

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
May 17, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.
Monterey County Building
Cayenne Room
1441 Shilling Place
Salinas, CA 93901**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, presided. Present were President and CEO Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and Director of Board Operations, Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor

David Griffith
Jeff Brown
Doug Teeter
Jack Garamendi
Daurice Smith
Darrin Short
Lori Parlin
Monica Rossman
Rex Bohn
Matt Kingsley
Rusty Robinson
EJ Crandell
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Miles Menetrey
Glenn McGourty
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan
Chris Lopez
Anne Cottrell
Sue Hoek
Kevin Goss
Mindy Sotelo
John Peschong
Bob Nelson
Kevin Crye
Lee Adams
Michael Kobseff

County

Alpine
Amador
Butte
Calaveras
Colusa
Del Norte
El Dorado
Glenn
Humboldt
Inyo
Kings
Lake
Lassen
Madera
Mariposa
Mendocino
Merced
Modoc
Mono
Monterey
Napa
Nevada
Plumas
San Benito
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Shasta
Sierra
Siskiyou

Mat Conant
Matt Hansen
Jill Cox
Dennis Townsend
Jim Provenza
Gary Bradford

Sutter
Tehama
Trinity
Tulare
Yolo
Yuba

Absent

Michael Kelley
Jim Holmes
Mitch Mashburn
James Gore
Kathleen Haff

Imperial
Placer
Solano
Sonoma
Tuolumne

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- a. **March 13, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Approval of Audited Financial Statements – December 31, 2023**
- c. **Rural County Photo Contest**
- d. **Water Issues Update**
- e. **Forest Management and Wildfire Update**
- f. **California Public Utilities Commission Update**

RCRC Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

RCRC Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, welcomed supervisors to the May RCRC Board of Directors meeting at the County of the Chair. Supervisor Lopez expressed gratitude to all attendees and for their contributions to its success.

President’s Report

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided a 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.

2024 Annual Meeting Overview

Eric Will, Policy and Local Assistance Manager, provided an overview of RCRC's 2024 Annual Meeting scheduled September 18-20, 2024, in Sonoma County at the Doubletree by Hilton, Sonoma Wine Country. Mr. Will outlined the processes for registration, the county basket drawing and auction, sponsorship opportunities, and a wine tasting competition.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state level, including an update on key legislation, and the Governor's 2024-25 May Revision.

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, presented the Governor's 2024-25 May Revision, focusing on health, as well as labor-related legislation.

RCRC Strategic Plan Development

Patrick Blacklock and Carolyn Jhaji, Communications Director, presented the strategic plan development timeline and process. RCRC is currently in the final year of implementing its strategic plan and will develop a new plan for 2025-2027 throughout this calendar year.

Following the presentation, Ms. Jhaji led the RCRC Board of Directors in an activity focused on gathering their input on areas of focus for RCRC for the next 3 to 5 years. RCRC staff will review the feedback received during the engagement process and share the findings with the Board Members at the meeting scheduled for July 24th.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, provided an opportunity for the RCRC Board of Directors to discuss their individual member county concerns and issues. RCRC staff will review the concerns and issues raised by RCRC Board Members and assess each item for possible plans of action.

The RCRC Board of Directors heard from the following supervisors:

- Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, thanked RCRC staff for assistance in removing the Hope Valley from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Lands Pass Program.
- Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, addressed the urgency ordinance issued by El Dorado County, which banned the needle exchange program and discussed the aftermath of the ban, including the county's legal situation with the State. Additionally, Supervisor Parlin expressed concerns regarding California's increasing control over local land use, and inquired about strategies to address this trend following the passage of Proposition 1.
- Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, discussed potential legislative solutions regarding farm worker housing and evictions.

- Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County, provided an update on recent developments discussed at the North Coast Resource Partnership meeting, highlighting concerns such as unregistered Chinese pesticide importation and lease abandonments. Additionally, Supervisor McGourty raised concerns about the local coastal plan and tree removal.
- Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County, spoke on the services offered by CalVans, and highlighted the potential benefits for agencies and businesses, as well as RCRC, to explore this rural transit niche.
- Supervisor Jim Provenza, Yolo County, discussed the proposed cuts to First 5 California regarding in-home visiting programs within the State Budget, and how Yolo County addressed it within their own programs.
- Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County, a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC), shared that EPA has responded to FRRCC's recommendations. Additionally, Supervisor Crandell thanked staff for their ongoing assistance and advocacy efforts.
- Supervisor Rusty Robinson, Kings County, provided an update on Kings County's probation under the Sustainable Groundwater Act. Supervisor Robinson discussed the proposal to raise the headgates of the Pine Flat Dam and requested support from RCRC.
- Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, expressed gratitude to Supervisor Lopez for organizing such a well-attended County of the Chair event this year.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 10:10 a.m.