



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 25, 2022 at 9:00 AM–11:00 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/89622739120?pwd=NURpc2RDeDk5MG1EbGVCSEhNUNUdz09>

Meeting ID: 896 2273 9120

Passcode: 175572

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ker8TiiL87>

MINUTES

Directors and Alternates Present

Maureen Mulheren, Chair	County of Mendocino
Neysa Hinton, Vice Chair	City of Sebastopol
Ben Ford	City of Cotati
Oswaldo Jimenez	City of Healdsburg
Marta Cruz-Concepcion	City of Cloverdale
Eddie Alvarez	City of Santa Rosa
Ann DuBay	Sonoma Water
Adriane Garayalde	County of Sonoma

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

Additional Attendees

Andy Rodgers	RRWA Executive Director
Vanessa Apodaca	RRWA Staff
Sabrina Marson	RRWA Staff
Elizabeth Cargay	Town of Windsor
Claire Myers	City of Santa Rosa
Kerry Wininger	Sonoma State
Christopher Halle	Sonoma State Center for Environmental Inquiry
Elizabeth Salomone	Russian River Flood Control District
Amber Fisette	County of Mendocino
Michael Thompson	Sonoma Water
Charlie Schneider	Salmon Steelhead Coalition/Cal Trout

- A. Call to Order and Introductions**—Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Hinton at 9:06. Roll call was taken.
- B. Consider Emergency Resolution for meeting** virtually Director Ford motioned to approve. Director Cruz-Concepcion seconded. None opposed. Motion passed.
- C. Approval of the Agenda**—Agenda was approved with no revisions

D. Approval of Standing Items

- a. Minutes: May 26 Board of Directors Meeting—Director Ford moved to approve minutes with the correction of Maureen Mulheren representing County of Mendocino, not City of Ukiah. Director DuBay seconded. Motion to approve the May minutes was approved.

E. Guest Presentations:

- a. Potter Valley Project (PVP) Updates – Michael Thompson, Sonoma Water

Michael discussed the history, relicensing efforts, PVP surrender process, and current activities.

- PVP has an unknown future with a long FERC process.
- PVP water is critical to the health and economy of the Russian River basin.
- A team working to preserve this critical inter-basin water source.
- Russian River water resiliency improvements are needed.
- Without PVP water transfers to the Russian River, in 8 out of 10 years there will not be enough water supply to meet all the needs of businesses, cities, residents, and wildlife that depend on the Russian River

2019 – Two-Basin Partnership formed for relicensing efforts locally. Five partners: County of Humboldt, Sonoma Water, Round Valley Indian Tribe, California Trout, and Inland Water & Power Commission of Mendocino County.

- Minimizing or avoiding adverse impacts to water supply reliability, fisheries, water quality, and recreation in the Russian River and Eel River basins.
- Improving fish passage and habitat on the Eel River sufficient to support recovery of native anadromous fish populations, including passage at existing dam locations.
- Collaboration on funding.
- Active participation of tribes and other stakeholders supportive of the Shared Objectives.
- Economic welfare of the Russian River and Eel River basins
- Protecting tribal cultural, economic, and other interests in the Eel and Russian River basins.

Current Efforts – DWR Grant

- Investigating acquisition of key components of the Potter Valley Project from PG&E and modifying them to function as a water diversion-only facility, including estimating the cost of modifications and operations.
- Analyzing and developing concepts for the projects necessary to improve water supply reliability in the Russian River under drought and climate change conditions.
- Establish a Russian River Water Users Forum representing water users that are dependent on the inter-basin transfer of water from the Eel to the Russian River through the Potter Valley Project (PVP) to create a source of funding for continuing water transfers. Water Users Forum's focus:
 - Develop a plan for strategic engagement: Collaborate with water user representatives to identify clear goals for the

- engagement process.
- Reach out to and educate stakeholders: The Russian River Water Users Forum will offer a platform for education, outreach, and knowledge sharing to encourage engagement with these issues.
 - Facilitate the creation of a leadership structure: Create a self-sustaining leadership structure, such as a steering committee, that is trusted by water users and other stakeholders to represent their various interests.
 - Engage in solutions for the Russian River watershed: Assess the likelihood of ongoing financial support for the continued import of Eel River water and for water conservation and supply resiliency projects for the Russian River.

Questions and comments

Director Garayalde: We put together a water sharing program for the upper Russian river that has been approved by the state water board, the first in the state. She is working with Alexander Valley to form a water district to better manage the water in Alexander Valley and to have a seat at the table while negotiations are going on.

Charlie Schneider: For the Water Users Group, are you planning to have environmental interest be part of it?

Michael Thompson: Yes.

Chris Halle: He is working with Communication and Media professors at SSU for a different aspect of a water related project and they have been interviewing stake holders and creating educational materials and building a social media library. He can connect students to Sonoma Water's effort if that's desirable.

Michael Thompson: Yes. (he will follow up)

Director Cruz-Concepcion: She recommends this presentation be provided to City Councils in the watershed.

Michael Thompson: Yes, he agrees and will follow up.

- b. WATERS Project – Chris Halle, Center for Environmental Inquiry, SSU
Chris introduced the program he is working on with Dr. Claudia Luke, Director, and Ms. Kerry Winger, Outreach & Communications Lead.
Center for Environmental Inquiry is Education for a changing planet:

- First-hand understanding of our connection with the environment
- Skill-building experiences
- Innovative solutions

The WATERS Collaborative has accomplished

- 233 projects
- 2,749 students (121 courses)
- 20+ partners/yr
- 30 faculty/yr; 15+ departments/yr
- Internships & jobs

Information on the other topics he discussed: Flood, Invasive Aquatics, Land Use Planning, Rising Waters Initiative (process, Year 2 Steering Committee, timeline, Year 1-2: Homelessness and Watersheds, and the Rising Waters Year 2 Preliminary Results, and the Academic Year

2022-2023, can be found on the posted presentation slides:

<https://www.rwatershed.org/event/board-of-directors-meeting-22/>
Questions and comments

Director Alvarez: In your research, what type of liabilities do cities face in regard to porta potties near encampments?

Chris Halle: Some of the feedback has been related to cost and maintenance. There's also been concern about making the encampment more "attractive" for others to come and not leave, or them being used for drug use, which is not always the case. They are looking to dispel some of these misconceptions and misinformation.

F. Board of Directors Business/Program Updates

- a. 2021/2022 Work Plan Wrap Up
 - i. Accomplishments List (*Handout*)
 - ii. Activities Table
 - iii. Rollback Calculations
 - FY 2020/21 total funds expended \$467,017
 - Funds remaining for rollback: \$109,848
 - Cloverdale: \$18,215
 - Cotati: \$5,451
 - Healdsburg: \$2,966
 - Santa Rosa: \$10,303
 - Sebastopol: \$8,934
 - Ukiah: \$13,229
 - Mendocino County: \$9,867
 - Sonoma County: \$22,920
 - Sonoma Water: \$11,030
 - Windsor: \$6,934
 - iv. Carbon Gardening Videos
 - Two videos were shared from the campaign, and Spanish versions are being created.
 - v. OWOW Year End Report (*Handout*)
- b. 2022/2023 Work Plan kick-off
 - i. Virtual to in-person/hybrid transition
 - TWG virtual for 2022
 - Board virtual for 2022-23, except field trip(s)
 - ii. Planning for key projects (*Handout: Daily Acts letter*)
 - Collaboration
 - Outreach
 - Advocacy
 - Compliance
 - Programs
- c. Creek Week (*Handouts*)
 - i. September 17-24, 2022 events planning
 - \$1,500 for RRW/Russian Riverkeeper cleanup
 - \$500 for Coastal Cleanup
 - \$250 for Mendocino County Cleanup
 - \$1,000 for Fiesta de Independencia
 - ii. Consider Creek Week & Pollution Prevention Week Proclamation
 - Director Hinton motioned to approve the Proclamation.
 - Director Ford seconded. None opposed. Proclamation passed

- and the template will be shared with members.
- d. Fiesta de Independencia: Sunday, September 18, 2022, 1:00-7:00
 - i. Board member(s) sign up to staff the booth
 - e. BOD 2022-23 meeting schedule and field trips
 - i. October 27, 2022 – *Field Trip!*
 - Healdsburg Solar Ponds
 - Potter Valley ProjectRRWA staff will send out a survey for which location to plan for.
 - ii. February 23, 2023
 - iii. May 25, 2023 (tentative)
 - f. Safe Medicine disposal
 - i. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day October 29 10AM to 2PM
Contact RRWA Staff or Zero Waste to advocate for a location in your area.
 - g. Executive/Administrative Committee
 - Advise on range of RRWA Programs
 - Development & implementation
 - Foster new RRWA Membership
 - Update engagement plan
 - Support outreach
 - Utilize Watershed Collaborative
 - Leverage watershed-wide organization
 - Support member funding and programs
 - Promote priority initiatives

G. Regional Advocacy and Initiatives updates

- a. RRWA/RWQCB
 - i. Next quarterly meeting – October TBD
Contact RRWA staff if there are topics that you would like on the agenda.
- b. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)
 - Developing 5-year monitoring plan (TAC)
- c. Russian River Confluence
- d. North Coast Resources Partnership
 - Awarded over \$7M (USGS, CNRA, local partners) to fill gaps in lidar in Northern CA, including in the Russian River watershed
 - Releasing in September a draft regional plan focused on priorities for enhancing watershed, forest and community resilience in the North Coast Region
 - Soliciting projects for [Prop 1 IRWM Round 2 Implementation Funding](#) (Deadline: 11/4)
 - Workshops are being planned—Stay tuned for dates!
 - Quarterly meetings: 8/26 and 12/9 (tentative)
- e. Comment/Support Letters (*Handouts*)
 - i. Sign on letter re CASQA Stormwater Funding Request (Drought Package)
 - ii. Letter of Support for City of Santa Rosa Lower Colgan Creek Restoration Project - Phase 3, Design and Construction

The Draft Letter of Support for City of Santa Rosa is a handout. Andy asked the group if there was any opposition to providing

the letter to Santa Rosa, due tomorrow (August 26).
 Director Hinton motioned to approve the support letter.
 Director Ford seconded. None opposed. Letter passed.

H. Items of Interest

- a. Legislative Updates - Andy
 - i. AB 2106 – Stormwater, CASQA Commented
 - ii. SB 54 – Solid Waste, CASQA Supported
 - iii. AB 2201 – Groundwater
 - iv. Brown Act Updates
- b. Summary of Board of Directors Action Items - Vanessa
 - i. Board contact information on SharePoint

I. Public Comment

No comments made.

J. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 am

RRWA Calendar Summary:

Unless otherwise noted, RRWA Meetings will be virtual.

Upcoming TWG Meetings 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Upcoming Board of Directors meetings 9:00 am – 11:00 am
October 11, 2022 January 10, 2023 April 11, 2023	October 27, 2022 February 23, 2023 May 25, 2023
Environmental Columns	
July – Thank you, Josh Steiner, RRWA staff—Water Smart Irrigation August – Thank you, Melissa Duffy, West Yost Associates—How Does the Use of Pesticides Affect Our Water Quality? September – Thank you, Colleen Hunt, on behalf of the City of Cotati—Creek Week 2022 – Ways to Get Involved with Protecting Our Creeks October – City of Ukiah – TBD November – City of Healdsburg – TBD December – Santa Rosa – TBD	
Important Dates	
September 17-24 — Creek Week September 18 — Fiesta de Independencia October 29 — National Prescription Drug Take Back Day	