



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING
July 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
Michael Harrigan – City of Healdsburg
Nick Sudano – City of Santa Rosa
Elissa Overton – City of Sebastopol
Seth Strader – City of Ukiah
Andrea Rodriguez – Sonoma Water
Bill Dixon – Sonoma Water

Alisa Keenan – County of Sonoma
Amber Fisette – County of Mendocino
Elizabeth Cargay – Town of Windsor
Vanessa Apodaca – RRWA
Andy Rodgers – RRWA
Scott Sanders – Rohnert Park
Kristen Sales – Zero Waste

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

2. Technical Working Group Business

- Standing items:
 - Board summary from February
 - Andy shared images and information from the Board meeting, including RRWA's 20th Anniversary celebration, and Guest Presentations:
 - Laguna de Santa Rosa Overview
 - Upper Russian River watershed & PVP overview
 - 2023 High School Video contest awards and 2024 theme discussion
 - Co-Permittee updates—No updates were provided
 - Trash Capture— Handout was provided for this item: Trash Capture Ordinance Memo. Staff made a concerted effort to get representation from each of the nine Regional Water Board regions. Highlights include:
 - State-wide information search
 - 18 agencies were investigated
 - 7 successful contacts with stormwater agency staff, including the State Water Resources Control Board
 - Example ordinances specific to trash capture were not identified

Elizabeth (Windsor) asked for more information on the outcome. What did they say was working or not working? Are any municipalities requiring business to do their own trash capture? Is RRWA still making efforts to reach out to those that haven't responded?

Vanessa: Nothing has evolved enough to say whether it's working or not. Without specific ordinances there can be trouble with enforcement. Many expressed the costs of trash capture devices and how expensive they are to design, site scope, install, and maintain. Public perception was also a challenge (public inclined to litter if it will be captured). A couple of municipalities put business responsibility in the development review process as encouraged but

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not required (Gas stations, bus stops, and restaurants). The efforts ended with the creation and finalization of the memo. If member staff directs RRWA to continue, they will pursue more information. No direction was received during the meeting, but Members can send comment at any time.

- Project management
 - SharePoint— Email cleanwater@rrwatershed.org for instructions on how to access Member site. RRWA 2023/24 Work Plan, text and budget, can be accessed through the portal.
 - Distribution lists— Handout was provided for this item listing member staff. Edits can be made directly by members using the Member SharePoint site.
 - FY Meeting calendar—Outlook Calendar invites sent.
 - TWG Virtual
 - October 10, 2023
 - January 9, 2024
 - April 9, 2024
 - BOD - Hybrid with in-person in Windsor unless otherwise noted
 - August 24, 2023
 - October 26, 2023 (field trip/Healdsburg)
 - February 22, 2024
 - May 23, 2024
- 2022/23 Work Plan Recap
 - Year-end summary—Handouts were provided for this item: RRWA FY22-23 Accomplishments
 - Streets to Creeks promotional items—RRWA will work with ordering agencies for distribution.
 - Creek Protector Book #1- 4
 - Patches
 - Stickers
 - Tattoos
 - Sandwich Bags
 - Adult T-Shirts
 - Kids T-shirts
 - Rollback calculations ~ \$77,000. This will be finalized by the end of August.
 - Stormwater Activities Tech Memo—This is being reformatted from a table to a Technical Memorandum and will be finalized by the end of August.

Andy asked that if Members are planning on future orders, to loop RRWA in earlier in the process—This would assist efficiency.

Elizabeth (Windsor) asked about the status of the LID signs. RRWA will look into this and get back to her.

3. Kickoff 23/24 work plan

- Subcommittees—Andy solicited additional member involvement to increase diverse representation on the committees. Email cleanwater@rrwatershed.org to join one:
 - Safe Medicine & Sharps Disposal
 - Social Media
 - Russian River-Friendly Landscaping (RRFL) Program
 - SSU Rising Waters
 - Executive Programs & Initiatives

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- Planning for key projects
 - CASQA group membership—Renewed. Handout was provided for this item: CASQA Handbook Subscribers.
Login for handbooks: Industrial & Commercial BMP and Construction BMP
 - Streets to Creeks—Nick (Santa Rosa) confirmed that RRWA needs to contract with TIV for admin and the campaign. Vanessa noted that TIV is a vendor and they do not have a contract. RRWA staff will connect with TIV directly.
 - Fiesta de Independencia— September 10
 - Celebrate Latino Heritage Month with a taste of Latin America in Sonoma. Enjoy authentic food, music, games, and activities for the entire family.
 - RRWA tabling sign-up sheet coming in August
 - Creek Week—September 16-23, 2023
 - Send event information by September 1 to cleanwater@rrwatershed.org
 - Sponsorships
 - Russian River Keeper
 - Coastwalk
 - Mendocino County cleanup
 - Student Video Contest theme
2023 winners are posted to RRWA's YouTube!
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf72jccZ89rD-TSbhk8Ujjg>

During the last Board meeting, the following 2024 Student Video Contest themes were identified:

1. **My Vision for the Russian River** Students will be asked to share their vision for the Russian River, and how it might be improved.
2. **Keep the Russian River a beautiful place, reduce your plastic waste!** How might plastic waste be harming the Russian River? How can we reduce our plastic waste?
3. **Only Rain Should Go Down the Storm Drain!** This simple slogan encourages students to create videos that educate and raise the awareness of community members on storm drain pollution prevention. The storm drain leads to the nearest waterway. Soap, toxic chemicals from cars, pet waste, plastic water bottles, bags, straws, and other trash left on the street can end up in our waterways where it can harm fish and wildlife.
4. **What is Low Impact Development (LID) and how can it protect the Russian River watershed?** This simple prompt encourages students to create videos that educate and raise the awareness of community members knowledge of Low Impact Development (LID).

Elizabeth (Windsor): The first one seems vague. The second and third have been done before. LID would be helpful.

Elissa (Sebastopol): She is in favor of the LID option.

Nick (Santa Rosa): He is in favor of LID. Perhaps add "Put a LID on it".

Kristen (Zero Waste): Can used oil be tied in with number 3?

RRWA will send TWG comments to Sonoma Water to incorporate into a survey for the Board to select the final theme.

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Vanessa highlighted an opportunity to mentor students with the videos: If staff has any recommendations for experts in media, education and/or water industries that may have interest/availability in serving on a Mentorship Panel that might provide constructive feedback to students on improving their videos before submission.

Estimated Time Commitment: 3-4 hours in February/March 2024.
 Email nominations to cleanwater@rrwatershed.org

- OWOW—New store in Ukiah! Whispering Winds Nursery (1575 S State Street). RRWA serving 9 stores in the watershed!
- Safe Meds—April 22 DEA Take Back Event Collection Totals
 - Three local agencies collected 14 disposal boxes with a combined weight of 382 pounds!
 - RRWA sponsored Safe Medicine Disposal Program came to an end effective June 30, 2023
 - Free take-back services are available. If you currently host a collection receptacle, you can easily transition to one of these two programs being offered. We encourage you to reach out to the below contacts as soon as possible to avoid a lapse in service.
 - MED-Project: victoria@med-project.org
 - The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundations: holly.pavlika@inmar.com
- RRFL—Three applications received:
 - Woodside West received their sign!
 - Private applicant pending.
 - Laguna Foundation Stone Farm pending.
- Children’s placemats— Two new Windsor locations
 - Skillets Café (8776 Lakewood Dr, Windsor)
 - Omelette Express (150 Windsor River Rd #9204, Windsor)
 46 locations! Nine added FY 22/23
 Over 12,945 distributed to-date
- Environmental Articles

FY 2023-24 Agency Author List			
Month	Agency	Draft Due to RRWA	Topic
August	County of Sonoma	June 30	Do you know how to spot Low Impact Development?
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
June	Sonoma County	April 30	TBD
July	Guest/ RRWA staff	May 31	TBD

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4. Informational Updates

- Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)— TAC meeting July 12 at 10:00 pm
- CASQA
- Phase II Updates
 - Meeting on 6/12/23 between CASQA and SWB—CASQA received a limited release of the Phase II permit language at the end of May. SWB is open to high level comments but will not respond formally, and there is no guarantee that they will be reviewed. Municipalities are being asked to share specific examples of any trash planning designs and implementation to the CASQA co-chairs. If members are interested in sending comments, reach out to RRWA staff.
 - Provide examples of trash planning/design/implementation—Devices that would not meet new permit requirements are specifically important.
- Legislative Subcommittee—They did not meet in June. Next meeting is the end of July.
- OWOW

—New CASQA OWOW Manager: Joseph Draper

—New CASQA Website with OWOW feature:

- Manage Subscribers –
Please email Member Agency contacts for OWOW to cleanwater@rrwatershed.org

RRWA Member Contacts will get access to restricted info as a subscriber

—Updates to 2023 Fact Sheets

- Four fact sheets and the Pocket Guide are undergoing technical review.
- Next bulk order will take place after update
- CASQA is also seeking volunteers for development of a program implementation and guidance handbook:



- Support letters— Handouts were provided for this item:
 - SB 867 (Allen) - SUPPORT IF AMENDED - Request for an Allocation of IRWM Funding of \$500 Million in SB 867
 - AB 1567 (Garcia) - SUPPORT IF AMENDED - Request for Increase of IRWM Funding to \$500 Million in AB 1567
 - LETTER OF SUPPORT - Russian River County Sanitation District – Wet Weather Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrades
 - LETTER OF SUPPORT - Mirabel 12-kV Multi-Hazard Resiliency Project

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5. Items of Interest

- CASQA 2023 Annual Conference September 11-13
 - Paradise Point in San Diego. Rain Ready California: Protecting and Collecting Water for Our Future <https://www.casqa.org/events/annual-conference>
 - 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
 - Vanessa polled the group for future speaker ideas. Alissa (Sonoma County) suggested more SSU Rising Water updates.

6. Public Comment—None

7. Adjourn—11:32 pm

Next meetings
 BOD August 24
 TWG October 10

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
October 10, 2023 January 9, 2024 April 9, 2024	August 24, 2023 October 26, 2023 February 22, 2024 May 23, 2024
Environmental Columns	
June – Thank you, Emma Erickson, RRWA Staff—It’s National River Month!	
July – Thank you, Suzanne Bontempo, of Plant Harmony and program manager of OWOW— Gardening for the Good Bugs	
August – Thank you, Alisa Keenan, County of Sonoma—Do you know how to spot Low Impact Development?	
September – Cotati – TBD	
October – Ukiah – TBD	
November – Healdsburg – TBD	
December – Santa Rosa – TBD	
Important Dates	
September 10, 2023 - Fiesta de Independencia September 18-24, 2023 - Pollution Prevention Week September 16-23, 2023 - Creek Week	

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