



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 26, 2019
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Windsor Town Council Chambers
9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, CA 95492

A G E N D A

A. Call to Order and Introductions

B. Approval of the Agenda

C. Approval of Standing Items

- a. Minutes: May 23 Board of Directors Meeting
- b. Minutes: July 25 Board of Directors Meeting

D. Guest Presentation: Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director, Zero Waste Sonoma—
Organics Processing and Regulations in Sonoma County

E. Board of Directors Business

- a. Creek Week—September 21-28
- b. 2019/2020 Work Plan development
 - i. New member initiative
- c. Sonoma State University WATERS project
- d. BOD 2019/2020 meeting schedule
 - i. December 12
 - ii. February 27
 - iii. April 23 or May 28

F. Advocacy

- a. RRWA/RWQCB
 - i. Quarterly lunch meeting August 6
 - ii. Water Resilience Portfolio
 - iii. SWRCB Fee Hearing—September 18
- b. River and creeks stewardship
 - i. Cleanup event sponsorships
 - ii. Sonoma Magazine
 - iii. Trash bin support program
 - iv. Sharps and needle collection guidance
- c. Project Updates
 - i. Student Video Contest
 - ii. Streets to Creeks
 - iii. Children's Placemat
 - iv. Environmental Column
- d. Dry Creek Rancheria Russian River watershed collaborative effort
- e. Prop 1 Draft Guidelines

G. Regional Updates

- a. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)
 - i. Steering Committee Meeting #8
- b. Russian River Confluence

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.

- c. Russian River Pathogen TMDL
 - i. Comment Letter
 - ii. Hearing—August 14
- d. North Coast Resource Partnership

H. Legislative updates

- a. HR1374
- b. SB1383

I. Items of Interest

- a. Potter Valley Project update

J. Public Comment

K. Adjourn

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
November 12, 2019 December 10, 2019	December 12, 2019—Guest Speaker TBD
Environmental Columns	
September – Thank you City of Cotati (Jonathan Caldwell)— Our Hidden Gem—Conservation Corps North Bay	
October – City of Ukiah (Jason Benson)—Help Keep the Leaves and Grass Out of Storm Drains	
November – City of Healdsburg, TBD	
December – City of Santa Rosa, TBD	
January – County of Mendocino, TBD	
Important Dates	
September 21-28 – Creek Week	
October 7-9 – CASQA	

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MINUTES

Directors and Alternates Present

Melanie Bagby, Chair	City of Cloverdale
Maureen Mulheren, Vice Chair	City of Ukiah
Evelyn Mitchell	City of Healdsburg
Pam Stafford	City of Rohnert Park
Victoria Fleming	City of Santa Rosa
Neysa Hinton	City of Sebastopol
Sam Salmon	Town of Windsor
Ted Williams	County of Mendocino
Adriane Garayalde	County of Sonoma

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

Additional Attendees

Andy Rodgers	RRWA Executive Director
Sabrina Marson	RRWA Staff
Oriana Hart	County of Sonoma
Elizabeth Cargay	Town of Windsor
Leslie Lukacs	Zero Waste Sonoma
Sean McNeil	City of Santa Rosa
Nick Sudano	City of Santa Rosa
Nicole Dorotinsky	City of Santa Rosa

- A. Call to Order and Introductions**—Meeting called to order by Melanie Bagby (Cloverdale) at 9:05. Roll call was taken.
- B. Approval of the Agenda**—Agenda was approved with no revisions.
- C. Approval of Standing Items**
- Minutes: May 23 Board of Directors Meeting
 - Minutes: July 25 Board of Directors Meeting

Motion to approve the May and July minutes made by Maureen (Ukiah), seconded by Pam (Rohnert Park). All approved. None opposed.

- D. Guest Presentation:** Leslie Lukacs, Executive Director, Zero Waste Sonoma (ZWS)—Organics Processing and Regulations in Sonoma County
- o Andy (RRWA) introduced speaker and highlighted to the board this presentation was inspired by the 2020/21 RRWA work plan planning. He

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is particularly interested in RRWA leveraging services and programs and ways to collaborate with other local programs and services.

- Leslie (ZWS) provided a background of ZWS, and information on the local waste stream management, transfer stations in Sonoma county, Sonoma County disposal trends, and important state legislation—including Extended Producer Responsibility or Product Stewardship a proposed Organics Processing Facility, Food Recovery Efforts, ZWS' contract with UCCE for home composting workshops, and household hazardous waste programs.
- ZWS actively follows grant opportunities from CalRecycle for Sonoma County and is preparing to write a Beverage Container Recycling Grant for a mobile CRV collection program for Sonoma, Cloverdale, and Sebastopol as these areas are underserved. Sonoma County has 4 remaining CRV centers on the 101 corridor from Petaluma to Windsor. A mobile program would serve the West, North, and East part of the county 2 days per week.
- Zero Waste Resolution- To curb greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment while preserving the region's limited landfill capacity, the Sonoma County Zero Waste Task Force (ZWTF) is asking the cities, towns and County of Sonoma to adopt a Zero Waste Resolution with substantive goals and policies by 2019. In support of this request, the ZWTF provides a companion document, 2018 Sonoma County Zero Waste Initiatives, as a guide and invites each jurisdiction to consider suggestions that reflect their community's needs. Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Sebastopol, and Windsor have adopted. On schedule to be reviewed in January 2020 in Santa Rosa and Sonoma County.
- Polystyrene Ordinance passed in Sebastopol. Scheduled for consideration in Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Windsor and County.

Questions and Comments

- Andy (RRWA) expressed interest in RRWA providing or signing onto a comment letter for SB 1383 (2016) Short-lived Climate Pollutants. Andy also noted that board has very high interest in removing trash at the source and wants to start sharing metrics, especially around the propane collection. RRWA is interested in getting more information on the Farm and Ranch cleanup grants mentioned, along with the funding to help with tire cleanups.
- Neysa (Sebastopol) asked about mattress hauling and if residents can call for a free pickup.
 - Leslie (ZWS)-Transfer stations decide on how to handle. She recommends looking into a bulky items pickup.
- Sean (Santa Rosa)-County does not have a mattress pickup program. Residents have to self-haul.
- Sam (Windsor)-Yulupa Goodwill takes mattresses.
- Melanie (Cloverdale)-Recapped the need to have facilities that are easily accessible for residents.
- Ted (Mendocino)- How is the proposed organics processing facility helpful?

- Leslie (ZWS)-The facility will contain and minimize methane going into the air, minimize the costs and impact of sending to out-of-county facilities, and will improve use of finished compost by selling it to the general public and agriculture community. Organic matter is converted to a usable energy. No Methane burning.
- Adriane (Sonoma County)- Is ZWS working with the Natural Resource Conservation District?
 - Leslie (ZWS)-Currently, no.

E. Board of Directors Business

- a. Creek Week—September 21-28
 - Victoria (Santa Rosa) Santa Rosa participated with the Coastal Cleanup, and 56 volunteers, and 78 attendees participate in their downtown underground tour.
 - Neysa (Sebastopol)- reported there were more volunteers than years past but would have to follow-up with the numbers. The City also prepared a proclamation for Creek Week.
 - Elizabeth (Windsor) 12 volunteers and 23 bags of trash were collected.
 - Melanie (Cloverdale)-partnered with Clean River Alliance and had 25 volunteers.
 - Maureen (Ukiah)-152 volunteers and 2,500 pounds of trash from nine different creeks.
 - Melanie (Cloverdale) asked where the tires were found.
 - Maureen indicated there were two “motherloads” found. North of the green bridge before getting into Hopland. 100-150 tires found. An additional load was found south of the green bridge. The thought is that a business is responsible for the dump. The challenge of these finds are the rules and procedures around these items during cleanups.
 - Melanie asked that RRWA connect Clean River Alliance with Zero Waste Sonoma for tire cleanup grants.
- b. 2019/2020 Work Plan development
 - i. New member initiative
 - Andy (RRWA) gave updates from the RRWA TWG work plan kick-off and that there are five months to develop the work plan and went over the planning schedule. No questions from Board members.
 - Members are interested in other programs RRWA can plug into such as Zero Waste Sonoma, and what new members can be solicited from under the storm water permit.
 - Andy discussed his thoughts on
 - Utilizing NBWA associate membership model with fee contribution, SSU, SRJC, SCOE, MCOE, SMART, CalTrans, and regional collaboration incentives.
 - The complications that the MOU provides. He has spoken with the NBWA ED on how they have dealt with similar issues and how they are able to partner. Resolutions of Collaboration and Contribution could

assist in adding members without updating the MOU. There would be “group associates” vs members, that would not have a “seat at the table,” but could connect and benefit from specific projects.

- Strong storm water component would be a good place to start with partner solicitations. Example of CalTrans from a trash perspective—RRWA already has dialogue in place. Andy suggested RRWA look into Adopt-a-Highway program to help incentivize CalTrans.
 - Andy said that new partner interaction would depend on the entity and the project. No board changes.
 - Melanie (Cloverdale) mentioned that any entity who has a need to meet technical requirements of State, such as with storm water.
 - Andy said it’s really up to the board to decide shared goals and appropriateness to accept as a partner.
 - Neysa (Sebastopol) asked if anyone can come forward to participate, for example the Farm Bureau or Graton Rancheria.
 - Melanie asked for the board to send any ideas on member solicitations to RRWA staff for follow-up in the next work plan year and to also be RRWA representatives as they are out in the community and to connect RRWA staff to follow up on those connections. A target list will be presented at the next board meeting.
 - Maureen (Ukiah) asked to see if there is a way to involve kids like through Office of Education/ School Districts.
 - Neysa (Sebastopol) expressed concerns with Sebastopol’s member fees increasing and would like to meet with Andy about the details of this. She wants to know if member expansion will help keep costs down?
 - Andy (RRWA)-yes, and part of the increase was including Sebastopol in Sonoma Water Education program.
- c. Sonoma State University WATERS project
- Andy reminded Board of the presentation given at the last meeting. WATERS project - Center for Environmental Inquiry engages SSU faculty, staff, and students to undertake studies needed to complete work plan tasks. RRWA identifies and guides work with SSU and provides support services for events and meetings. The board has shown interest in this in the past and Andy said this would be something included in the upcoming work plan, and that future board meetings may take place at SSU.
 - Russian River Friendly Landscaping plans for next work plan: Industry professionals training- Topic is looking like it will be around maintenance; TWG will provide guidance on this.
 - Program enhancement through deepening collaborations with ReScape, Sonoma Marin Water Savings Partnership, Zero Waste, and others.

- Neysa (Sebastopol) asked about the RRFL signs and how to obtain them. Andy gave an overview of the process and will follow up with application details. He confirmed that the RRFL subcommittee does not have the capacity to certify the landscapes-its basically a self-certifying process based on Bay-Friendly program.
- Melanie (Cloverdale)-What about the landscapers that are part of the rebuild. Would those landscapes qualify?
 - Sean (Santa Rosa) said the short answer is no. There are rebuild trainings around the RRFL guideline principals-training around the designs and correct instillation. Not a lot of landscapes qualify. It's a branding issue— There's not a lot of sites that qualify and therefore not a lot out there for folks to even know the signs exist. Sean also gave an overview of the program and the goals of the program. He encouraged the board to learn more about the program so they could advocate for it in their community and networks.
- Neysa (Sebastopol) brought up concerns with the sign saying, "Russian River". Part of the messaging should include connecting properties to the watershed.
- Andy went over RRWA's current sponsorships and asked the Board for new ideas to be sent to him.
- d. BOD 2019/2020 meeting schedule
 - i. December 12
 - ii. February 27
 - iii. April 23 or May 28
 - Andy asked for a preference for April or May. There was strong support for the April 23 date and the time selected was 3-5 pm. Final dates are December 12, February 27, and April 23
 - Melanie (Cloverdale) asked if moving the Board meeting time would be better. There was no support to move the meeting time from 9:00 am.

F. Advocacy

- a. RRWA/RWQCB
 - i. Quarterly lunch meeting August 6
 - There is a large turnover of the Water Board (about three members) that may be significant depending on who they're replaced with.
 - ii. Water Resilience Portfolio
 - iii. SWRCB Fee Hearing—September 18
 - Discussion is around 15 percent lower fees- Direction from the State for board to work with RRWA for new program.
- b. River and creeks stewardship
 - i. Cleanup event sponsorships
 - Andy (RRWA) noted a recent meeting with Daily Acts to find out what kinds of items can RRWA collaborate on to maximize sponsorship.
 - ii. Sonoma Magazine

- Andy was interviewed for an article to be printed in Sonoma Magazine. RRWA will receive two print copies.
 - iii. Trash bin support program
 - iv. Sharps and needle collection guidance
 - Maureen (Ukiah)- Highlighted the need to have age appropriate talking points for sharps cleanups.
- c. Project Updates
 - i. Student Video Contest
 - Tag line: “Know Where the Water Goes”
 - ii. Streets to Creeks
 - Content continues to have strong performance. Average time on website increased in September. Over 1.4 million unique visitors engaged. Over 7 million Impressions from website, Google display Ads, local radio, Pandora, Press Democrat Ads, Outdoor Advertising, and Social media
 - iii. Children’s Placemat
 - Second round of printing ordered.
 - New partner Healdsburg Bar & Grill
 - 8,100 placemats distributed to date
 - Partners: Bear Republic (2), Russian River Brewery (2), Healdsburg Bar and Grill, Acme Burger, and Wing Man
 - iv. Environmental Column
 - Nick (Santa Rosa) mentioned that the December article was written by Forest Frasier before he retired. The topic is “Parting Wisdom: Perspective and Guidance from a Seasoned Storm Water Inspector.
- d. Dry Creek Rancheria Russian River watershed collaborative effort
 - Andy directed the board to their packets to view the support letter RRWA submitted for the Russian River Watershed Collaborative Effort (RRWCE) Project and Grant Application to the DWR Urban Streams Restoration Program
- e. Prop 1 Draft Guidelines
 - RRWA comment letter submitted focused on inconsistencies between guidelines and scoring criteria.

G. Regional Updates

- a. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)
 - i. Steering Committee Meeting #8
 - R3MP Website is live: <https://sites.google.com/sfei.org/r3mp>
- b. Russian River Confluence
 - Melanie Bagby, board chair for the RRWA and mayor of Cloverdale, authored a Close to Home article, Keeping Streams Safe and Clean, featured in the Press Democrat.
 - Adriane is working with Chris Brokate to organize another cleanup, since Geyserville didn’t have one scheduled for October 4th in the morning. She was also appointed to the state peer review committee for Fisheries restoration grant program (Advisory group to Cal Fish Wildlife).
- c. Russian River Pathogen TMDL
 - i. Comment Letter
 - RRWA comment letter submitted to RWQCB June 2019.

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- RRWA received responses to comments from RWQCB.
- ii. Hearing—August 14
 - RWQCB approved TMDL.
- d. North Coast Resource Partnership
 - Grant round coming up.
 - 2019 Water Summit, October 30, Sacramento.

H. Legislative updates

- a. HR 1764
 - To amend Section 402(b)(1)(B) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to allow fixed permit terms to not exceed 10 years (instead of 5) for a permit issued to a State or municipality.
 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
 - RRWA is tracking and expressing support.
- b. SB1383
 - Zero Waste Sonoma taking lead in tracking. RRWA to possibly collaborate on letters.

I. Items of Interest

- a. Potter Valley Project update
 - There was a recent upper Russian river manager meeting recently where they recently selected a consulting team.
 - Next meeting is early December to go over draft work plan.

J. Public Comment

- None

K. Adjourn

- Adjourned at 11:01 am

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