



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SESSION

June 9, 2009, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Windsor Town Council Chambers
9291 Redwood Road, Windsor, CA 95492

A G E N D A

- 1. Greetings and Introductions**
- 2. North Coast IRWMP Update**
- 3. RRWA Programs Updates**
 - **Stormwater**
 - Phase I permit update/ potential RRWA comment letter
 - Phase II permit update/ Phase II Forum LID topic/scheduling
 - Stormwater/Green Infrastructure funding opportunities
 - **Environmental Column**
 - **Trash Program**
 - **First Flush Brochure**
 - **Safe Medicines Disposal Program**
- 4. Forum and Advocacy**
 - **Comment Letters (pending & future)**
 - **Agenda for next meeting with RWQCB Assistant Executive Officer and RWQCB staff (June 11, 2009)**
- 5. Summary of May 14 BOD Meeting**
- 6. Review of '08-'09 Work Plan /Preview of '09-'10 Work Plan**
- 7. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**
 - **July 14, 2009 TWG Meeting**
 - **July 30, 2009 BOD Meeting**
- 8. Items of Interest**
- 9. Public Comment**
- 10. Adjourn**

RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SESSION
June 9th, 2009, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Windsor Town Council Chambers
9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor CA

Meeting Summary (prepared by RRWA staff Phoebe Grow)

1. Greetings and Introductions (8:45)

Attendees:

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Phoebe Grow, RRWA | - Shiko Njuno, City of Cotati |
| - Forest Frasier, City of Santa Rosa | - Corbin Johnson, Sonoma County Regional Parks |
| - Susan Keach, Sonoma Co Water Agency | - Lisa Steinman, Sonoma County Waste Management Agency |
| - Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah | - Bruce Taylor, City of Santa Rosa |
| - Brenda Adelman, RR Watershed Protection Committee | - Janice Gilligan, County of Sonoma PRMD |
| - Eydie Tacata, City of Rohnert Park | - Virginia Porter |
| - Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa | - John Balobek, Mactec Consulting |

2. North Coast IRWMP Update

Lisa Renton (SCWA) e-mailed an update on North Coast IRWMP activities and the IRWM funding outlook to RRWA staff. Highlights of this update included:

- **Regional Acceptance Process** – The North Coast IRWMP had its Regional Acceptance Process interview with staff from DWR and the North Coast RWQCB on May 26th at DWR’s Northern District office in Red Bluff, CA. DWR provided a conference call option which enabled Lisa Renton and Jake Mackenzie to participate in the interview. The North Coast did a great job answering DWR’s questions and gave the interviewers insight into the high-level policy objectives of the North Coast IRWMP, and also provided detailed information on how these efforts manifest themselves on the ground through regional planning and local project implementation. DWR will plan to release their draft RAP recommendation list for public comment in July/August and expects to have a final decision approved by late August/early September. If DWR has funding authorization, it is possible that a planning and/or implementation solicitation would accompany the RAP approval.
- **Prop 50, Round 1 Implementation Projects** – The Treasurer’s Office has completed their review of Prop 50 funding for bond suspended projects last Friday. The list has now been turned over to the Resources Agency (in the North Coast IRWMP’s case, the State Water Resources Control Board) for approval and then will head to the Controller’s Office where the checks are cut. We are tracking this issue closely and will continue to keep all of you and our project proponents informed. *There was a question at the RRWA Board meeting regarding the potential for the extension of our contracts given the delay in funding. Staff has submitted a formal request to the State Water Resources Control Board for an extension to be granted through 2012. According to recent conversations with our contract manager, we should receive approval on this request by the end of the month.*
- **Prop 50, Round 2 Contract Update** – The projects included in the 2nd round of funding did not make the Pooled Money Investment Board’s exemption list and are still in a holding pattern. The grant manager indicated that an agreement should be in place by early July – the beginning of the next fiscal year.
- **The North Coast IRWMP Policy Review Panel and Technical Peer Review Committee** are planning a meeting in Eureka, CA on June 25th. The location and a draft agenda will be posted on the North Coast IRWMP website shortly.
- **The North Coast Regional News** section of the website has been updated for June to include upcoming meetings, workshops, conferences as well as updates on funding opportunities, local, regional, state and national news and publications. Additionally, a new page has been added to the

site called, “North Coast Strategies for Energy Independence and Emissions Reduction” and can be accessed under the North Coast Planning and Implementation header on the home page. The website address is www.northcoastirwmp.net and can also be accessed through the RRWA website: www.rrwatershed.org.

- **Russian River Stakeholders Meeting** – RRWA is working with West Coast Watershed (Karen Gaffney) to coordinate a stakeholder meeting in the early fall of 2009 modeled on a meeting conducted earlier this year in Trinity County. The meeting will focus on the differences between Prop 50 IRWMP and Prop 84 IRWMP focusing on the climate change and energy independence elements. A “Save the Date” e-mail will be sent out in late June or early July.

3. RRWA Programs Updates

Stormwater Items

- **Phase I permit:** A revised draft of the Phase I Permit was released on May 22. Comments on the draft are due July 6 (extended from original deadline of July 25). Oral comments on the revised draft permit will be heard at the NCRWQCB meeting scheduled for July 22-23. Janice Gilligan of Sonoma Co. PRMD and Jennifer Burke and Forrest Frasier of the City of Santa Rosa confirmed that the Phase I agencies are in the midst of their review of the revised draft. The group agreed that RRWA will submit of comment letter that compiles/summarizes the concerns of the three Phase I agencies (SCWA, Santa Rosa & Sonoma Co.) and also includes input from the Phase IIs. This letter will essentially be an update to RRWA’s October 08 comment letter on the original draft of the Phase I permit.
- **Phase II permit:** The Phase II Permit is still on hold while the SWQCB forms a Technical Advisory Committee to provide recommendations on hydromodification standards. Adrienne Aiona, formerly of RRWA, participated in the monthly Phase II conference call organized by CASQA. Some notes from that call follow:
 - A preliminary draft of the Phase II Permit will hopefully be released sometime in August but the timeline is somewhat dependant on the hydromodification TAC schedule.
 - The Permit will be fairly general, but specificity will be provided in the form of worksheets that will point permittees to a guidebook that will tell them what is expected of them. Worksheets will be very similar to EPA MS4 evaluation audit guide. These can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/ms4guide_appendicesb-d.pdf
- **Stormwater Funding:**
 - **SFEP Grant Opportunities:** The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) is inviting local governments, non-profit agencies, community organizations and other government agencies in the nine Bay Area counties (includes all of Sonoma County) to apply for two separate grant opportunities:
 - Mini-grants (a total of \$29,500 in grant funding, for 1-2 projects) are available to help support viable, integrated flood control and stormwater pollution prevention projects. Deadline for application is June 30, 2009. For more info visit <http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/gi-minigrant.html> or contact Athena Horne at ahonore@waterboards.ca.gov.
 - SFEP is seeking partners for their Estuary 2100 program. The Estuary 2100 program, currently funded by USEPA, has four priority areas: Integrated Creeks & Wetlands, Climate Change, Green Infrastructure and Public Outreach. Approximately 5 to 8 projects of \$100,000 to \$600,000 each will be selected. Application materials are due two weeks after USEPA posts the final RFP (as of 6/9/09, the RFP has not been posted). For more info visit <http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/2100-2.html> or contact Jennifer Krebs at Jkrebs@waterboards.ca.gov.
 - **USEPA Webcast:** On Tuesday, June 23 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, the US EPA will be putting on the fourth webcast in their green infrastructure webcast series. The first portion of the webcast, “Funding & Incentives”, will include summaries of local incentives that communities have used to encourage the use of green infrastructure approaches. An overview of how many

communities have funded green infrastructure will be discussed. The second portion of the webcast will cover design considerations and appropriate best management practices for stormwater management on brownfields. For more info or to register, go to <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/training>. These webcasts are free!

- **CASQA membership:** We discussed how membership in CASQA (California Stormwater Quality Association) is a useful way to stay up to date on a variety of stormwater topics and issues. Agencies or individuals can join. An individual membership is just \$145/year. New members who join part way through the year will have their annual dues prorated on a quarterly basis. More information about CASQA membership is available at <http://www.casqa.org/Membership/tabid/57/Default.aspx>.
- **Safe Medicine Disposal:** The group discussed the transition of Santa Rosa's and SCWA's Safe Medicine Disposal sites to RRWA at the beginning of the '09/'10 work plan year. Susan Keach (SCWA) is leading the development of new protocols that can be distributed to the disposal sites. The benefits of Safe Medicines Disposal programs will be emphasized in upcoming RRWA environmental column. The RRWA phone number now forwards to Phoebe's desk so that the disposal locations are more likely to reach a live person (Phoebe) rather than just voice mail.

Environmental Column & Student Environmental Column: RRWA columns were discussed:

- **June column:** Lisa Steinman (Sonoma County Water Management Agency) authored a column proper fireworks disposal. Thanks Lisa!
- **July column:** Janice Gilligan (Sonoma County PRMD) will write a column on non-stormwater runoff. This topic is seasonally appropriate (summertime irrigation, car washes, etc.).
- **August column:** Jennifer Burke (City of Santa Rosa) will write a column on rainwater harvesting/grey water use.
- **September column:** Susan Keach will write a column about safe medicines disposal.
- **Future columns:** Future columns may address topics such as pet waste and mercury (student environmental column contest winning column).

Trash Program

- RRWA, SCWMA and MCWMA have been coordinating on a flyer about properly securing loads. SCWMA has provided the graphic design services and MCWMA will provide Spanish translation. A draft of the flyer was shown at the meeting.
- Lisa Steinman is coordinating the design and installation of a sign at the Central Disposal Site (500 Meham Rd.). The sign will say "Cover Your Load – It's the Law!". A Spanish translation may also be provided on the sign.

First Flush Brochure

- RRWA staff shared a new draft of the First Flush brochure. RRWA had previously circulated this draft brochure the individuals that volunteered to assist in the review - Eydie Tacata (Rohnert Park), Jennifer Burke and Forest Frasier (Santa Rosa), Sierra Cantor (Sotoyome RCD) and Don McEnhill (Russian Riverkeeper). The comments from this small group suggested that the brochure was too text-heavy and could use some graphic design. The Working Group concurred with these comments. RRWA will work to incorporate these comments and a new draft will be circulated to the small review group before being shown to the Working Group again.

4. Forum and Advocacy

Planned Comment Letter - North Bay Water Reuse Authority Recycled Water Program

RRWA has drafted a letter of support for the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA) project (<http://www.nbwra.org>). The RRWA Board discussed this potential comment letter at their meeting on Thursday, May 14th. The Board decided that RRWA should draft a comment letter, take Working Group and public comments on the letter, and then the Board would decide (via e-mail communication) whether or not to submit the letter. A draft of the letter was circulated to RRWA's general distribution list along with the notification for the Working Group meeting. The group had no significant comments at the meeting. Further opportunity to comment will be provided via e-mail.

Agenda for Meeting with RWQCB Executive Officer and RWQCB Staff:

RRWA (Jake Mackenzie & Dave Richardson) will be meeting with Catherine Kuhlman (RWQCB Executive Officer) and some of her staff (usually John Short and David Leland) on June 11. Working Group members were invited to suggest topics for the agenda. No specific suggestions were made but it was agreed that many of the topics on the previous agenda were still relevant.

5. Summary of May 14 BOD Meeting

Minutes from the May 14 BOD meeting were sent out via e-mail along with the notification for this working group meeting. The winning Student Videos were shown at the BOD meeting and the award was presented to the first place winner. The meeting also included a discussion of the potential NBWRA comment letter (see discussion above). Marsha Vas Dupre of the City of Santa Rosa brought an item of interest before the Board to the effect that the Board should consider Virginia Porter as a potential future Executive Director for RRWA. As discussed at the Board meeting, Virginia will be helping with the implementation of RRWA's '09/'10 Work Plan through a subcontract with RMC. The Board will likely make further decisions about Virginia's role in RRWA and the potential to find a local Executive Director as part of the work planning process that will begin in the Fall of '09.

6. Review of '08-'09 Work Plan /Preview of '09-'10 Work Plan

This item was held over until the next Working Group meeting in the interest of time.

7. Future Meetings and Agenda Items

- July 14, 2009 TWG Meeting
- July 30, 2009 BOD Meeting

8. Items of Interest: None noted.

9. Public Comment: Public comment taken during the course of the meeting.

10. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am