



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING  
April 11, 2023 at 10:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91806438004?pwd=VDhtdFA5LzR6eFU0NVNZeTRHRDFrZz09>

Meeting ID: 918 0643 8004

Meeting Password: 114544

**SUMMARY NOTES**

**1. Greetings and Introductions**

Robert Spagnola – City of Cloverdale  
Curt Bates – City of Healdsburg  
Michael Harrigan – City of Healdsburg  
Claire Myers – City of Santa Rosa  
Nick Sudano – City of Santa Rosa  
Elissa Overton – City of Sebastopol  
Andrew Stricklin – City of Ukiah  
Andrea Rodriguez – Sonoma Water  
Bill Dixon – Sonoma Water  
Courtney Scott – County of Sonoma  
Alisa Keenan – County of Sonoma  
Amber Fisette – County of Mendocino

Elizabeth Cargay – Town of Windsor  
Veronica Siwy – Town of Windsor  
Adrienne Garayalde – RR Confluence  
Vanessa Apodaca – RRWA  
Andy Rodgers – RRWA  
Colleen Hunt – Public  
Chris Halle – SSU  
Kerry Winger – SSU  
Kristen Sales – Zero Waste  
Jackie Guilford - SSU  
Claudia Mayo - SSU

- Review Agenda  
Meeting called to order at 10:30 am

**2. Guest Presentation: Zero Waste**

Kristen (Zero Waste) provided an overview of Oil Payment Program (OPP). A grant that Zero Waste applies on behalf of all the jurisdictions of Sonoma County. The noncompetitive grant funds are used to implement programs for used oil and oil recycling. Part of the efforts overlap with stormwater as is related to used oil. Some activities by members may be reimbursable by this grant. They have also purchased storm drain labels using grant funds. There is also an opportunity to purchase litter pickers using grant funds from Cal Recycle—they must be purchased through Sonoma County.

Kristen will connect directly with Nick (Santa Rosa) and Elizabeth (Windsor) regarding ordering litter pickers.  
Contact Kristen for more information [kristen.sales@sonoma-county.org](mailto:kristen.sales@sonoma-county.org).

**3. Guest Presentation: Rising Waters Overview, With Special Emphasis on Water Quality Sampling, Dr. Christopher Halle, Sonoma State University Center for Environmental Inquiry**

Dr. Chris Halle and Kerry Winger presented on the history, current status, and future plans for Rising WATERS—an initiative between SSU, Sonoma Water, The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and RRWA to engage students and faculty to tackle water related sustainability and resiliency challenges of the North Bay. For questions, contact [winingek@sonoma.edu](mailto:winingek@sonoma.edu)

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.

The presentation in PDF format can be viewed at  
<https://www.rrwatershed.org/event/technical-working-group-meeting-50/>

Jackie Guilford, faculty at SSU, and Claudia Mayo (SSU student) presented on their Rising WATERS project: Analysis of Water Quality Near Homeless Encampments along Santa Rosa Creek and Russel Creek.

Questions:

Colleen (Public): What is the long-term plan for publicizing your findings [from Rising WATERS in general]?

Kerry-Executive Summaries are available and there is a website. All the products (mentioned by projects) are available as well.

To see recordings of past Rising WATERS student/faculty presentations, type "rising waters" into the search bar at this website:

<https://cei.sonoma.edu/calendar/past>

#### 4. Technical Working Group Business

- Standing items:
  - Board summary from February
    - Chair and Vice Chair Election
      - i. Maureen Mulheren, Mendocino (Chair)
      - ii. Ben Ford, Cotati (Vice Chair)
    - RRWA work plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 approved
    - Direction to explore potential for hybrid meetings
  - Co-Permittee updates
    - The Water Board is planning to release a draft Permit in Oct for Public review with adoption in February 2024.
    - Trash Subcommittee is discussing trash ordinances for businesses. They may need RRWA to assist in this effort—particularly gathering successes from other municipalities that the North Bay can learn from.
- 22/23 work plan close out
  - Earth Day events—Information on local events was shared and can be viewed at [www.rrwatershed.org/earth-day-2023-list-of-events](http://www.rrwatershed.org/earth-day-2023-list-of-events)
  - Drought transition
  - Streets to Creeks materials orders
    - Colleen mentioned the co-permittees would like to place one more order and she will reach out to Vanessa.
    - Elizabeth is hoping to put in the LID signs (that Windsor/RRWA developed) in an upcoming order. She will reach out to Vanessa directly.
  - High school video contest awards
  - Year-end budget projections
    - Approximately \$70K anticipated Rollbacks
- Trash Capture
  - RRWA staff to reach out to municipalities and provide report on successes, failures, & takeaways
- CA Green Business Network certification criteria
  - Trash prevention in non-residential parking lots

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- Letter to CASQA  
 Elizabeth (Windsor) asked that this be put on hold until she talks with someone on CASQA's trash subcommittee.
- Environmental Article sign-up & topics

FY 2023-24 Agency Author List			
Month	Agency	Draft Due to RRWA	Topic
June	Guest/ RRWA staff	April 30	TBD - RRFL
July	Sebastopol	May 31	TBD
August	County of Sonoma	June 30	TBD
September	Cotati	July 31	TBD
October	Ukiah	August 31	TBD
November	Healdsburg	September 30	TBD
December	Santa Rosa	October 31	TBD
January	County of Mendocino	November 17	TBD
February	Town of Windsor	December 15	TBD
March	Sonoma Water	January 31	TBD
April	Guest/ RRWA staff	February 29	TBD
May	Cloverdale	March 31	TBD

RRWA reported on the English and Spanish publications receiving RRWA Environmental Articles and provided examples of estimated circulation data.

Sebastopol cut their budgets and may not be able to participate. Elissa (Sebastopol) will get back to RRWA regarding their July article.

- Preparations for 23/24 work plan
  - RRWA's 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary
  - Meeting venue(s)—New \$120 charge for the Windsor room rental. Colleen asked if there was an alternative place. Elissa will look into alternatives. Andy will wait for TWG members' direction on alternate venues.
  - Tabling materials
  - Funding opportunities

## 5. Informational Updates

- Storm Drain labels, Zero Waste Sonoma— Storm Drain labels and Oil Payment Program
- Steelhead Festival (February 11)— Thousands of festival attendees; Andrea (Sonoma Water mentioned about 10,000 participants) Next festival date: February 10, 2024
- RRFL
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Event 2023 – The Garden Sink (February 7)
    - First in-person event since 2019!
    - Event “sold out” at 110 participants
    - Presentations and resources available at <http://www.rrwatershed.org/resource-library/#pastevents>
    - 23 responses to post event survey
  - Carbon Gardening

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- Metrics
  - i. 2,542 views of English videos – *YouTube & Webpage*
  - ii. 264 views of Spanish videos – *YouTube & Webpage*
  - iii. 4,141 views of English and Spanish videos – *Instagram*
  - iv. 4,786 views of English and Spanish videos - *Facebook*
  - v. 11,985 views of 10 carbon gardening stories about carbon gardening in practice – *Facebook & Instagram*

English and Spanish available at  
[www.rwatershed.org/project/rflg](http://www.rwatershed.org/project/rflg) or  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCf72jccZ89rD-TSbhk8Ujig](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf72jccZ89rD-TSbhk8Ujig)

- Student Video Contest
    - Tentative Award Ceremony date:
    - Thursday, May 11th
    - Advanced Energy Center
    - The prompt this year:
      - How has the drought impacted you or your community?
      - How can we be more resilient to drought?
  - CASQA
    - Virtual webcast (April 6)
    - Phase II Updates
      - Permit reissuance release of partial documents for late spring 2023.
      - Release of informal draft planned for September 2023, formal draft next spring and approval consideration Fall 2024.
    - Legislative Subcommittee
    - OWOW
- CASQA Conference – San Diego, September 11-13, Registration by mid-April
- Support letters—A copy of the following letters are included in the meeting packet:
    - Support for the Town of Windsor’s Multi-Feasibility Study to the BOR (February 21, 2023)
    - Support for the City of Cloverdale’s Recycled Water Planning Program (February 27, 2023)
    - AB 1567 - Request for Increase of IRWM Funding to \$500 Million in AB 1567 (March 13, 2023)
    - CASQA and the California Stormwater Community Response: Governor’s Proposed 23-24’ Budget & Climate Resilience Bond (March 17, 2023)
    - Sonoma State University application for Climate Action Grant Program (March 27, 2023)
  - Placemats
    - New locations in Santa Rosa and Sebastopol:
      - Sam's For Play Cafe & Catering (1024 Sebastopol Rd)
      - Piner Café (975 Piner Rd)
      - Papas and Pollo (915 Gravenstein Ave)
    - 43 locations within the watershed!
  - Outreach resources
    - Cloverdale Citrus Fair—February 17-20
    - Healdsburg’s 1st Climate Fest

Vanessa reported that the RRWA outreach bin is available to any members to table their own events (RRWA staff doesn't need to be there)

- RWQCB quarterly lunch (April 4)
  - Welcome, Valerie Minton Quinto!
  - Phase 1 MS4 Permit
  - Pathogen TMDLs—Next step is basin plan approval.
  - Laguna TMDLs—finally completed their analysis on biostimulator conditions
  - Triannual Review Process—Formal review of water quality regulations in the basin plan is in the works.
- Executive Programs and Initiatives Committee (EPIC)—May 9

**6. Items of Interest**

- 2023 Association of California Water Agencies Spring Conference—May 9-11

**7. Public Comment**

**8. Adjourn—12:15 pm**

Next meetings

BOD May 25, 2023 (tentative in-person)

TWG July 11, 2023

**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
	May 25, 2023 (tentative in-person)
Environmental Columns	
February – Thank you, Zero Waste Sonoma and County of Sonoma Department of Health Services— New Year Brings New Opportunities for Safe Medicine Disposal	
March – Thank you, Lauren Lum, Sonoma Water— Get Ready to Chase Down Sneaky Leaks!	
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 – Guest Author / RRWA staff – TBD	
July – TBD	
Important Dates	
Saturday, April 22, 2023—Earth Day	
Saturday, April 22, 2023—National Prescription Drug Take Back Day	
Thursday, May 11, 2023—Tentative date for Student Video Contest Awards Ceremony (Advanced Energy Center)	