



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SESSION

March 11, 2008, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Windsor Corporation Yard, Building 100
8400 Windsor Road, Windsor, CA 95492

A G E N D A

- 1. Greetings and Introductions**
- 2. North Coast IRWMP Update**
- 3. RRWA Programs Updates**
 - **Stormwater LID Packet**
 - **Mercury Pollution Prevention Program**
 - **Pharmaceuticals Coordination**
 - **Copper Program**
- 4. RWQCB In-Stream Flow Policy Discussion**
- 5. Outreach Strategies Updates**
 - **Environmental Column**
 - **Student Video Contest Update**
 - **Eligible Entity Discussion**
- 6. Current Year Budget Review**
- 7. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**
- 8. Items of Interest**
 - **NBWA Conference - April 4, 2008**
 - **SWRCB Recycled Water Policy – Adoption Hearing on March 18, 2008**
- 9. Public Comment**
- 10. Adjourn**

The Russian River Watershed Association complies with ADA requirements and will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities upon request.

Please contact Christy Kennedy at (707) 833-2553 with any questions.

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Meeting Summary (prepared by RRWA staff Christy Kennedy)

1. Greetings and Introductions

Attendees:

Christy Kennedy, RRWA
Forest Frasier, Santa Rosa
Charlie Yanucil, Cotati
Amy Bolton
Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
Kevin Booker, SCWA
Maura Darbro, Hopland Band
Jim Tyler, So.Co Env Health
Terry Macote, So.Co Env Health
Rick Seanor, Ukiah
Bruce Taylor, Santa Rosa
Ken Krout, So.Co. Regional Parks
Devin Chatoian, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
Lisa Steinman, SCWMA
Janice Gilligan, So.Co PRMD
Lisa Renton, SCWA

2. North Coast IRWMP Update

(This item was discussed towards the end of the meeting) Lisa Renton (SCWA) provided an update on funding. Prop 84 funding is being considered for reduction due to the State Budget issues. There will be a budget hearing in April 2nd in the Assembly and another on April 14th in the Senate. They are considering cutting Prop 84 funding from \$452M to \$2.5M in grant funding. The North Coast IRWMP is encouraging comment letters in support of continued grant funding be written. RRWA staff will coordinate with Lisa on development of such a letter. Additionally the NC IRWMP participants have received their grant funding, and there will be a technical review panel meeting in April in Redding.

3. RRWA Programs Update

Stormwater LID Packet

An outline has been developed for the training workshop and materials for the LID packet have been gathered. RRWA staff is coordinating with Dennis Slota of MCWA regarding materials given the recent LID conference in Ukiah. The LID workshop will be scheduled in the May timeframe and RRWA staff will continue to interview member agencies planning department staff to clarify important points for the workshop and to fully develop an LID FAQ list as a handout for the workshop.

Mercury Pollution Prevention Program

RRWA staff noted confirmed that the group still wanted to develop an advertisement to run in the Press Democrat and other local papers regarding disposal of compact fluorescent light bulbs.

RRWA staff will work with SCWMA to obtain graphics and draft an advertisement to send to the group for review.

Pharmaceuticals Coordination

RRWA staff noted that a conference call was planned between participating agencies to get feedback on the success of the pilot programs. A second call will then be organized with agencies interested in a pilot program expansion to get first step underway.

Copper Program

Deliverables include methodology development for copper source and magnitude assessment and outreach material for plumbers and pipe designers. RRWA staff have reviewed BAPPG outreach materials and have coordinated with Santa Rosa on methodology development. In the next couple months, RRWA will reformat and distribute outreach material for the Russian River Watershed and will continue the copper source and magnitude assessment.

4. RWQCB In-Stream Flow Policy Discussion

Amy Bolten gave an overview of the proposed In-Stream Flow Policy. Comments from the Water Advisory Committee's March 3rd meeting were discussed and the Salmon Coalition's watershed based approach was noted. The WAC is considering developing a letter in support of the Salmon Coalition's watershed approach. A handout was passed out that detailed the policy framework, applicability, water rights applications, plans, monitoring, watershed approach, and exemptions. Major points summarized included the following:

- Will impact illegal diversions
- Policy is complex and the "per project" approach has high associated costs. The watershed approach will require more coordination, but will allow for more flexibility and less cost.
- Policy eliminates new dams except on streams that cannot support fish
- Eliminates new sources of diversions except during winter months (therefore more storage would be needed for new diverters)
- Unclear on how much room there is for new diversions given the complex analysis for stream flow and anadromy.

Brenda Adelman (Russian River Watershed Protection Committee) noted that the policy is controversial and environmental groups boycotted the Salmon Coalition's position. She noted her concern that the WAC is on board with the Coalition's position without study. She also commented that the policy could affect the water supply situation, and that the environmental community is deeply concerned about the policy. She noted that the watershed approach is not necessarily a bad approach, but there is the concern that the agencies are looking for a way around the process.

Due to the complexity of the policy, Amy Bolten will be meeting with the SWRCB to discuss the policy, and a list of questions for the SWRCB was circulated. Staff were encouraged to submit additional comments/questions for the SWRCB that they wanted to have answered by March 18th to Christy Kennedy. After meeting with SWRCB and further discussion of the In Stream Flow Policy at the April working group meeting, RRWA members will decide whether or not to prepare a comment letter on the policy.

5. Outreach Strategies Update

Environmental Column

The March environmental column was written by RRWA staff on the topic of Safe Medicine Disposal. Volunteers were solicited for the upcoming April column. SCWA will look into preparing

a column on activities relating to climate change. RRWA staff will also coordinate with Healdsburg for article development.

Student Video Contest Update

The student video contest is underway and the topic this year is Water Conservation. Awards will be presented at the May 22nd Board of Directors Meeting.

Eligible Entities Outreach

Eligible Entity strategies were discussed. Benefits for membership in RRWA included having a good working relationship with the RWQCB, extension of staff, support of RRWA on agency issues when appropriate, and outreach material sharing. Sweetwater was identified as a new Priority 3 Eligible Entity.

6. Current Year Budget Review

RRWA staff noted that only 42% of General and Special Benefit project budgets have been spent to date due to changes in the work plan over the year. The Board of Directors charged the working group with deciding how to spend the remaining budget – to see if there was a training that would be worthwhile putting the money towards, or to roll over until next year. Items that came up in discussion to be funded include set-up of an on overflow reporting response meeting for all agencies responsible for SSO reporting to develop a standard for 2-hr notification reporting, development of an IRWMP comment letter to support Prop 84 grant funding, an outreach meetings for IRWMP participants, and continued work on expansion of the Safe Medicine Disposal Program. Other ideas such as additional trash clean up along the river and development of a sticker for red-com complaint calls were voiced. RRWA staff will look into budget availability and report back to the group on these items.

7. Future Meetings and Agenda Items: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2008 the Windsor Corporation Yard.

8. Items of Interest: At the start of the meeting, the 2-hr notification reporting requirements for spill response, developed and adopted by the SWRCB were handed out and discussed in detail by RRWA staff, Kevin Booker (SCWA) and Jim Tyler (Sonoma County Environmental Health). The County's Non-Stormwater Discharge Response Plan was handed out along with Assembly Bill 800 language. It was determined that a meeting should be set up by RRWA and SCWA to alert member agencies and other agencies within the Sonoma County of the procedures. RRWA staff and SCWA will take the lead in setting up this meeting with RWQCB.

It was noted that the NBWA Conference is on Friday, April 4th, and the SWRCB Recycled Water Policy Adoption Hearing will be held on March 18, 2008. Flyers were handed out with the meeting location and time for the SWRCB Policy Adoption Hearing. It was also noted that the EPA is conducting web seminars in March on NPDES topics and their stormwater site should be looked at if interested in these web seminars.

9. Public Comment: See item under In-Stream Flow Policy. Maura Darbro (Hopland Band) noted her interest in watershed topics and her work with watersheds.

10. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.