



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 24, 2020 at 9:00 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

***MINUTES***

**Directors and Alternates Present**

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Melanie Bagby, Chair | City of Cloverdale |
| Evelyn Mitchell      | City of Healdsburg |
| Neysa Hinton         | City of Sebastopol |
| Adriane Garayalde    | County of Sonoma   |
| Ann DuBay            | Sonoma Water       |
| Sam Salmon           | Town of Windsor    |

Directors present represented six of the eleven RRWA member agencies and did not constitute a quorum.

**Additional Attendees**

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Andy Rodgers     | RRWA Executive Director |
| Vanessa Apodaca  | RRWA Staff              |
| Sabrina Marson   | RRWA Staff              |
| Matt St. John    | NCRWQCB                 |
| Nate Pelczar     | CPSC                    |
| Anne Morkill     | Laguna De Santa Rosa    |
| Ryan Pedrotti    | Sonoma Water            |
| Courtney Scott   | Sonoma County           |
| Oriana Hart      | Sonoma County           |
| Nick Bennett     | City of Rohnert Park    |
| Sean McNeil      | City of Santa Rosa      |
| Chuck Striplin   | NCRWQCB                 |
| Susan Warner     | Conservation Works      |
| Colleen Hunt     | Stone Creek Consulting  |
| Elizabeth Cargay | Town of Windsor         |

- 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: July 23 Board of Directors Meeting—Motion to approve the February minutes could not be made due to lack of quorum.

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 Presentation:** Principal Program Specialist for Sonoma Water, Ryan Pedrotti – Sonoma Water’s Water Education Program

- a. Water Education Program: A comprehensive regional program designed to help educators and students learn the value of resource conservation with a goal for students to become environmental stewards, make informed decisions, and examine the world through an inquisitive, scientific lens. This program offers free water and energy education to students through kindergarten up to middle and high school and is a partnership between Sonoma Water, Sonoma Clean Power, RRWA, and the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership.

Currently trying to develop asynchronous content (premade lessons that students can access at any time) to accommodate virtual learning due to COVID. Program currently has 5-6 asynchronous lessons that can be accessed and 5-6 synchronous lessons that require a live zoom meeting or live chat. Goal is 10-15 lessons for each.

Fifth Grade Russian River Synchronous Lessons – Where our water comes from, exploring the Watershed, water quality for endangered species, and how students can make a difference.

Secondary Asynchronous and Synchronous Lessons – Climate change and fire risk, fire impacts on water quality in the Watershed, and career opportunities in the water and science fields.

Contests – RRWA High School Video Contest TBD, Water Awareness Poster Contest

Other Programs – ZunZun Musical Watershed Assembly zoom lessons and live performances and free classroom materials (30,000 individual items to 150 classrooms). Maps, pencils, workbooks, etc.

**Action:**

Reach out to school districts and spread the word about the program. Let them know of available lessons and free materials.

**Action:**

Sean (Santa Rosa) to forward Streets to Creeks info on where cleanup bags should be distributed, procedure to follow to Neysa (Sebastopol). Neysa to distribute to Laguna Foundation and Zero Waste Sonoma.

**E. September 8 TWG Meeting Updates**

- a. Summary of September 8 TWG Meeting – FY 19/20 roll back calculations were provided to individual member agencies, Stormwater Activities Table has been completed, Detailed Summary of Accomplishments and Project Tasks provided in Board packet from last meeting, RRWA staff is on standby to support co-permittee meeting (RRWA not facilitating meeting), R3MP Phase II started, Public Effectiveness Assessment update in progress, LID training scope and schedule training to be handled by co-permittees (Dec 2 from 9am to noon), MRP report preparation in progress, RRWA currently filling restaurant requests for more Jr. Member Guides, and Streets to Creeks phase II launched Aug 17

**Action:** RRWA to recommend budget saving measures as it relates to SIP at the December 17 BOD meeting.

- b. TWG Subcommittee comments on the TWG Roles and Responsibilities Document – TWG has submitted comments/revisions to the approved document. RRWA staff requesting direction with how to proceed.

**Action:**

Board to examine and consider comments at December 17 meeting.

**F. Board of Directors Business/Program Updates**

- a. 2021/22 Work Plan Development

- i. Structure – 50% Executive Director Services, 50% General Benefits by operating budget. Special Benefits calibrated based on opted in members.
- ii. Current Objectives – RRWA to form Work Plan subcommittee to assist working closer with TWG between meetings, implement/explore cost saving measures (reducing meeting numbers and identifying essential tasks) and explore new funding sources, improve virtual communications and services, add new members, and work to differential tasks (MS4 permits and other programs).

**Action:**

ED to reach out to Neysa (Sebastopol) to schedule individual meeting and discuss opt in projects and Sebastopol's options as a member.

**Action:**

ED to explore resources to provide to members regarding wildland fire recovery and wildfire effects on watershed he

- b. Membership – Rohnert Park has submitted notice of resignation effective November 16, 2020. RRWA has prepared clarifications and responses to City Council meeting staff report. RRWA fully respects Rohnert Park's decision to opt out of this voluntary Association and recognizes the many projects that Rohnert Park has helped make possible as part of their contribution to RRWA. Per MOU, refund is not due to Rohnert Park for FY 20/21 and RRWA will maintain open communication with City staff.

Matt (NCRWQCB) expressed his support for RRWA as well as the importance of RRWA's collaborative efforts on a whole watershed scale.

- c. Program Effectiveness Assessment – Final report anticipated by end of September for the 10 co-permittees. Online survey includes questions about stormwater related behaviors and knowledge.
  - i. Results – 972 total participants with 46% interacting with agency programming. There was an increased awareness of stormwater knowledge and a high willingness to protect the Watershed. High interaction with environmental articles.
- d. Creek Week (September 21-28) – Many activities available throughout the Watershed on RRWA's Creek Week web page.

- e. Streets to Creeks Update – Barrel bags were distributed to co-permittees (350 total). Santa Rosa provided RRWA with contacts for distribution. Check with local public works department and reach out to Vanessa (RRWA) if they cannot be found. Co-permittees can follow QR code on bag for more information or reference the Coastal Cleanup checklist.

**Action:**

RRWA to coordinate barrel bag distribution to Mendocino County and be more communitive regarding bag distribution and how to implement the program.

- f. Rising WATERS – September 9 workshop regarding water quality homelessness nexus and September 15 CASQA presentation were successful. Summary report due to attendees by October 1 with information related to identifying sources of contaminants from homelessness, reducing these point sources, and identifying resources needed to do so.
- g. Student Video Contest – May 2021 awards. Contest theme open until April 2021, tagline: “Know Where the Water Goes.” Flyers distributed and Sonoma Water Website updated with contest information. Awards ceremony plans TBD based on future COVID restrictions.
- h. Safe Medicine Disposal Program – Grant received from DHCS as part of the Drug Take-Back Program. RRWA web map shows locations for envelope distribution locations, local/state funded locations, and DHCS locations. FDA has recently updated their recommendations for meds disposal to place preference on utilizing safe meds disposal programs rather than flushing or throwing away.
- i. Our Water Our World – Retailers are still faced with pandemic challenges and programs are currently transitioning to online webinars. OWOW IPM fall and winter pest webinar planned for October and is seeking promotion from members. Neysa (Sebastopol) is inquiring about cost (should be less now that it has moved to be virtual) and dates to properly gauge promotion efforts.

**Action:**

Keep members updated on changes to cost, cost saving measures, and rollback amounts. Make sure Sebastopol Hardware and Harmony Farms is on the list of education program locations.

- j. Russian River Friendly Landscaping – Biennial virtual event in February 2021 with a theme of Rehydrating the Russian River Watershed. Guest speaker is Didi Pershouse. Next subcommittee meeting October 8 and presentation on RRFL/Storm water program nexus to TWG on October 13.

**G. Regional Advocacy** - RRWA participated in coordination call with RCDs, Permit Sonoma, Sonoma Water, SEC, and Laguna Foundation regarding the CA Department of Conservation's Watershed Coordinator Program (due 9/15). \$100,000/year for 3 years.

- a. RRWA/RWQCB – Quarterly meeting September 30 with an emphasis on moving the MS4 permit fee reduction incentive program. Reach out to RRWA with questions to engage with the water board on.

- b. NBWA Collaborations – Potential collaboration opportunities provided by presentations/workshops/meetings, conferences, information sharing, outreach, advocacy, training, and grant funding.
- c. R3MP Phase II started – Steering committee meeting TBD to establish a TAC, assess management questions, and investigate the possible forms that R3MP could take in the future.
- d. Russian River Confluence – September 20 river cleanup in coordination with the Clean Team, currently working on a new Russian River initiative with Supervisor Gore and Hopkins, and more to come as planning has been on hold due to wildfires.
- e. NCRP Update – Upcoming water planning workshops

**H. Legislative Updates**

- a. AB 1672 (single-use wipes) died in Senate Appropriations

**I. Items of Interest**

- a. Social media metrics is improving, and outreach is expanding. RRWA is requesting members to share RRWA material on Facebook and Instagram.

**J. Public Comment—None**

**K. Adjourn**

**RRWA Calendar Summary:**

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at Windsor Town Council Chambers,  
 9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, California 95492

| <b>Upcoming TWG Meetings<br/>10:30 am – 12:30 pm</b>  | <b>Upcoming Board of Directors meetings<br/>9:00 am – 11:00 am</b> |
|---|--|
| October 13, 2020<br>November 10, 2020<br>December 8, 2020<br>February 9, 2021<br>April 13, 2021<br>June 8, 2021   | December 17, 2020<br>February 25, 2021<br>May 27, 2021             |
| <b>Environmental Columns</b>  |  |
| August – Thank you, Colleen Hunt with Stone Creek Environmental Consulting, LLC on behalf of Sebastopol—Car Washing: Clean Car - Clean Environment<br>September – Thank you, Jon Caldwell, PE, Civil Engineer, of the City of Cotati Public Works Department, and Colleen Hunt, Stone Creek Environmental Consulting, LLC—Creek Week – Ways to Get Involved with Protecting Our Creeks<br>October – Jarod Thiele, Management Analyst for the City of Ukiah Department of Public Works and Department of Water Resources—Fun Facts: Street Sweepers<br>November – Healdsburg, F.O.G.<br>December – Santa Rosa, TBD<br>January – County of Mendocino, TBD<br>February – Rohnert Park, TBD |  |
| <b>Important Dates</b>  |  |
| Creek Week – September 21-28, 2020  |  |

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