



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 24, 2023 at 9:00 Am – 11:00 AM

(HYBRID MEETING)

Zoom and

Windsor Town Council Chambers

9291 Old Redwood Highway, Building 400

Windsor, CA 95492

MINUTES

Directors and Alternates Present

Marjorie Morgenstern	City of Cloverdale
Ben Ford, Co-Chair	City of Cotati
Ron Edwards	City of Healdsburg
Stephen Zollman	City of Sebastopol
Mari Rodin	City of Ukiah
Maureen Mulheren, Chair	County of Mendocino
Adriane Garayalde	Sonoma County
Sam Salmon	Town of Windsor

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

Additional Attendees

Chris Herrod	City of Healdsburg
Gail Jonas	City of Healdsburg
Claire Myers	City of Santa Rosa
Bob Anderson	Public
Andy Rodgers	RRWA Executive Director
Sabrina Marson	RRWA Staff
Andrea Rodriguez	Sonoma Water
Billy Dixon	Sonoma Water
Harry Starkey	Public
Courtney Scott	Zero Waste (Guest Speaker)
Amber Fiset	Mendocino County
Alisa Keenan	Sonoma County
Jen Mendoza	Field Rep, District 4

- A. Call to Order and Introductions**—Meeting called to order by Chair Mulheren at 9:05 am. Roll call was taken.
- B. Approval of the Agenda**— Director Edwards moved to approve. Director Zollman seconded. None opposed. Agenda was approved with no revisions.
- C. Approval of Standing Items**
- a. Minutes: June 1 Board of Directors Meeting— Director Salmon moved to approve. Director Ford seconded. None opposed. Minutes approved with no revisions.
- 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.

D. Guest Presentations:

a. Alexander Valley on Farm Recharge Project

Adriane Garayalde presented an overview of the Alexander Valley On-Farm Recharge (OFR), including service areas and natural water features, proposed operations and benefits, funding and support. The Alexander Valley is not currently considered a medium or high priority for groundwater, but it may be coming.

Adriane also discussed Upper Russian River Voluntary Water Sharing Program— A Program developed by Stakeholders and State Water Board to avoid water diversion curtailments by balancing supply and demand. The Program allows those with enough water to transfer part of their diversion to those who are curtailed.

Lastly, she discussed Alexander Valley Water District Proposal, including threats to Alexander Valley Water Supply and the organizational partners, who took the program to the State Water Board in early 2022. The first program of this type to ever get approved by the State Water Board in the state of California. The program ran for about five weeks. The feedback from a lot of the growers was positive. They are trying to set up this program to run without a drought declaration.

The main threat to Alexander Valley's water supply is decommissioning of the Potter Valley project. There are efforts to start a water district for Alexander Valley.

Adriane Garayalde garayalde@snowcrest.net 530-905-1055

For more information, view the presentation in PDF format at <https://www.rrwatershed.org/event/board-of-directors-meeting-26/>

Questions/Comments:

Director Edwards: How far along are you on the formation of the District? Do you have support?

Adriane: Yes, we have a lot of support. They are pursuing two tracks; one through LAFCO at the County, which is moving slowly. And the other is State Legislation. Its still realistically a couple of years out.

Director Ford: On the pumping the groundwater recharge, the 7,000 acre feet is that the pilot project or is that the long term annual goal? And then, for when to pump, that must also depend on the soils ability to take in the moisture, right? Because the flows are highest when it's raining and it's already running off and you don't want to just pump it and have it run right back off, right?

Adriane: In Alexander Valley, there are a lot of soil types. One of the things is identifying soil types and actually studying the recharge potential of those.

Chris Herrod: To what degree does the expansion of agriculture in Alexander Valley come into the picture with your planning?

Adriane: That's a big question all around. It's not just agriculture. It's actually all of our towns, all of our other rural areas continuing to grow. We have to think about that in the future. The curtailments were a real hit to people, but it was also a wakeup call.

ED Rodgers: What's the ideal outcome for the on farm recharge project when it's complete?

Adriane: I think the ideal outcome would be to know the areas that are really key for doing recharge and the monitoring that we're going to do to learn more about that. We could actually target the most important areas in the future for recharge and if we get the soil profile filled early on in the vineyards, they won't have to take so much water, and we can have water going back to the river in our late summer/fall when that last irrigation before harvest is needed. That's going to be key.

b. Zero Waste Sonoma and SB 212 Participation—Courtney Scott, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program Manager, Zero Waste

Courtney provided an intro to Zero Waste Sonoma, including responsibilities and who they represent. She focused on Sharps because she represents the only entity in the County that is able to participate with SB 212 for sharps. She discussed the MED-Project and Takeback Foundation program.

Through these programs pharmacies can order sharp containers to give out to customers at the point of sale. One complaint from pharmacies is not having storage space. An option in this scenario is for pharmacies to help customers order a container for delivery to their home at the point of sale.

Courtney discussed the back end of the Takeback Foundation's website for ordering and tracking— customers that bring containers back to their HHW facility and forego the mailing process, are not being counted. HHW does not have a way to track.

There is no ordinance in Sonoma County. The medicine piece of SB 212 includes mail back envelopes for residents. The pharmacies can either distribute those mail-back envelopes at the point of sale, inform the customer how to get those envelopes, or order for them. The other component is updated kiosks.

If you see an old bin, let Zero Waste Sonoma know.

- Safe Medicine Disposal Program
 - Partnership with local agencies
 - Law enforcement & pharmacy locations
 - Conversion to stewardship organizations

Order outreach material to share in both Spanish and English. Contact stewardship organizations. The other piece of SB 212 requires that these entities have a combined website. The launch is anticipated to be in October.

Courtney Scott, Courtney.scott@sonoma-county.org, 707-888-0476
Zerowastesonoma.gov has a list of all known locations for meds and sharps.

For more information, view the presentation in PDF format at <https://www.rwatershed.org/event/board-of-directors-meeting-26/>

Questions/Comments

Director Edwards: How do we transition from the old bin to the new ones—Is that something that the city will coordinate? How does that get started? Is that something that the council does or is that something that you reach out and do?

Courtney: They can help with Police Departments, but not the private pharmacies. Contact California@med-project.org and request a bin swap, after finding out who actually owns the bin.

MendoRecycle is coordinating Mendocino County. Michelle Goodman is the contact.

[Action: RRWA to follow up with Police in Healdsburg.]

E. July 11 TWG Meeting Updates

- FY 2022-2023 Rollback calculations ~ \$77,000
- 2023-2024 work plan kickoff
- Trash Capture
 - RRWA researching active or proposed ordinances for the TWG
 - Potentially inform future program options

F. Board of Directors Business

a. 2023/2024 Work Plan kickoff

- Meeting schedule
 - TWG – Virtual
 - October 10, 2023
 - January 9, 2024
 - April 9, 2024
 - BOD - Hybrid with in-person in Windsor
 - August 24, 2023
 - October 26, 2023
 - February 22, 2024
 - May 23, 2024

Outlook Calendar invites sent.

Andy asked the Board to reach out to him if there are alternative locations for meeting venues or field trips.

b. BOD 2024-25 Work Plan development

- Planning for key projects
 - Collaboration
 - Outreach
 - Advocacy
 - Compliance
 - Programs
- One-on-one agency meetings
- Operating Budgets due end of November
- Executive Programs & Initiatives Committee
- Timeline for development and adoption
 - October 10: TWG Kick-off
 - October 26: BOD review and provide input on draft scope
 - November 14 - 18: TWG review draft budget (via email)
 - November 30: Operating budgets due to RRWA staff
 - December 12 - 16: TWG review draft (via email)
 - January 9: TWG meeting - review progress draft
 - Jan. & Feb.: ED meets with individual members (optional)
 - February 13: TWG review final draft (via email)
 - February 22: BOD considers approval

c. Creek Week—Handouts were provided for this item: flyer and draft proclamation.

- September 16-23, 2023 events planning
 - Sponsorships
 - \$1,500 for RRW/Russian Riverkeeper cleanup
 - \$500 for Coastal Cleanup
 - \$250 for Mendocino County Cleanup

- Consider Creek Week & Pollution Prevention Week Proclamation
Director Rodin moved to approve. Director Garayalde seconded. None opposed. Creek Week & Pollution Prevention Week Proclamation was approved.
- d. Fiesta de Independencia
 - Board member(s) sign up to staff booth
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dplY8AJ4uEny3VLHMLn0IkRO3kC0fCWQH2EXBU3-pGM/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Fill in time slots by September 7, that would help inform RRWA staff on where gaps need to be filled in.
 - Sunday, September 10, 2023, 1:00-7:00 Luther Burbank Center (LBC) in Santa Rosa
 - \$1,000 Sponsorship
- e. Student Video Contest theme— Put a LID on it! What is Low Impact Development (LID) and how can it protect the Russian River watershed?
 - This simple prompt encourages students to create videos that educate and raise awareness of community members knowledge of LID.
 - Sonoma Water is looking for recommendations for experts in media, education and/or water industries that may have interest/availability in serving on a Mentorship Panel that might provide constructive feedback to students on improving their videos before submission?
 - Estimated Time Commitment: 3-4 hours in February/March 2024.
 - Email nominations to cleanwater@rrwatershed.org
- f. Russian River Friendly Landscaping—August 16
 - Two new applications approved
 - 1825 Austin Creek Road, Cazadero
 - Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation (900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa)
- g. Executive Programs & Initiatives Committee (EPIC)—September 25
 - EPIC Members
 1. Mike Thompson, Sonoma Water
 2. Sean McNeil, Santa Rosa
 3. Veronica Siwy, Windsor
 4. Amber Fisette, Mendocino County
 5. Advisor – Matt St. John
- h. Safe medicine and sharps disposal
 - National Prescription Drug Take Back Day October 28, 2023, 10AM to 2PM—Contact RRWA to advocate for a location in your area!

G. Regional Advocacy and Initiatives updates

- a. RRWA/RWQCB
 - Next quarterly meeting – October TBD
- b. Russian River Water Forum—Director Garayalde provided an update. Right now Sonoma Water, with inland Water and Power Commission from Mendocino County and the Brown Valley Indian tribe, have submitted a proposal to PG & E. If accepted by PG & E, it would hold the door open in their decommissioning plan to having a future Potter Valley project and an associated water right to go with. That proposal commits that we work toward forming a regional entity to manage a future Potter Valley diversion into the Russian River, that we develop a budget and cost and how water would be allocated to pay for that diversion, and then identify the facilities that we would want PG&E to leave after they decommission the project. The working groups are regrouping. It's going to be important now because we have

some key things that they need to work on. The next Water Forum Planning Group Meeting will be on September seventh. More information can be viewed at <https://russianriverwaterforum.org/>

- c. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)
 - Developing 5-year monitoring plan
 - TAC meeting August 9
 - Steering Team recruiting new participants
- d. Russian River Confluence—No updates.
- e. North Coast Resources Partnership
 - Senate and Assembly bond proposals SB 867 and AB 1567 are on hold.
 - The bonds require a higher vote threshold which allows them to be moved at any time while the Legislature is in session. There is still an opportunity for a bond to be passed by the end of the 2023 legislative session. The session ends on September 13.
 - Continue to voice support and work to maintain IRWM-related funding in any bond that moves forward.
- f. Comment/Support Letters
 - Letter of Support for SB 867
 - Other legislation of potential interest

H. Other Items of Interest

- a. CASQA 2023 Annual Conference September 11-13—Rain Ready California: Protecting and Collecting Water for Our Future
<https://www.casqa.org/events/annual-conference/conference-overview>
- b. RRWA OWOW contract Report 2022-23 Handout was provided for this item: FY end report by Suzanne Bontempo, Plant Harmony.
 - New store in Ukiah: Whispering Winds Nursery (1575 S State Street). RRWA serving 9 stores in the watershed
- c. Recent state-wide poll showing water is the #1 concern of voters – a climate bond in 2024 very likely to include significant water program funding
https://www.ppic.org/publication/ppic-statewide-survey-californians-and-the-environment-july-023/?utm_source=ppic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=epub
- d. Board contact information is on SharePoint

I. Public Comment—

Gail (Healdsburg): Mike McGuire is working with California Fish and Wildlife to restore beavers to the North Coast. the state has AB 64, which is the Beaver Restoration Act.

This is largely in support of the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center Water Institute. Rock Doleman and Kate Lungquist, who are the Bring Back the Beaver primary contacts; This flyer (she brought handouts and Bever Believer buttons) has a link to their thirty-page booklet. They are coming to Healdsburg on April 22, 2024 to talk.

J. Adjourn—Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am

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
October 10, 2023 January 9, 2024 April 9, 2024	October 26, 2023 February 22, 2024 May 23, 2024
Environmental Columns	
July – Thank you, Suzanne Bontempo, of Plant Harmony and program manager of OWOW – Gardening for the Good Bugs August – Thank you, Alisa Keenan, County of Sonoma – Do you know how to spot Low Impact Development? September – Thank you, Andrew Stricklin, City of Ukiah – Save Our Creeks – Dispose of Yard Waste Properly October — Cotati TBD November – Healdsburg – TBD December – Santa Rosa – TBD	
Important Dates	
September 16-23, 2023 - Creek Week September 10, 2023 - Fiesta de Independencia October 28, 2023 - National Prescription Drug Take Back Day	