



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 28, 2021 at 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

PENDING PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION ITEM B ON THE AGENDA, THIS MEETING WILL BE
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA REMOTE CONFERENCING SERVICE —
NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84022559777?pwd=MmY3NkxOZFRzS05wTGt4cXg0eG1Vdz09>

Meeting ID: 840 2255 9777

Passcode: 014257

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcCRZ1GOQo>

MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Introductions

Directors and Alternates Present

Maureen Mulheren, Chair	County of Mendocino
Neysa Hinton, Vice Chair	City of Sebastopol
Ozzy Jimenez	City of Healdsburg
Ben Ford	City of Cotati
Gus Wolter	City of Cloverdale
Marta Cruz-Concepción	City of Cloverdale
Eddie Alvarez	City of Santa Rosa
Adriane Garayalde	County of Sonoma
Ted Williams	County of Mendocino

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

Additional Attendees

Andy Rodgers	RRWA Executive Director
Vanessa Apodaca	RRWA Staff
Clint McKay	Dry Creek Pomo and Pepperwood's Native Advisory Council
Lauren Lum	Sonoma Water
Chris Cone	Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority
Cristina Goulart	Town of Windsor
Michael Harrigan	Mendocino County Water Agency
Clair Myers	City of Santa Rosa
Sean McNeil	City of Santa Rosa
Elise Weiland	Confluence
Courtney Scott	Zero Waste Sonoma
Beth Salomone	Russian River Flood Control District
Paul Sagues	Public – XIO in San Rafael

Meeting called to order by Chair Mulheren at 9:03. Roll call was taken.

B. Consider Emergency Resolution for meeting virtually

Director Ford motioned to approve. Director Williams seconded. None opposed.
Motion passed.

C. Approval of the Agenda—Agenda was adjusted to add a Confluence item. Agenda was approved with 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. Approval of Standing Items

- a. Minutes: July 22 Board of Directors Meeting—Director Ford moved. Director Cruz seconded. Motion to approve the July minutes were approved.

E. Guest Presentation: Pomo Basketry and Caring for our Watershed Communities:
Clint McKay, Dry Creek Pomo and Pepperwood's Native Advisory Council Chair

Clint provided an overview of what water means to his tribe's culture and tradition. Dry Creek Rancheria crosses the Russian River in two places, Geyserville and Healdsburg. In addition to drinking, water is important for basketry plants and materials that are traditional for his tribe.

Lake Sonoma has covered up many original tribe village locations and gathering locations for basketry. The Army Corps worked with a native advisor to relocate many basketry materials and plants; however, this was not as successful as originally thought. Without the quality of materials, his people cannot continue the traditions his people are known for. The quality of the watershed is extremely instrumental to his peoples' culture, traditions, and identity. They are involved in restoration for salmon and basketry and medicinal plants along Dry Creek.

Clint expressed interest in coming back for a more in-depth presentation and to identify ways his tribe and the RRWA can collaborate in the future.

Director Cruz-Concepción: The Cloverdale History Museum includes an exhibit of Pomo baskets and she encouraged members to visit. Their city also recently approved a Dry Creek Rancheria housing project for elders.

Clint: He thanked Cloverdale on behalf of his people and noted a basketry exhibit was also taking place in the Healdsburg Museum. He also expressed gratitude to Healdsburg for a land acknowledgement and recognition of Native Americans Day.

Andy will keep in communications with Clint on collaboration or possible membership.

F. Guest Presentations: Water Conditions and Conservation Program Updates

- a. Lauren Lum, Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership
- b. Chris Cone, Program Manager, BayREN Water Upgrades \$ave, Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority

Lauren provided an update on current water supply levels for Lake Sonoma (43.1% water supply capacity) and Lake Mendocino (21.9% water supply capacity). The recent atmospheric river filled the reservoirs, but we need 25 inches of rainfall to be out of this drought. Sonoma.onerain.com is a great resource to keep up with rain totals.

Lauren also provided an overview of the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership. The partnership is 13 water utilities in Sonoma and Marin Counties collaborating to provide regional solutions for water use efficiency. One of their original goals was to reduce water use by 20% by 2020; they exceeded it by 2015. Their current goal is 129 gallons per person per day; they are currently meeting that goal and tracking the behavior over time. QWEL, Garden Sense, Water Smart Plant are some of their programs. Visit www.savingwaterpartnership.org for additional information and for water saving tools and resources. Outdoor irrigation is where they are seeing the biggest drop in water use.

Director Cruz-Concepción: Are there resources that can be provided to businesses?

Lum: Yes, there are quick sheet guides that can help guide them on reducing water use. Lauren will send the resources out.

Director Jimenez: Mentioned that his city (Healdsburg), when looking at their water usage, single family homes and outdoor irrigation was close to 70%. The biggest area they are focused on is single family homes water use reduction.

Chris presented on BayREN Water Upgrades \$ave- a regional water efficiency program for the Bay Area. Collaboration of the nine bay area counties and the Association of Bay Area Governments. Runs 6 efficiency programs, including single & multifamily homes, commercial, green labeling, codes and standards, and water. Designed to complement existing programs and expand customer participation. The program is a tariff on-bill program, not a consumer loan or rebate. The Program installs water-saving improvements that the customer pays for with the utility rate savings on their water bill. The Program allows utilities to invest in and manage customer demand without adding staff or raising capital. Serves property owners and renters.

City of Sebastopol launched customer services in late May:

- Installed projects: 33 single family indoor
- Annual water savings: 153,981 gallons
- Multifamily projects: Three properties in the pipeline (234 units)
- Water conservation and drought are the overwhelming motivation

City of Cloverdale

- City Council approved joining on August 11
- Preparing for program launch now

Chris provided an overview of utility enrollment steps. To see their video and download the utility brief, visit: bayren.org/utilitypartners

G. September 13 TWG Meeting Updates

- a. Low Impact Development Training—The draft flyers for the December 1 training were included in the packet. RRWA will help distribute hard copies and do social media outreach.
- b. Streets to Creeks Campaign— September 27 to January 2022
Neighbor to Neighbor awareness campaigns are available for community participation at www.streetstocreeks.org/neighbor-to-neighbor
Spanish URL is live www.es.streetstocreeks.org
- c. Year-end rollback calculations
FY 2020/21 total funds expended: \$635,613
Included Drought Campaign Reallocation: ~\$16k
Included UCSB Pathogen Work Plan: ~ \$25k
Funds remaining for rollback: \$40,349

H. Board of Directors Business

- a. Election of RRWA 2022 Officers—Chair Mulheren expressed interest in continuing to serve and opened the floor for any interest in nominating others who are interested. Director Hinton nominated Chair Mulheren. Director Williams seconded. No other nominations presented. None opposed.
Vice Chair Hinton is interested in continued service. Director Cruz nominated Vice Chair Hinton. Director Alvarez seconded. None opposed.

- b. 2021/2022 Meetings Calendar
 - February 24, 2022
 - May 26, 2022

I. Board of Directors Business - Program Updates

- a. 2022/2023 Work Plan development

Upcoming timeline

- November 9: TWG review draft budget
- November 30: Operating budgets due to RRWA staff
- December (TBD): Subcommittee review
- January 11: TWG review final WP
- **January & February: ED meets with individual members (optional)**
- February 10: TWG review progress draft (via email)
- **February 24: BOD considers approval**

Vanessa provided an overview of the three sections of the workplan: Executive Director Services, General [Benefit] Projects, and Special Benefit Projects.

Director Hinton asked if there are efforts to bring Rohnert Park back to RRWA. She suggested a presentation to their City Council.

Andy has been in touch with Rohnert Park staff. He asked the Board to reach out to him to assist with any activities related to this effort.

Director Cruz-Concepción: (in the chat) Rohnert Park has requested more financial information and benefits to the city.

Action: The board requested that RRWA staff reach out to Rohnert Park to get on an agenda and to create a presentation for the Chair and Vice-Chair to present to Council.

- b. Key projects updates

- i. Stormwater activities table—Included in packet

- ii. Creek Week metrics

Ukiah Valley Russian River Cleanup sponsorship of \$250

- 80 volunteers who cleaned 15 locations
- Over 2,475 pounds collected (does not include the materials collected in Redwood Valley)

Riverkeeper cleanup sponsorship of \$1,500

- Over 350 volunteers
- 12,000 pounds of trash collected

Town of Windsor

- 20 total volunteers
- 35 bags of trash collected
- 20 grocery carts collected in the creek next to Raley's
- 2 needles

Ukiah Valley Russian River Cleanup sponsorship of \$250 (Thank you letter included in meeting packet)

Director Cruz-Concepción will connect with Director Garayalde for Cloverdale participation and increasing participation in future events.

- iii. Programs

1. OWOW—Amazing support from a retail partner Prickett's! They advertised a webinar that was scheduled with City of Santa Rosa, as well as the OWOW & UC IPM websites! QR Codes in stores

2. Safe Meds
 - a) DEA Take-Back October 23—Metrics not released yet.
3. RRFL/Carbon Gardening—The RRFL Subcommittee is working with Daily Acts on developing a tool kit for creating a carbon garden. The story board will come soon. This topic will also be a topic for a future RRWA Environmental Article.
4. Children's placemats—11 new partners added in Healdsburg, Cloverdale, and Sebastopol. Two completed placemats have been sent back for badges.

ACTION: RRWA staff to connect with Director Garayalde. She mentioned there is a new coffee shop in Geyserville and a couple of restaurants she would like to reach out to. Email ojimenez@healdsburg.gov information to forward to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

- iv. Environmental Articles
Director Cruz-Concepción. Cloverdale Connect is a great resource. She will follow up with staff with information.
- v. Comment/Support Letters
 1. Comment Letter MED Project Drugs
 2. Comment Letter MED Project Sharps
 3. Comment Letter for Order R1-2021-0041
 4. Support Letter for WPPES Act (HR4602)
 5. Support Letter for State Parks OEP grant
- c. BOD 2021-22 meeting schedule
 - i. February 24, 2022
 - ii. May 26, 2022

J. Regional Advocacy and Initiatives updates

Elise Weiland provided a brief presentation on the Russian River Confluence. Strategic Priorities were developed, and the Confluence will focus on water quality as a primary lens towards overall watershed health and long-term climate change resilience. Top tier priorities include watershed protection and restoration, establish effective communications across the watershed, infrastructure, and resource development.

- a. Drought Campaign
 - i. Drought Drop By event— August 21 Drought Drop-By event update 3,333 Kits distributed. Sonoma Water and its Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership hosted an event on October 9.
 - ii. August 19 RWQCB honorable mention
- b. RRWA/RWQCB
 - i. September 7 quarterly meeting
 - Long term R3MP funding strategies
 - RR Confluence
 - Supervisor Hopkins office facilitating watershed-wide branding initiative. Committee includes Water Board, both counties, Conservation Works, and volunteers.
 - LID vegetation needs to be maintained during curtailment orders
 - ii. Next quarterly meeting – November/December
 - iii. RRWA presentation on October 7 RWQCB meeting—Andy and RRWA Vice Chair presented. SSU presented Rising WATERS

- c. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)
 - October 13 - Technical Advisory and Steering Committee Presentations
 - RWQCB and Permit Sonoma/Sonoma Ecology Center
 - October 21 – US EPA Notice of Grant Selection!
 - R3MP Comprehensive base map of Surface Waters and Riparian Areas
 - November 3 - Steering Committee Meeting
 - Discuss grant selection and consideration of Russian River Confluence coordination
- d. SSU Rising WATERS
 - i. Rising Waters: Water Quality & Homelessness, Results & Implementation Workshop, September 24, 2021 <https://youtu.be/tEmcVgbNBOU>
- e. North Coast Resources Partnership

K. Items of Interest

- a. Summary of Board of Directors Action Items
- b. Grant opportunities
California Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation Funding

L. Public Comment

Courtney Scott from Zero Waste Sonoma- Receives a used motor oil grant from Cal Recycle every year. They are able to provide storm drain decals and adhesives to their Sonoma County jurisdiction. Anyone interested can contact her directly at Courtney.Scott@sonoma-county.org. The grant funding has been cut in half and this may be the last opportunity for them to provide the decals.

Beth Salomone provided an update on the Eel River transfers to the Potter Valley project. The power bank has been turned off due to low flows from the drought; power generation was curtailed. In inspecting the generation bank before turning back on, it was discovered that the bank needs to be completely rebuilt. It will cost \$5-10 mill and take 18-24 months if they decide to do it. They are already down about half of what they normally expect from the Eel River transfers. PG& E is looking into their Water Right and whether they can legally send the water. If the water is only for power generation, they may not legally be able to. There isn't a state exemption. If they are allowed to continue transfers, they are looking into their obligations to do so. There are discussions going on with both watersheds for an agreed upon transfer recommendation.

Feel free to reach out to Beth with any questions. DistrictManager@rrfc.net

M. Adjourn at 11:00

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
November 9, 2021 January 11, 2022 March 8, 2022 May 10, 2022	February 24, 2022 May 26, 2022
Environmental Columns	
August – Thank you, RRWA Safe Medicine Disposal Subcommittee - Operations Group— Safe Medicine Disposal Program Update September – Thank you, Colleen Hunt, for the City of Cotati—Creek Week 2021 – Ways to Get Involved with Protecting Our Creeks September Bonus – Thank you, Suzanne Bontempo of Plant Harmony and program manager of Our Water Our World—Enjoy pollinators in your garden, Avoid Neonics October – Thank you, Andrew Stricklin, Associate Engineer, City of Ukiah Public Works—The Bioretention Geek November – City of Healdsburg, Make a Move to Native and Drought Tolerant Plantings December – City of Santa Rosa, If a Creek Could Talk	
Important Dates	