



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
June 1, 2023 at 9:00 Am – 11:00 AM

**PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION ONLY**

Laguna De Santa Rosa Foundation

Heron Hall

900 Sanford Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

***DRAFT MINUTES***

Directors and Alternates Present

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

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

Additional Attendees

Chris Herrod	City of Healdsburg
Jake Mackenzie	City of Rohnert Park
Jill McLewis	City of Sebastopol
Anne Morkill	Laguna Foundation (Guest Speaker)
Dr. Wendy Trowbridge	Laguna Foundation
Bob Anderson	Public
Valerie Quinto	Regional Water Board
Andy Rodgers	RRWA Executive Director
Vanessa Apodaca	RRWA Staff
Indigo Bannister	RRWA Staff
Sabrina Marson	RRWA Staff
Lauren Lum	Sonoma Water
Mike Thompson	Sonoma Water (Guest Speaker)
Sarah Wickersham	Sonoma Water (Guest Speaker)
Elizabeth Cargay	Town of Windsor

**A. Call to Order and Introductions**—Meeting called to order by Chair Mulheren at 9:07 am. Roll call was taken.

**B. Approval of the Agenda**—None opposed. Agenda was approved with no revisions.

**C. Guest Presentations:**

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. Laguna Foundation Overview – Anne Morkill, Executive Director and Dr. Wendy Trowbridge, Director of Restoration and Conservation Science

Anne discussed the Laguna Foundation and the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Their mission is to restore and conserve the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and to inspire public appreciation of this Wetland of International Importance.

Some of the issues facing the Laguna de Santa Rosa include:

- Land use changes
- Flood control
- Sediment
- Water quality
- Invasive species
- Climate change

Questions/Comments – None.

For more information, view the presentation in PDF format at <https://www.rrwatershed.org/event/board-of-directors-meeting-25/>

- b. Upper Russian River watershed overview – Michael Thompson, Assistant GM, Sonoma Water

Michael discussed the Potter Valley Project (PVP), the Russian River Water Forum, and the Sonoma County Water Caucus.

The PVP is a hydroelectric project owned and operated by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E) for over 100 years. PVP on average, transfers 60,000 acre-feet (AF) of water from the Eel River to the Russian River (RR) annually. PG&E has taken steps to decommission the project. The impacts to the RR include:

- Lake Mendocino water shortages in 8 out of 10 years
- Lake Mendocino is predicted to go dry 2 out of 10 years.
- Losses in the tens of millions per year to the Russian River economy

The Russian River Water Forum is comprised of stakeholders with interests in the Russian River and Eel River basins. The Forum is a venue for inclusive engagement regarding PVP decommissioning solutions and broader water resiliency issues. Next meeting is June 12, 2023.

Sonoma County Water Caucus Planning Group members organize caucus discussions outside of the Planning Group:

- Working Groups:
- Water Supply and Fisheries
- Finance and Economics
- Governance and Decommissioning
- Water Rights

Caucus Meetings provide a better understanding of PG&E's decommissioning and license surrender schedule. Members discuss interests and priorities of those in the Russian River Watershed to determine where there is a unified voice. Next meeting is June 6, 2023: 10:30 to 12:00.

Questions/Comments – RRWA Members requested links to various entities: Water Form, Water Caucus two-basin partnership. RRWA will email out.

For more information, view the presentation in PDF format at  
<https://www.rrwatershed.org/event/board-of-directors-meeting-25/>

- c. Update on 2023 High School Video contest and 2024 theme discussion – Sarah Wickersham, Program Specialist, Sonoma Water

The winning 2023 videos were played. The videos are posted at  
<https://www.rrwatershed.org/project/student-videos/>

Sarah led a discussion regarding the 2024 contest theme. The following ideas were provided by RRWA members. Sarah and her team will come up with slogans and an email poll will go out in July for the final vote.

- Drought/Litter prevention
- Plastics & plastic bags
- Stormwater-driveway connection to river/ocean
- Carbon footprint & climate issues
- Trash and other items in creeks
- Aim for adults instead of peers. I.e. in 20 years from now “when you’re in charge”.

#### **D. Approval of Standing Items**

- a. Minutes: February 23 Board of Directors Meetings  
—Director Ford motioned to approve the minutes with corrections to the February minutes (in the heading the meeting location needs to be updated. For the workplan item, change “abstain” to “recuse”) . Director Stapp seconded. None opposed. Minutes were approved.

#### **E. Board of Directors Business**

- a. BOD 2023-24 proposed meeting schedule – Four 2-hour meetings  
August 24, 2023  
October 26, 2023  
February 22, 2024  
May 23, 2024
- i. Field trip
- b. 2022/2023 Work Plan Closeout
- i. OWOW – New store in Ukiah!  
Whispering Winds Nursery (1575 S State Street)  
RRWA serving 9 stores in the watershed
- ii. Safe Medicine  
Transition to Stewardship Plans (MED-Project and The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation) is in process.
- April 22 DEA Take Back Event Collection Totals- Three local agencies collected 14 disposal boxes with a combined weight of 382 pounds.
- iii. Children’s Bilingual Educational Placemats—43 locations. Nine added this fiscal year.
- iv. Carbon Gardening— Links to the online videos were provided. English and Spanish available at [www.rrwatershed.org/project/rflg](http://www.rrwatershed.org/project/rflg) or [www.youtube.com/channel/UCf72jccZ89rD-TSbkh8Ujig](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf72jccZ89rD-TSbkh8Ujig)

v. Events

1. September 18, 2022 – Fiesta de Independencia
2. February 7, 2023 – RRFL BiennialEvent
3. February 11, 2023 – Steelhead Festival
4. February 17-20, 2023 – Cloverdale Citrus Fair
5. April 22, 2023 – Earth Day
6. October 29, 2022 and April 22, 2023 – DEA Take Back Event

c. RRFL Updates

Biennial RRFL Event—February 7

Two applications processed:

- Woodside West received their sign!
- Private applicant pending.

d. Water Bond Coalition

- i. AB 1567 Sign on Support Letter

e. Confluence Update

**F. Regional Advocacy and Initiatives updates**

a. RRWA/RWQCB

i. April 4 quarterly meeting

- Welcome, Executive Officer Valerie Quinto!
  - o Provided RRWA overview updates
- Stormwater (MS4) permit anticipated adoption in February 2024
- RWQCB climate team is meeting regularly
  - o Incentivize climate adaptation and resilience
  - o Funding for ecosystem restoration
  - o Racial equity resolution adopted
- Laguna TMDL
  - o The Laguna is California’s longest standing impaired water
  - o Laguna needs source control and ecosystem restoration

b. Russian River Water Forum

c. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)

d. North Coast Resources Partnership—AB1567 Garcia increased IRWM funding from \$200 million to \$350 million

e. Comment/Support Letters

- i. CASQA Sign on Comments on Governor’s proposed 23-24 budget
- ii. Letter of Support for Sonoma State University regarding Climate Grant
- iii. Letter of Support for Russian River County Sanitation District Federal Funding
- iv. Mirabel 12-kV Multi-Hazard Resiliency Project

**G. Other Items of Interest**

- a. Sonoma Water, representing the member agencies of the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership, was awarded funding from the USBR WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants program
- b. Summary of Board of Directors Action Items

**H. Public Comment**

**I. Adjourn**—Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am

Attendees participated in a **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration** with locally-sourced brunch and refreshments.



**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
<b>Environmental Columns</b>	
April – Thank you, Sierra Parkhurst, Town of Windsor – You Deserve a Cleaner Life, but so do our Creeks	
May – Thank you, Derrick Montanye, Public Works Director, City of Cloverdale – Vehicle Cleaning Effects on Storm Water	
June – Thank you, Emma Erickson, RRWA Staff – It’s National River Month!	
July – Suzanne Bontempo, of Plant Harmony and program manager of OWOW – TBD	
August – County of Sonoma – TBD	
September – Cotati – TBD	
October – Ukiah – TBD	
November – Healdsburg – TBD	
December – Santa Rosa – TBD	
<b>Important Dates</b>	