



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

October 13, 2020 at 10:30 AM

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS [N-25-20](#) AND [N-29-20](#)
WHICH SUSPENDS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BROWN ACT
THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY VIA REMOTE CONFERENCING SERVICE—
NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88425193135?pwd=RlhtcDk3VjBBWnBGdDhzNGJoa003UT09>

Meeting ID: 884 2519 3135

Meeting Password: 544434

A G E N D A

1. Greetings and Introductions

- Review Agenda

2. Guest Presentation: Russian River-Friendly Landscaping Subcommittee: Landscapes That Protect Our Waterways

3. Technical Working Group Business

- Staffing of Meetings
- Technical Working Group Roles and Responsibilities document – Bring revisions to BOD for consideration
- Confirming calendars
- Deliverables Reports
- 2021/2022 Work Plan Planning
 - Establish a stormwater subcommittee and programs committee
 - Timeline for development and adoption
 - Structure
 - Executive Director Services
 - General Benefit
 - Special Benefit
 - Proposed cost saving measures
 - Fewer public meetings
 - Member agencies leading more tasks
 - Modify staff responsibilities
 - Solicit subcontractor support services
 - Projects and initiatives
 - Further differentiate MS4 permit support
 - Stormwater subcommittee—Outreach and compliance tasks, R3MP, Fee Incentive, Advocacy
 - Program subcommittees—RRFL, Safe Meds/Sharps, Social Media, WATERS

4. September 24 Board of Directors Meeting Updates

- Guest Presentation: Ryan Pedrotti, Principal Program Specialist, Sonoma County Water Agency—Sonoma Water's Water Education Program
- RRWA membership
- Rising WATERS update
- Project and legislative updates

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

5. September 30 Quarterly lunch meeting with the Regional Water Board Updates

- Permit Renewal Update
 - Anticipated Adoption next summer
 - Existing Permit to continue
 - Statewide Policies & Objectives i.e. trash & LID
- New Board Member Appointment
- FY 20/21 Workplan presented to Board
 - Significant reduction in staff resources
 - Two new staff positions
 - SB 1215 Septic Sewer
 - Algae Blooms
- Fee incentive program—SWRCB liaison requested restarting watershed approach to permit fees
 - NCRWQCB staff initiating roundtable
- Concern with Fire Response & Recovery—Actions by Property Owners
- Meeting on October 1—Potter Valley Project

6. Co-Permittee meeting updates

7. 2020/2021 Project Updates

- Cost saving measures
- Storm Water Program Updates
 - Public Effectiveness Assessment update
 - Laguna Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MRP)
 - Children's placemat
 - Streets to Creeks—Phase II update
 - OWOW—October Workshop
- Sonoma Water—Water Education Program update
- Creek Week September 21-28 results
 - Barrell Bags!
- Subcommittee updates
 - Safe Medicine Disposal
 - Social Media
 - Russian River-Friendly Landscaping
 - 2021 Event for Landscape Professionals
 - SSU Rising Waters
 - Watershed Collaborative

8. Russian River Watershed Coordination

- Core team meeting—TBD
- Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)
 - Steering Committee meeting #10—October 21

9. Forum and Advocacy

- Russian River Pathogen TMDL
- 2020 CA Financing Coordinating Committee Virtual Funding Fair—October 22
- 2021 Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant application close date is December 18

10. CASQA

- September Conference information sharing
- Reminder: Online Handbooks available
 - Construction BMP
 - Industrial & Commercial BMP

11. Items of Interest

12. Public Comment

13. Adjourn

RRWA Calendar Summary:

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| Upcoming TWG Meetings 10:30 am – 12:30 pm | Upcoming Board of Directors meetings 9:00 am – 11:00 am |
|--|---|
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| Environmental Columns | |
| September – Thank you, Jon Caldwell, PE, Civil Engineer, of the City of Cotati Public Works Department, and Colleen Hunt, Stone Creek Environmental Consulting, LLC—Creek Week – Ways to Get Involved with Protecting Our Creeks | |
| October – Thank you, Jarod Thiele, Management Analyst for the City of Ukiah Department of Public Works and Department of Water Resources—Fun Facts: Street Sweepers | |
| November – Healdsburg, Rob Scates, Water/Wastewater Operations Superintendent, City of Healdsburg Municipal Utilities Department—Get the FOG outa here! | |
| December – Santa Rosa, TBD | |
| January – County of Mendocino, TBD | |
| February – RRWA Staff, Too Much Fertilizer | |
| Important Dates | |
| | |

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SUMMARY NOTES

1. Greetings and Introductions

Eric Janzen – City of Cloverdale
Jon Caldwell – City of Cotati
Ben Kageyama – City of Healdsburg
Nick Bennett – City of Rohnert Park
Nick Sudano – City of Santa Rosa
Katie Robinson – City of Santa Rosa
Claire Myers – City of Santa Rosa
Deb Lane – City of Santa Rosa
Henry Mikus – City of Sebastopol
Joe Gaffney – City of Sebastopol

Elizabeth Cargay – Town of Windsor
Anna Perez – Town of Windsor
Andrew Bake – Mendocino County
Oriana Hart – Sonoma County
Adriane Garayalde – Sonoma County
Greg Plumb – Sonoma Water
Paul Piazza – Sonoma Water
Andrea Rodriguez – Sonoma Water
Andy Rodgers – RRWA
Vanessa Apodaca – RRWA
Colleen Hunt – Stone Creek Consulting

- Review Agenda—No Changes

2. Guest Presentation: Russian River-Friendly Landscaping Subcommittee: Landscapes That Protect Our Waterways

- Deb (Santa Rosa) gave an overview of the RRFL program and the connection it has to stormwater management/MS4 permit compliance. These guidelines are a comprehensive toolbox created for landscape professionals in the Russian River region by RRWA in 2010.
- Nexus between RRFL and stormwater program requirements summary – Vanessa (RRWA) described the aspects in which RRFL supports the MS4 permit including education and outreach, websites, events and advertising campaigns, and partnerships with watershed groups and committees.
- Paul (Sonoma Water) went over examples of RRFL program activities that help meet stormwater program requirements including lower turbidity, protecting fish and public health, conserving water and energy, and sequestering carbon. Bi-annual RRFL event for design professionals was discussed (2021 theme is Rehydrating the Watershed) as well as website and web map resources used to showcase RRFL sites and publications.
- RRFL coordinates the distribution of free Russian River-Friendly landscaping signage, collaborates closely with ReScape California and Daily Acts, as well as hosts regular RRFL subcommittee meetings.

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- Andy (RRWA) discussed what is next for RRFL including evolving the program through trainings, the signage program, informing landscaping industry of sustainable approaches, and continue outreach and education as part of the Daily Acts partnership.
- Elizabeth (Windsor) mentioned that we should work more with Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) students studying landscaping and contractors to make sure they are learning about proper LID design. She also mentioned that the RRFL signs are rather big and mentioned the idea of having smaller RRFL signs (Drains to Creeks size) to be distributed as well. Greg (Sonoma Water) talked about the work he has done with the SRJC horticulture department with LIDs and demonstration gardens.

ACTION: Develop a smaller RRFL sign as an option to be displayed in place of larger ones

3. Technical Working Group Business

- Staffing of Meetings—Colleen’s presence is voluntary unless she is requested to provide services that support the meeting agenda. Sabrina opens the online meetings and passively participates if there are technical issues. Vanessa and Andy are main RRWA contributors.
- Technical Working Group Roles and Responsibilities—next BOD meeting is December 17. Comments were received on December 3 but Vanessa (RRWA) wanted to confirm these comments were final and ready to present to Board.

Elizabeth (Windsor) suggested that the TWG go through the comments as a group and suggest language. Eric (Cloverdale) brought up the fact that the Roles and Responsibilities is a BOD document and it is ultimately up to them to change with advice from the TWG. Eric has been working with Melanie communicating his opinion based on TWG discussion but does not know the extent to which she has communicated with additional board members.

ACTION: Develop Roles and Responsibilities language to present to the board – to be discussed in the next co-permittee meeting.

- Confirming Calendars—current meeting time does not present any immediate problems.
- Deliverable Reports—Vanessa (RRWA) inquired about the usefulness of preparing monthly deliverable reports to summarize RRWA activities. Several members brought up the fact that they are impartial, and this info could be incorporated in the invoice or stormwater activities table, if not, keep the reports.

ACTION: RRWA to no longer prepare the monthly deliverable report but rather incorporate this information into an annual report and expand on the invoice descriptions.

- 2021/2022 Work Plan Planning—next subcommittee meeting October 28
September 30 subcommittee meeting recap – Maintain the current structure and implement cost saving measures including fewer meetings, modifying responsibilities, having member agencies lead more tasks, solicit sub support, and pausing non-essential work. Vanessa (RRWA) presented project lists for executive director services, general benefit projects, and special benefit projects.

ACTION: Create a project list with assistance from the work planning subcommittee and distributing for input. Vanessa (RRWA) to send out project list with permit language to working groups in hopes of discussing at October 28 meeting.

4. September 24 Board of Directors Meeting Updates

- Guest Presentation: Ryan Pedrotti, Principal Program Specialist, Sonoma County Water Agency—Sonoma Water’s Water Education Program

Vanessa (RRWA) provided a presentation recap that discussed the differences between offering the Water Education Program online as opposed to in person.

- RRWA membership—Vanessa (RRWA) noted Rohnert Park is leaving RRWA.

ACTION: Ensure Rohnert Park is on RRWA’s distribution list until at least the end of the year when their leaving RRWA is official.

- Rising WATERS update—Andy (RRWA) provided a presentation recap on Rising WATERS regarding how to use mapping to assess homelessness and water quality impacts, existing barriers involved with provided services to these people, and the overall nexus of water quality and homelessness.

As a result of the September CASQA presentation, RRWA has received feedback from academic institutions expressing interest in this topic and willingness to work with the Association in answering these questions. December 4 Board meeting to have presentation with additional information regarding this topic.

- Project and Legislative Updates—efforts to require relabeling flushable wipe products as un-flushable has failed.

5. September 30 Quarterly lunch meeting with the Regional Water Board Updates

- Permit Renewal Update—Vanessa (RRWA) Regional Water Board staff to miss the schedule for existing permit, permit to continue uninterrupted. Staff is also anticipating incorporating statewide policies and objectives for trash and LID into the new permit.
- New Board Member Appointment—Shaunna McCovey
- 20/21 Workplan presented to the Board—includes an across the board pay cut to staff and two new staff positions (SB 1215 Septic Sewer and Algae Blooms).
- Fee incentive program—SWQCB liaison instructed staff to work with Region 1 to develop what this program might look like.
- Concerns with Fire Response and Recovery—RWQCB staff are concerned with property owners not taking proper erosion control measures on private property after clearing brush & grading fire breaks.
- Meeting on October 1 – Potter Valley Project

6. Co-Permittee Meeting Updates

ACTION: Vanessa (RRWA) to send compiled letters for effectiveness assessment survey to Nick (Santa Rosa) to send to the Board. Permit related documents should be submitted by co-permittee member. Same needs to happen for Laguna Monitoring Plan.

7. 2020/2021 Project Updates

- Cost saving measures—RRWA actively looking for opportunities.
- Storm Water Program Updates—Andy and Vanessa (RRWA) provided the following information:
 - Effectiveness Assessment Summary memo provided that recommends actions moving forward related to getting the message out about the Program.
 - Laguna Monitoring and Reporting Plan moving forward – data required from members agencies by 10/21. Potential subcommittee meeting end of October/beginning of November
 - Jr. Member Guides replenishment was requested and provided at The Twins Restaurant and Acme Burger; both in Cotati.
 - Streets to Creeks—Phase II update
ACTION: Andy to coordinate with Nick (Santa Rosa) to organize a Streets to Creeks presentation to the RRWA Board, how it has performed, and steps moving forward. Consider adding ample time (up to 30 min) to go over this.
 - OWOW October 21 Workshop on organic pest control
ACTION: Vanessa (RRWA) to forward Elizabeth (Windsor) social media material on webinar for promotion.
- Creek Week Results – At least 34,000 lbs. of trash removed from the Watershed as reported from responding agencies
- Subcommittee Updates
 - Safe Meds and Sharps Disposal numbers have declined due to COVID limiting access to drop-off bins. Local law enforcement agencies not willing to work with DEA and act as a drop off location at this time.
 - Watershed Collaborative—intent is to add members this year

8. Russian River Watershed Coordination

- Steering committee meeting #10 scheduled for October 21 – topics include establishing a technical advisory committee, assessing management questions, and investigating the possible forms that R3MP could take in the future.

9. Forum and Advocacy

- 2018 303d list for the North Coast to go in front of the Board

10. CASQA

- TWG members should be able to access handbooks; reach out to Vanessa (RRWA) if this is not the case.

11. Items of Interest

- Constituents of Emerging Concern meeting scheduled October 12-15
- Solicitation for North Coast Resource Partnership Project development technical assistance application due October 15
- NCRP policy review panel meeting December 11, 2020
- 2020 virtual summit “Ensuring Equitable Involvement in Regional Water Planning” on October 8, 13, and 14.

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