 2018 Annual Meeting scheduled for September 19-21, 2018 in Napa County. Mr. Caporusso reported that 176 attendees have registered and 36 organizations have sponsored the event thus far. This year's Annual Meeting will include eight panel discussions, with topics ranging from School Safety and Emergency Disaster Response Best Practices to a discussion on the 2020 Census.

## **RCRC President/CEO Compensation – ACTION**

Chair, Supervisor Rex Bohn and the RCRC Executive Committee addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on how they derived to the unanimous decision to approve the RCRC President/CEO's annual compensation. At their July 11, 2018 Meeting, the RCRC Executive Committee completed the annual performance evaluation.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length the RCRC President/CEO's performance and annual compensation.

### **Recommendation:**

The RCRC Executive Committee recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the following:

1. A 15 percent increase in the President/CEO's annual compensation to \$441,741 effective June 2, 2018;
2. A one-time \$50,000 bonus; and,
3. An increase to the Board approved President/CEO maximum compensation to \$500,000.

**Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, motioned to approve the RCRC Executive Committee recommendations on RCRC President/CEO Compensation. Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."**

### **Economic Development Update**

Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer, provided an introduction and overview of the economic development program. Ms. Hayes provided an outline of the three economic development foundational areas of impact: Resource Development, Workforce Development, and Business Development. Ms. Hayes also provided an outline of three industry-specific economic development areas of impact: Forest Resiliency, Broadband, and Infrastructure. Ms. Hayes noted that all economic development work will be done to benefit RCRC Member Counties with local capacity building, support, and job and investment generation as the guiding principles.

Ms. Hayes thanked RCRC Member Counties for providing RCRC staff the points-of-contacts for economic development-related issues. Going forward, RCRC staff will be reaching out to these points-of-contacts for economic development matters, and will be working to meet with each of these points-of-contacts.

Ms. Hayes provided a brief report on the prospective leads gathered at the recent SelectUSA Foreign Direct Investment Conference.

### **NACo Annual Conference Update**

RCRC's Officers and RCRC staff attended the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Conference July 13-16, 2018 in Nashville, Tennessee. Chair, Supervisor Rex Bohn; First Vice Chair, Supervisor Randy Hanvelt; Second Vice Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley; Immediate Past Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams; and, Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, who serves as NACo's Western Interstate Region First Vice President, were in attendance. Supervisors Bohn, Hanvelt, Kingsley, Williams, and Cann provided an overview on the meetings they attended and the discussions that were held.

In September 2018, Supervisors Hanvelt and Cann will join RCRC staff in Washington D.C. to participate in NACo's 2018 Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Fly-In, which allows county officials to meet with members of Congress and key staff to share the importance of Federal PILT payments to counties.

### **Upcoming November 2018 Ballot Measures Update**

Paul A. Smith, RCRC Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided an updated timeline on a number of proposed state ballot measures slated to appear on the November 2018 General Election ballot that could impact RCRC Member Counties. Mr. Smith explained that as of now, there will be four ballot measures for the RCRC Board of Directors to consider at the September RCRC Board of Directors Meeting.

Mr. Smith noted that the “Healthy Homes and Schools Act” and the “New States within the Current Boundaries of California,” are no longer being placed before the voters.

### **Proposition 10 – “Affordable Housing Act” – ACTION**

Tracy Rhine, RCRC Legislative Advocate, provided an analysis of Proposition 10, the “Affordable Housing Act,” which repeals the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act (Costa-Hawkins) and would permit local governments to adopt rent control ordinances. Proposition 10 will appear on the November 2018 General Election ballot for consideration.

Ms. Rhine noted that Proposition 10 does not require rent control to be established in any local jurisdiction, but reinstates a local governments’ ability to develop rental policies.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length the pros and cons as it pertains to RCRC Member Counties.

### **Staff Recommendation**

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position on Proposition 10 – “Affordable Housing Act.”

**Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, motioned to adopt a “Support” position on Proposition 10 – “Affordable Housing Act.” Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, seconded the motion.**

**A substitute motion was presented: Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, motioned to adopt a “No Position” position on Proposition 10 – “Affordable Housing Act.” Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County, seconded the motion. Motion passes by the following roll call vote taken:**

**Aye: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Brain Oneto, Amador County; Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Jim Steele, Lake County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County; Supervisor Jim Holmes Placer County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis**

**Obispo County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County; Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County; Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County**

**No: Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County**

**Absent: Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County**

### **CalPERS Hardship Policy Update**

Lisa McCargar, RCRC Chief Financial Officer, provided an update on recent developments regarding the California Public Employment Retirement System's (CalPERS) Hardship Policy. Ms. McCargar reaffirmed RCRC staff's ongoing involvement with CalPERS, and outlined RCRC's thoughts on thresholds and other criteria that could be adopted by CalPERS to determine if a member agency needs contribution relief.

Ms. McCargar stated that a new draft of the hardship policy is expected to be released soon. Once released, the new draft will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to review and provide comments. In October 2018, RCRC staff and select RCRC Member Counties' staff will be participating in an invitation-only session with CalPERS senior executives and board members.

### **Forest Management and Wildfire Update**

Staci Heaton, RCRC Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on the Forest Management Task Force (FMTF) and recent wildfire events.

Recently, Ms. Heaton attended FMTF's second meeting, which included discussion on increasing pace and scale of forest management and an update on the 2018 fire season. The FMTF, which has been slow-going, will be forming working groups to address forest management issues such as wood products utilization, regulatory barriers, education and outreach to landowners, forest restoration and prescribed fire, and tree mortality. Regional working groups will also be established. Ms. Heaton distributed a draft FMTF packet and asked the Supervisors to review the packet and provide possible county representatives to serve on these working groups. The next FMTF meeting is scheduled for September 2018.

In response to recent catastrophic wildfire events, the Governor called for a Wildfire Preparedness and Response Legislative Conference Committee (Committee) to put forth legislation to strengthen disaster preparedness and policies to respond to increasing wildfire danger. As of late, much of the discussion has been on the Governor's proposal regarding inverse condemnation statutes for utilities when they are found negligent in a wildfire. In response, RCRC and stakeholders questioned the constitutionality of the Governor's proposal. RCRC also submitted a letter to the Committee on RCRC's recommendations for forestry/land management reform.



Earlier this week, Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County, and Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, joined RCRC staff in advocacy efforts to select members of the Legislature and their staff. RCRC believes the only way to prevent and minimize future fires is through a comprehensive forest management and wildfire prevention package, and encouraged members of the Legislature to refocus discussions on actions that address future fires. Ms. Heaton noted that she is noticing the shift of conversation to forest management.

RCRC is actively advocating for several pieces of legislation relating to fire insurance reform, and working on solutions that will resolve future wildfire events. The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length on recent wildfire events as it pertains to RCRC Member Counties.

### **Assembly Bill 924 (Bonta): Tribal Commercial Cannabis**

Paul A. Smith provided an analysis on Assembly Bill 924 (Bonta), which would have created an alternative pathway for licensing commercial cannabis activities that occur on tribal lands. Due to recent developments, Mr. Smith shared that AB 924 will likely not get passage from the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Smith noted that an agreement between the AB 924 sponsors and RCRC over the local involvement component was reached earlier in the Summer. Specifically, AB 924 was poised to contain language that created a local involvement component, including binding arbitration and the ability of tribes to commence activities before an agreement is reached between tribes and a local government. Following the agreement reached between RCRC and the sponsors of AB 924, the RCRC Executive Committee adopted a "Support if Amended" position at their July 11, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Smith noted that RCRC staff will now have a framework when tribal commercial cannabis issues surface in the 2019 Legislative Session and there is a new gubernatorial administration.

### **Update on Farm Bill**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, RCRC Senior Legislative Advocate, provided an update on the status of the 2018 Farm Bill. RCRC's focus as it relates to the 2018 Farm Bill includes rural development investments, largely contained in the Rural Development Title, broadband, water infrastructure, energy efficiency, and housing. The Forestry Title, including those provisions that relate to fire-borrowing and forest health, as well as the Conservation Title are also of interest to RCRC.

Ms. Warmerdam noted that members were selected to comprise the Farm Bill Conference Committee. The Committee will now need to reconcile the different approaches outlined between the House of Representatives and the Senate, namely the differences in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program provisions. Farm Bill negotiations are expected to last through Summer of 2018, and Congress may need to pass an extension before the current funding expires on September 30, 2018. However, Ms. Warmerdam

also noted that the 2018 Farm Bill could possibly be signed into law before September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Paul A. Smith shared that RCRC staff will be in Washington D.C. in the first week of September 2018 and will revisit the forest and economic development titles as outlined in the Farm Bill.

### **Water Policy Issues Update**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided a brief update on issues involving California water policy at the state and federal levels, including the two bonds with monies identified for water infrastructure, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the California WaterFix's twin tunnels project, and the California Water Commission's Proposition 1 funds.

Ms. Warmerdam also reported on recent development as it relates to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan. Ms. Warmerdam directed the Supervisors to review the memo in the RCRC Board of Directors' Meeting Supplemental Board Packet.

### **Update on Proposition 3 – “*Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018*”**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an update on Proposition 3, “The Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018.” Proposition 3 will appear on the November 2018 General Election ballot for consideration. The RCRC Board of Directors adopted a “Support” position on Proposition 3 in January.

Ms. Warmerdam reminded the Supervisors that Proposition 3 would issue a total of \$8.365 billion in bonds for a number of existing water-related programs, many of which will benefit rural counties.

Ms. Warmerdam shared that RCRC staff has been working with the proponents in identifying opportunities for RCRC and RCRC Member Counties to support Proposition 3 through opinion pieces, letters-to-the-editor, and other media-related efforts.

### **Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update**

Mary Pitto, RCRC Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority's recent activities. Ms. Pitto's presentation included updates on various topics, including standardized recycling labels, disposal reporting regulations, electronic annual reports, and landfill waste discharge fees.

Of importance, Ms. Pitto shared that a formal draft has not yet been released for the Senate Bill 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Regulations. The formal draft is now not expected to be released before October 2018. The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) expects to release the economic analysis in the near future for public review prior to releasing the formal draft regulations. Staff continues to work with CalRecycle on rural exclusions, especially regarding rural collection of residential food waste.

### **USFWS Endangered Species Act Reform Regulations**

Staci Heaton provided an analysis on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) package of regulations to modify the agency's application of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Ms. Heaton stated that the USFWS released a package of regulations designed to reform some of the more controversial components of the ESA in July 2018. The regulations include provisions for considering economic impacts when designating critical habitat, changes to the definition of "adverse modification" that would ease the ability to complete projects that only disturb small areas in designated critical habitat, allowance for "programmatic consultations" across designated areas that would streamline the consultation process, and would no longer automatically apply the same blanket protections to threatened species as endangered species. Ms. Heaton clarified that the package of regulations will likely have no impact to California's ESA.

Ms. Heaton shared that the public comment is due by September 24, 2018. RCRC staff will be preparing comments on the regulations, and Ms. Heaton encouraged interested RCRC Member Counties review the regulatory package, and submit comments.

### **Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor Rex Bohn, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 12:58 p.m.