



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SESSION

August 11, 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**
 - **Environmental Column**
 - **RRWA Website Maintenance**
 - **Watershed Clean-Up Sponsorships**
 - **IRWMP Support**
 - Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Energy Independence Strategies Workshop – Sept 24
 - **Phase II Stormwater Update**
 - **Stormwater Baseline Survey**
 - **Safe Medicines Disposal**
- 4. Forum and Advocacy**
 - **Recent Advocacy Items**
 - Draft Phase I Permit - Comment letter & comment at RWQCB July 22 meeting
 - Low Threat Discharge BPA – Comments at RWQCB July 23 meeting
 - **Discussion of Potential Future Advocacy Items**
 - **Agenda for next meeting with RWQCB Executive Officer and RWQCB staff (September 2009)**
- 5. Summary of June 30 RRWA Board of Directors meeting**
- 6. Review of '08-'09 Work Plan / Overview of '09-'10 Work Plan**
- 7. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**
 - **September 8, 2009 TWG Meeting**
 - **October 29, 2009 BOD Meeting**
(rescheduled, originally scheduled for October 22)
- 8. Items of Interest**
- 9. Public Comment**
- 10. Adjourn**

The Russian River Watershed Association complies with ADA requirements and will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities upon request.

Please contact Phoebe Grow at (707) 833-2553 with any questions.

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9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor CA

Meeting Summary (prepared by RRWA staff Phoebe Grow & Virginia Porter)

1. Greetings and Introductions (8:40)

Attendees:

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|---|--|
| - Phoebe Grow, RRWA | - Janice Gilligan, County of Sonoma PRMD |
| - Virginia Porter, RRWA | - Lisa Steinman, Sonoma County Waste Management Agency |
| - Corbin Johnson So. Co. Regional Parks | - Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah |
| - Patrick Givone, Town of Windsor | - Shiko Njuno, City of Cotati |
| - Cristina Goulart, Winzler & Kelly/Town of Windsor | - Edyie Takata, City of Rohnert Park |
| - Forest Frasier, City of Santa Rosa | - Kevin Booker, SCWA |
| | - Susan Keach, SCWA |

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:

- **Prop 50, Round 1 Implementation Projects** –The State Water Resources Control Board needs to approve our request to extend our work through 2012. The County of Humboldt has submitted a formal request but has not yet received written approval of this date extension.
- **Meeting with CEC** – North Coast IRWMP staff and members of the Policy Review Panel met with the staff of the California Energy Commission on August 10 to introduce our Plan and discuss funding options for North Coast projects.

3. RRWA Programs Updates

Environmental Column: RRWA columns were discussed:

- **August column:** Jennifer Burke (City of Santa Rosa) authored a column on rainwater harvesting/graywater use, including information about the recent change in state regulations for residential graywater systems. Thank you Jennifer!
- **September column:** Susan Keach (SCWA) will write a column about safe medicines disposal.
- **October column:** Janice Gilligan (SCWMA) will write a column about preparing your garden for the rainy season, including changing irrigation timers, securing loose debris, how to dispose of fallen leaves, and other actions to minimize stormwater runoff and pollution.
- **Future columns:** Future columns may address topics such as Fats Oils and Grease - FOG (for the holidays), pet waste and mercury (student environmental column contest winning column).

Website Maintenance:

- Numerous updates have been made to the RRWA web site including posting all notes from TWG and Board meetings; posting most recent Environmental Columns; uploading the Trash flier so that all member agencies can produce and use; posting “Hold the Date” notice for the upcoming RRWA workshop on climate protection and energy; updating schedule with new dates for meetings and posting watershed clean-up efforts. Pending updates include new locations for safe medicine disposal with RRWA’s incorporation of Santa Rosa’s program, and posting RRWA’s comment letters.

Watershed Clean-Up Sponsorships: Three upcoming events in the watershed have RRWA sponsorship:

- **Russian River Cleanup – Sept. 26** RRWA provides \$1500 sponsorship of this event
- **Sonoma Coastal Cleanup – Sept 19** RRWA provides \$500 to this effort, typically for printing. Because printing costs have been low, the campaign asked if these funds could be used to fund the volunteer BBQ; TWG members agreed this was a good use of the funds.
- **Upper Russian River Cleanups** – RRWA provides \$200 for supplies for this effort in Mendocino County.

IRWMP Support

- Funds in the RRWA budget for IRWMP support will go toward the September 24 workshop on Climate Change. RRWA is working with West Coast Watershed (Karen Gaffney) to coordinate this regional meeting focusing on the differences between Prop 50 IRWMP and Prop 84 IRWMP funding criteria, specifically focusing on the climate change and energy independence elements. The meeting is modeled on a successful event conducted earlier this year in Trinity County. The meeting is scheduled for September 24th, 2009 at Villa Chanticleer in Healdsburg. A “Save the Date” has been sent out, and the project team has a draft agenda. It is expected that the meeting will be from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, but the time has not been finalized yet.

Stormwater Items

- **Phase II permit update:** A draft of the Phase II Permit is currently being developed by the State Water Resources Control Board. Region 1 RWQCB is expecting to review this draft in the fall. Public review of the draft will likely be in the winter of 2009/10.
- **Stormwater Baseline Survey:** Our 2009-10 workplan includes an update to the 2004/05 Stormwater Baseline Survey. Data Instincts will carry out this project for RRWA. Work will begin on this project very soon, with the project timeline being 3-4 months. Staff from Data Instincts may attend our next meeting.

Safe Medicines Disposal

- RRWA is now coordinating the drop off sites previously managed by the City of Santa Rosa and SCWA.
- The hospital in Healdsburg is interested in participating in the program.
- RRWA has been contacted by a new waste hauler interested in providing service for the program.

4. Forum and Advocacy

Recent Advocacy Items

- RRWA provided oral comments at the July 22 RWQCB meeting on the revised draft of the Phase I MS4 Permit. Our comments focused on three main areas: 1. Provisions of the draft permit that place heavy financial burdens on the co-permittees without resulting in commensurate water quality benefits; 2. Extent to which the draft permit does not acknowledge past efforts of the co-permittees and conditions specific to our region 3. Inappropriate inclusion of the 1995 Laguna de Santa Rosa Waste Reduction Strategy as a TMDL. The Board is scheduled to consider the Permit for adoption October 1, and directed their staff to work with the co-permittees to resolve issues of clarity and cost impacts in the draft.
- RRWA provided oral comments in support of the Low Threat Discharge Basin Plan Amendment at the July 23 meeting of the RWQCB. Our comments focused on the benefits of the amendment to our members by aligning regional policy with State policy and removing obstacles to development of recycled water projects. The amendment was unanimously adopted. Board staff was asked to follow up on work being done at the State level on constituents of emerging concern.

Potential Future Advocacy Items

- No specific items were brought forward for advocacy at this meeting.

Agenda for Next Meeting with RWQCB Executive Officer and RWQCB Staff:

- RRWA plans to again meet with Catherine Kuhlman and some of her staff in September 2009. Working Group members were invited to suggest topics for the agenda. No specific suggestions were made. This item will also be discussed at the September Working Group meeting.
- 5. Review of '08-'09 Work Plan /Preview of '09-'10 Work Plan**
- Phoebe Grow of RRWA discussed RRWA's '08-'09 accomplishment and planned activities for '09-'10 including:
 - Monthly Working Meetings and bi-monthly Board of Directors meeting were held in '08-'09. Same schedule planned for '09-'10
 - '08-'09 Work Planning process resulted in 12% decrease in RRWA's budget in response to current economic situation.
 - "Outreach Strategies" including the monthly Environmental Column, the annual Student Video Contest and the sponsorship of watershed clean-up events were successful in '08-'09 and will be undertaken again in '09-'10.
 - In coordination with the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA), RRWA produced a flyer regarding litter prevention through proper securing of materials during transport. RRWA and SCWMA also coordinated on the procurement of signs saying "Cover Your Load – It's the Law" that will be installed at the Central Disposal Site and several transfer stations.
 - In '08-'09, RRWA produced several comment letters, topic included: potential dissolved oxygen Basin Plan amendment; draft Phase I Stormwater Permit; Low Threat Discharge Basin Plan amendment; Safe Medicines disposal. RRWA also produced several support letters for member agency projects.
 - As part of the RRWA "Forum and Advocacy" program, RRWA has met three times with Catherine Kuhlman, Executive Officer of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board as part of a regularly scheduled series of lunch meetings to discuss various watershed issues relevant to RRWA's member agencies.
 - Safe Medicine Disposal Program: RRWA facilitated 6 drop off sites for unwanted medications. Several additional sites will be added next year as RRWA takes over the programs currently managed by SCWA and Santa Rosa.
 - New programs for '09-'10 include facilitating the regional review of the Russian River Friendly Landscape Guidelines and an update to the Stormwater Baseline Survey.
- 6. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**
- September 15, 2009 TWG Meeting (NOTE : Date change from annual schedule)
 - October 29, 2009 BOD Meeting (NOTE : Date change from annual schedule)
- 7. Items of Interest:**
- SCWA is sponsoring a facilities tour of their Wholer/Miracle facilities on August 27.
 - The Laguna Foundation is hosting a 3-day conference with a climate change theme from October 16-18.
- 8. Public Comment:** None.
- 9. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am