



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 23 at 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION
Join Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

Directors and Alternates Present

Maureen Mulheren, Chair	County of Mendocino
Ben Ford	City of Cotati
Marjorie Morgenstern	City of Cloverdale
Ron Edwards	City of Healdsburg
Mark Stapp	City of Santa Rosa
Stephen Zollman	City of Sebastopol
Mari Rodin	City of Ukiah
Adriane Garayalde	Sonoma County
Ann DuBay	Sonoma Water

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

Additional Attendees

Sean McNeil	City of Santa Rosa
Michael Harrigan	County of Mendocino
Elizabeth Cargay	Town of Windsor
Amber Fisette	Mendocino County
Andy Rodgers	RRWA Executive Director
Vanessa Apodaca	RRWA Staff
Indigo Bannister	RRWA Staff
David Kelly	City of Cloverdale
Derrick Montanye	City of Cloverdale
Robert Spagnola	City of Cloverdale
Bob Anderson	Public
Elizabeth Salomone	Public (RRFCD)
Adam Gaska	Public
Louisa Morris	Guest Speaker (CA State Coastal Conservancy)

- A. Call to Order and Introductions**—Meeting called to order by Chair Mulheren at 9:03 am. Roll call was taken.
- B. Consider Emergency Resolution for meeting virtually**—Director Ford motioned to approve. Director Rodin seconded. None opposed. Motion passed.
- C. Approval of the Agenda**—None opposed. Agenda was approved with no revisions.
- D. Approval of Standing Items**

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

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

- a. Minutes: August 25, 2022, and October 27, 2022 Board of Directors Meetings—Director Rodin motioned to approve. Director DuBay seconded. None opposed. Minutes were approved with no revisions.

E. Guest Presentations:

- a. The Great Redwood Trail Master Plan – Louisa Morris, California State Coastal Conservancy

Louisa provided an overview of the Great Redwood Trail, including explaining what Rail-Trails are, the Master Plan & Community Engagement Plan and its schedule, the benefits of the Complete Trail in Mendocino County, and how to get involved. Details can be viewed in the guest presentation posted on the RRWA website meeting calendar.

Email questions to info@greatredwoodtrailplan.org

Andy asked if there were educational programs that are part of the Rail-Trails that RRWA can begin to look into, be supportive of, or help develop. Louisa thinks there will be a lot of opportunity for RRWA to get involved and will keep the Association engaged.

F. Board of Directors Business

- a. Election of 2023 RRWA officers— Director Ford nominated Maureen Mulheren. Director Rodin moved to nominate Maureen Mulheren as Chair and Ben Ford as Vice Chair. Director Stapp seconded. None opposed. Director Mulheren as Chair and Director Ford as Vice Chair was approved.
- b. Form 700 guidance—RRWA Directors file Form 700 with their own agencies. RRWA does not collect these forms.
- c. 2022/2023 Work Plan Status/Updates
 - i. High School Video Contest—Theme Tentative Award Ceremony date: Thursday, May 11th at the Advanced Energy Center
The prompt this year:
How has the drought impacted you or your community?
How can we be more resilient to drought?
 - ii. Bilingual Educational Placemats—40 locations within the watershed!
 - iii. Carbon Gardening Videos—English and Spanish available at www.rwatershed.org/project/rrflg or www.youtube.com/channel/UCf72jccZ89rD-TSbhk8Ujig
 - iv. Events
 - 1. Fiesta de Independencia—September 18
More than 1,500 attendees
 - 2. Creek Week metrics—September 17-24
Over 580 volunteers
Over 3.5 tons of trash and recyclable materials collected!
 - 3. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day—October 29
Over 20,452 pounds of unwanted, unused and expired medication and vape material collected throughout the San Francisco Field Division area—An increase from the April event!
Over 300 pounds collected from 4 sites in Sonoma County
 - a) Cotati Police Department – 31 pounds
 - b) Rohnert Park Police Department – 72 pounds
 - c) Sebastopol Police Department – 65 pounds
 - d) Cloverdale Police Department – 134 pounds

4. Biennial RRFL Event—February 7
 - Event “sold out” at 110 participants
 - Presentations and resources available at <http://www.rrwatershed.org/resource-library/#pastevents>
 - 23 responses to post event survey
 - 65% rated the event “Excellent” (30% “Very Good”)
 - Preferred format for future trainings:
 - a) 61% in-person
 - b) 39% hybrid
 - c) 0% virtual
 - Interest for additional RRFL training opportunities
 - a) Short 2 to 4-hour seminars on topics such as:
 - b) Soil health
 - c) Water management
 - d) Stormwater management
5. 2023 Steelhead Festival—February 11
Thousands of festival attendees
6. Cloverdale Citrus Fair—February 17-20
Metrics TBD
- d. BOD 2022-23 meeting schedule and venue
 - i. May 25, 2023 (tentative)
Director Ford requested the hybrid capabilities be continued, if possible.
Director Rodin is also in favor.
- e. 2023/2024 Work Plan Introduction
 - i. Overview— Details regarding the Executive Director Services, General Benefit Projects, and Special Benefit Projects can be viewed on the presentation slides posted to the website.
FY23/24 Total Work Plan Budget: \$652,631 (Increased \$24,904 from current FY*) Additional information on the budget can be viewed on the presentation slides posted on the RRWA website meeting calendar.
 - ii. Technical Working Group recommendation
 - iii. Consider adoption

Director Rodin motioned to adopt the Work Plan. Director DuBay seconded. Director Stapp and Director Ford recused on Task C7. None opposed.
2023/2024 Work Plan adopted.

- f. Confluence Memorandum of Understanding—Andy provided a little history of the Confluence, an initiative that started in 2017, and is now a convening organization. A brand has just been designed and events are being discussed. The MOU helps describe the confluence. Adriane Garayalde, who is the Confluence coordinator, also provided context and the next steps of the organization.
The MOU was missing from the packet but can be accessed on the meeting calendar event: <https://www.rrwatershed.org/event/board-of-directors-meeting-24/>
RRWA will email a copy out.

G. Regional Advocacy and Initiatives updates

- a. RRWA/RWQCB
 - i. Next quarterly meeting – April TBD

b. Russian River Water Forum

Summary of Interview Findings, Jan 2023

- a. Conducted 38 interviews with a total of 73 individuals, as listed in Appendix
- b. The interviewees represented county and city governments, water providers, agricultural interests, recreation interests, business groups, environmental groups, state and federal regulatory agencies, and resource conservation districts.
- c. A separate process for gathering input from Tribes in Sonoma and Mendocino counties is underway.

Elizabeth Salomone, who is on the project advisory team also provided additional updates: The Tribal briefings and conversations have continued—there is a lot of positive feedback regarding the Tribes wanting to be involved. The development of an interim steering committee has started and will be made up of folks that represent a wide spectrum of the stakeholders. She explained that the forum is a watershed wide group that brings voices together to look at opportunities and to talk about improving water resiliency and reliability. State and federal policy will also be of interest for the forum to comment on.

The website will be going live soon.

c. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)

<https://sites.google.com/sfei.org/r3mp>

Developing 5-year monitoring plan (Technical Advisory Committee)

d. North Coast Resources Partnership—No updates

e. Comment/Support Letters

- i. Support for the Town of Windsor’s Multi-Feasibility Study to the Bureau of Reclamation Grant
- ii. CASQA and the California Stormwater Community Response: Newsom Administration Water Supply Strategy

H. Other Items of Interest

a. Summary of Board of Directors Action Items— RRWA to

- i. Explore potential for virtual/hybrid meetings
- ii. Send MOU to Board (and Adam mendocinoorganics@gmail.com) with website link
- iii. Share Carbon Gardening links on Facebook and website
- iv. Finalize and send approved Work Plan to agency staff.
- v. Send copies to Board
 1. Great Redwood Trail presentation
 2. CASQA sign on letter
 3. Copy of Water Forum interview and finding
- vi. Coordinate presentation of Confluence, possibly in May.
- vii. Build a Venn diagram of various groups and organizations that RRWA is involved with.

I. Public Comment

J. Adjourn—Meeting adjourned at 10:45 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
April 11, 2023	May 25, 2023 (tentative in-person)
Environmental Columns	
<p>January – Thank you, Michael Harrigan, Environmental Compliance Specialist, County of Mendocino – Recycled Water: A Necessary Resource for Sustainability</p> <p>February – Thank you, Guest Author, Zero Waste Sonoma and County of Sonoma DHS (Safe Medicine Disposal Subcommittee) – New Year Brings New Opportunities for Safe Medicine Disposal</p> <p>March – Thank you, Lauren Lum, Sonoma Water – Get Ready to Chase Down Sneaky Leaks!</p> <p>April – Sierra Parkhurst, Town of Windsor – You Deserve a Cleaner Life, but so do our Creeks</p> <p>May – City of Cloverdale – TBD</p> <p>June – Guest Author / RRWA staff – TBD</p>	
Important Dates	
April 22, 2023 – Earth Day	