



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 27, 2020
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Windsor Town Council Chambers
9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, CA 95492

A G E N D A

- A. Call to Order and Introductions**
- B. Approval of the Agenda**
- C. Approval of Standing Items**
 - a. Minutes: December 12 Board of Directors Meeting
- D. Guest Presentation: Annual Dialogue with Matt St. John, Executive Officer, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**
- E. Board of Directors Business**
 - a. 2020/2021 Work Plan
 - i. Overview
 - ii. Technical Working Group recommendation
 - iii. Consider adoption
 - b. New member charter and resolution draft
 - c. Sonoma State University WATERS project
 - d. 2019/2020 meeting schedule
 - i. April 23 (3:00 – 5:00)
- F. Project Updates**
 - a. Student Video Contest
 - b. Russian River Watershed Program Effectiveness Assessment
 - c. Environmental Article
 - d. Regional LID Training – December 11
 - e. Steelhead Festival – February 8
 - f. Cloverdale Citrus Fair – February 14-17
 - g. Safe Medicine Disposal
 - i. SB 212 proposed regulations
 - ii. National Take Back Day – April 25
 - h. Social Media – Mid year performance update
 - i. Russian River-Friendly Landscaping
- G. Advocacy**
 - a. RRWA/RWQCB
 - i. Quarterly lunch meeting
 - ii. MS4 Permit Fee Reduction Incentive Program
 - iii. Russian River Geographic Response Plan
 - iv. Prop 1 stormwater implementation grant solicitation – Spring 2020
 - b. River and creeks stewardship
 - i. Earth Day events
 - ii. Trash bin support program

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Please contact Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, at 707-508-3670 with any questions.

H. Regional Updates

- a. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)
 - i. Steering Committee Meeting #9
 - ii. Funding
- b. Russian River Confluence
- c. North Coast Resource Partnership

I. Legislative updates

- a. SB1383
- b. SB231

J. Items of Interest

- a. Potter Valley Project update

K. Public Comment

L. Adjourn

RRWA Calendar Summary:

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at Windsor Town Council Chambers, 9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, California 95492

Upcoming TWG Meetings 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Upcoming Board of Directors meetings 9:00 am – 11:00 am
April 14, 2020 June 9, 2020	April 23, 2020 (3-5:00 pm)—Guest Speaker TBD
Environmental Columns	
January – Thank you County of Mendocino, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle and Rot February – Thank you, Town of Windsor, Save the Butterflies and the Bees – Our Favorite Pollinators Are in Jeopardy March – Thank you, Sonoma Water, Public Opportunity to Review and Discuss Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects April – Sonoma County Environmental Health, Safe Meds Update May – Cloverdale, TBD June – Rohnert Park, TBD	
Important Dates	

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MINUTES

Directors and Alternates Present

Melanie Bagby, Chair	City of Cloverdale
Maureen Mulheren, Vice Chair	City of Ukiah
Mark Landman	City of Cotati
Evelyn Mitchell	City of Healdsburg
Jake Mackenzie	City of Rohnert Park
Dick Dowd	City of Santa Rosa County
Ted Williams	of Mendocino County of
Adriane Garayalde	Sonoma Sonoma Water
Ann DuBay	Town of Windsor
Sam Salmon	

Directors present represented ten of the eleven RRWA member agencies and constitutes a quorum.

Additional Attendees

Andy Rodgers	RRWA Executive Director
Colleen Hunt	RRWA Staff
Sabrina Marson	RRWA Staff
Mark Milan	Data Instincts
Matt St. John	Water Board
Paul Piazza	Sonoma Water
Bob Anderson	S.Fitch Consulting
Nick Bennett	City of Rohnert Park
Sean McNeil	City of Santa Rosa
Claire Myers	City of Santa Rosa
Peter Martin	City of Santa Rosa
Milan Nevajda	Permit Sonoma

- A. Call to Order and Introductions**—Meeting called to order by Melanie Bagby (Cloverdale) at 9:00. Roll call was taken.
- B. Approval of the Agenda**—Mark Landman (Cotati) moved that the Board approve the agenda. The agenda was approved.
- C. Approval of Standing Items**
- Minutes: December 12 Board of Directors Meeting—The Board approved the minutes Mark (Cotati) and Jake (Rohnert Park) abstained.

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D. Guest Presentation: Annual Dialogue with Matt St. John, Executive Officer, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board—

- Speaker highlighted to the board:
 - High value of watershed-wide collaboration, and great appreciation for the many ways the water board interacts with agencies through RRWA.
 - A Russian River internal water board coordination working group is being put together over the next six weeks.
 - Russian River Pathogen TMDL
 - Pathogen TMDL approval expected by Fall 2020.
 - Municipal Storm Water Permits
 - Regional water board supports the concept of reduction in State fees to reflect the value of regional coordination. Collaboration should be rewarded/incentivized. The SWRCB liaison representative supports as well and has directed DAS staff to facilitate development of a State-wide program for consideration.
 - Mark (Data Instincts) asked if it would be a win to have our area show an example of productive collaboration. As a follow up, what can the board do?
 - Matt (Water Board) answered yes. Early engagement and attending Stakeholder meetings and letters of support would be great.
 - Ann (Sonoma Water): What are the challenges?
 - Matt (Water Board): State fee supported program permit fees go to support staff, including at state level. It's not a 1:1. Reduction means increase someplace else. Argument is less staff is needed to view permit.
 - Mark (Data Instincts): Is there a way to quantify the savings.
 - Matt (Water Board): Yes, but its subjective and permit areas have changed. They're working on a percentage.
 - Andy (RRWA) this is a hard case if no one else in the state is interested. He asked Matt to connect him with whomever is interested.
 - Water Quality Impacts from Homeless Encampments are significant. Partnership resolutions are needed. Sonoma State WATERS project strongly supported by the Water Board and staff.
 - Mark (Cotati): What is being done to avoid duplication of efforts and cost?
 - Matt (Water Board): Newly participating on the WATERS team so isn't completely sure, yet, but mentioned that the water board is considering ways WATERS may assist with developing initiatives that address TMDLs and other water quality concerns. Making sure efforts are not duplicated is very important.

- Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDL
 - Stakeholder meeting scheduled for May 28th (not a public meeting) – intended for information sharing and discussion how to shape recovery of watershed.
 - Regional Water Board updates will be agenzized at June 18 or 19th Board meeting.
- Santa Rosa and Windsor Wastewater Permits
 - Scheduled for Water Board hearing – June 18 or 19th
 - No-net loading Phosphorus limits and compliance options – promote ecosystem restoration projects
 - Legacy sources are what program focuses on.
 - Sam (Windsor) mentioned that Windsor discharge is closer to Forestville than Laguna.
 - Dick (Santa Rosa) suggested that climate change/extreme weather may cause discharge issues. What is being done to better understand new challenges?
 - Matt (Water Board) Collaborative brainstorming and working together so regulation and enforcement does not always have to be punitive. The water board understands conditions are changing and management is evolving.
 - Sean (Santa Rosa) explained the scale of a treated wastewater discharge in the context of a flood event, and that last year’s planning for a discharge during an event never had to occur. Discussion followed about how the press covers these complex issues and topics.
- Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)
 - Phase II R3MP implementation has been funded to support SFEI to continue providing technical support and organizational guidance.
 - Town of Windsor is a new member of the steering committee.

E. Board of Directors Business

a. 2020/2021 Work Plan

○ Overview

- Executive Director Services
 - a. Added small item (\$4K) for as-needed ADA formatting of materials.
 - b. Incorporated Sonoma Water’s updated operating budget.
- General Benefit Projects
 - a. Remove emergency trash bin funding (\$5K).
 - b. Through a new Watershed Collaboration Committee, invite new RRWA membership.
 - c. Support Streets to Creeks campaign.
 - d. Continue with monthly environmental articles.
 - e. Continue with restaurant placemats project.
 - f. Evolve Creek Week support with creation of regional website landing page

- g. Host Biennial Russian River Friendly Landscaping event – January 2021.
- h. Support developing State-wide MS4 permit fee reduction incentive program.
- i. Support member agencies in renewal of 5-year MS4 permit.
- j. Coordinated agency membership to CASQA.
- k. Continue participating in Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP) development.
- Special Benefit Projects
 - a. Continue supporting the following programs.
 - i. Co-permittee meeting facilitation
 - ii. Annual LID training
 - iii. Laguna Mark West agencies coordinated water quality monitoring reporting
 - iv. Our Water Our World
 - v. Safe Medicine and Sharps disposal
 - b. Continue Sonoma Water's Water Education Program for Ukiah, Cloverdale and Sonoma County. With exception of Sebastopol, other members serviced through water contract.
 - c. Bulk Purchase of pet waste bags (Santa Rosa, Sonoma County and Windsor).
 - d. SSU Rising WATERS project focusing on nexus of homelessness and water quality.
- Other changes since December 2019 Board meeting:
 - a. Considered Daily Acts Carbon Gardening project but not recommended for work plan.
 - b. Considered BMP effectiveness tool but not recommended for work plan.
 - c. Removed Mendocino/Ukiah EPR support
 - d. Moved SSU Rising WATERS project to Special Benefit.
 - e. Adjusted ED hourly rate to be unchanged.
 - f. Added technical and admin support staff categories and adjusted staff hours in nearly all tasks.
- Consider adoption
 - Technical Working Group requested noting in the narrative a reference to specific permit sections a task addresses, if applicable.
 - Jake (Rohnert Park) asked if the TWG provided a formal recommendation to adopt the work plan. He also made note that the project should be competitively bid every 5 years.
 - Andy (RRWA) said due to the many adjustments that occurred up through last night requested by TWG members, there was no time for a formal recommendation at a publicly noticed TWG meeting.
 - Mark (Cotati) made note that putting the project out to bid every 5 years is not cost effective or in the best interest of RRWA and proposed instead to begin implementing an Executive Director yearly review to determine if performance warrants an open bid. Jake (Rohnert Park) and much of the group supported the idea.

Melanie (Cloverdale) moved bring a draft Executive Director review process and a Technical Working Group charter outlining expectations of the TWG to a future Board meeting. Motion was seconded by Dick (Santa Rosa).

- Motion to adopt the work plan was made by Mark (Cotati), seconded Ted (Mendocino), all favored, none opposed.
- b. New member charter and resolution draft
 - Andy (RRWA) reviewed the intents of the draft; charter and resolution are to on-board new members to participate in and financially contribute to RRWA programs.
 - Adriane (Sonoma) had two minor edits.
 - Motion to adopt the New member charter and resolution draft was made by Melanie (Cloverdale), seconded by Mark (Cotati), all favored, none opposed.
- c. Sonoma State University Rising WATERS project
 - Board selected topic for first-year project: “Homelessness in watersheds”
 - Engages SSU faculty, staff, and students to undertake studies needed to complete work plan tasks. RRWA participates in providing guidance and support for events and meetings.
 - Start-Up: Spring 2020
 - Data Gathering: May-November 2020
 - Identifying Solutions: Dec-March 2021
 - Presentations/Final Report: Spring 2021
- d. 2019/2020 meeting schedule
 - April 23 (3:00 – 5:00)

F. Project Updates

- a. Student Video Contest – Awards ceremony in May
- b. Russian River Watershed Program Effectiveness Assessment
 - Survey being conducted during April
 - Responses will be used to inform future engagement efforts
 - Project will be complete by July
- c. Environmental Article updates
- d. Regional LID Training – December 11
 - RRWA convened and Healdsburg hosted
 - 75 attendees
 - Presenters included Regional Water Board and County of Sonoma
 - Solicited feedback for future trainings
- e. Steelhead Festival – February 8
 - RRWA staffed a table
 - 12,000 to 14,000 festival attendees. The most so far. Large numbers of engagements – mostly children with parents.
- f. Cloverdale Citrus Fair – February 14-17
 - RRWA provided tabling materials to City of Cloverdale
 - Cloverdale and Cotati staffed a table
- g. Safe Medicine Disposal
 - SB 212 proposed regulations
 - RRWA participated in preparing comments
 - National Take Back Day – April 25
- h. Social Media – Mid year performance update
 - Facebook Followers: 623 (↑ 15% 1 year)

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- Instagram Followers: 1,090 (↑ 60% 1 year)
- i. Russian River-Friendly Landscaping
 - Three applications received and approved for RRFL signs
 - Location details on RRWA's Watershed Atlas

G. Advocacy

- a. RRWA/RWQCB
 - Quarterly lunch meeting took place on January 9
 - Content of this meeting covers primary topics discussed
 - MS4 Permit Fee Reduction Incentive Program (previously discussed)
 - Russian River Geographic Response Plan released by EPA and DFW
 - RRWA participated in early stages of preparation
 - Prop 1 stormwater implementation grant solicitation – anticipated for Spring 2020
- b. River and creeks stewardship
 - Earth Day events
 - Ann (Sonoma Water) shared the agency's upcoming event information to be added to RRWA's list of events to be published.
 - Trash bin support program
 - Andy (RRWA) asked the board if they would consider funding a request from Clean River Alliance/Russian Riverkeeper to outfit their truck for hauling more trash.
 - Maureen (Ukiah) asked if the money be contingent upon adding more cleanups in the northern part of the watershed.
 - Mark (Cotati) moved to approve the \$5,000 for the Clean River Alliance/Russian Riverkeeper truck. Motion was seconded by Jake (Rohnert Park).

H. Regional Updates

- a. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)
 - Steering Committee Meeting #9
 - Town of Windsor added to Steering Committee
 - Resource links shared
 - a. R3MP: <https://sites.google.com/sfei.org/r3mp>
 - b. NorCal Salmon Project: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Fishes/Coho-Salmon/North-Coast-Salmon-Project>
 - c. Mendocino County RCD – Cannabis Growers BMPs: <https://vimeo.com/376043408>
 - Funding
 - RWQCB funding for Phase II
 - Reviewed/updated scope for Phase II
- b. Russian River Confluence
 - Adriane (Sonoma County) mentioned ongoing riverbank stabilization work in Geyserville and updates to website are forthcoming
- c. North Coast Resource Partnership
 - Andy (RRWA) attended a February 26 conference call hosted by Coalition 2020 Water and Climate Resiliency Bond. Lots of Sonoma County representation on the call that reviewed components of draft SB45 and what may be a companion bill drafted by the governor.

I. Legislative updates

a. SB1383

- SB 1383 has high penalties for non-compliance. The businesses and the cities themselves could be heavily penalized for non-compliance
- Zero Waste Sonoma taking lead in tracking

b. SB231

- Signed October 6, 2017
- Clarifies that the definition of “sewer” includes both sanitary sewers and storm sewers.
- Allows communities an opportunity to charge fees for managing storm water.
- Pending implementation by a pilot City

J. Items of Interest

- a. Potter Valley Project update – feasibility study is in progress. Website very informative and kept up to date.

K. Public Comment—No public comment

L. Adjourn—Meeting adjourned at 11:04 am

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