



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 23rd, 2010, 9:00 AM
Windsor Town Council Chambers
9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, CA 95492

A G E N D A

Note – Because of the panel presentation, the meeting will likely be a full two hours

A. Call to Order and Introductions

B. Approval of the Agenda

C. Approval of Standing Items

- Minutes: July 29, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting

D. Guest Speaker Presentation

- Update on the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study

E. BOD Business

- IRWMP Update – Proposal for RRWA Project for Prop 84
- Comment Letter on Healdsburg Permit
- Miscellaneous project updates
- Schedule and agenda items for next RRWA Board meeting
 - December 2, 2010
 - o Regional Board Executive Officer update
 - o Work Plan guidance
 - o Video Contest topic

F. Panel Presentation – Potter Valley Project moderated by Chair Mackenzie

- Discussion regarding:
 - What is the PVP?
 - What is the future of the PVP?
 - How might the future influence the RR Watershed and RRWA's goals?
- Panel members
 - William Hearn and Jeffrey Jahn– National Marine Fisheries Service
 - Don Seymour – Sonoma County Water Agency
 - Paul Kubicek and other – Pacific Gas & Electric Company
 - Janet Pauli – Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission
 - David Keller – Friends of the Eel River
 - Guinness McFadden – Potter Valley farmer

G. Items of Interest

H. Public Comment

I. Adjourn

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

Please contact Phoebe Grow at (707) 833-2553 with any questions.

MINUTES
RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the regular meeting of the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) Board of Directors.

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2010
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Windsor Town Council Chambers

Directors and Alternates Present. Directors present:

Jake Mackenzie, Chair	City of Rohnert Park
Robin Goble, Vice Chair	Town of Windsor
Nina Regor	City of Cloverdale
Mike Kirn	City of Healdsburg
Damien O'Bid	City of Cotati
Mark Landman	City of Cotati
Mari Rodin	City of Ukiah
MaryAnne Landis	City of Ukiah
Richard Burt	Town of Windsor
Marsha VasDupre	City of Santa Rosa

Directors present represented 7 out of the 9 RRWA member agencies, constituting a quorum.

Additional Attendees.

Virginia Porter	RRWA Executive Director
Phoebe Grow	RRWA
Jennifer Burke	City of Santa Rosa
Glen Wright	City of Santa Rosa
Rita Miller	City of Santa Rosa
Brenda Adelman	RRWPC
Bob Anderson	United Wine Growers
Don Seymour	SCWA
Marcus Trotta	SCWA
David Keller	Friends of the Eel River
Nadananda	Friends of the Eel River
Craig Geldard	PG&E
Paul Kubicek	PG&E
Alison Talbott	PG&E
Kelli Nevin	PG&E
Janet Pauli	Mendo Co Inland Water & Power Comm
Bill Hearn	NMFS
Jeffrey Jahn	NMFS
Guinness McFadden	McFadden Farm
Greg Kamman	Kamman Hydrology & Engineering
Chris DeGabrielle	North Marin WD
Colleen Fernald	Interested party
Patrick Higgins	Consulting fish biologist

Board Actions.

A. Call to Order and Introductions. (Jake Mackenzie, Chair). Mr. Mackenzie called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and everyone introduced themselves.

B. Approval of the Agenda. Mr. Mackenzie requested that the Board approve the agenda. The agenda was approved.

C. Approval of Standing Items. The minutes from the July 29th, 2010 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Damien O'Bid (City of Cotati) noted the wording regarding Cotati and Santa Rosa's work on recycled water use in Cotati should be changed to indicate that Santa Rosa is working together with Cotati on a recycled water feasibility study rather than assisting. The minutes were approved as amended.

D. Guest Speaker Presentation - Update on the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study. Marcus Trotta (SCWA) presented to the Board a summary to date of the effort to establish groundwater planning in the Santa Rosa Plain in a similar manner as in the Sonoma Valley with the Groundwater Study and groundwater planning work which was completed several years ago.

SCWA has partnered with United States Geological Survey (USGS) and local municipalities on this project. They are in the final year of 5 year study. A third party facilitator, the Center for Collaborative Policy from Cal. State Sacto., interviewed over 55 individuals representing the primary SR Plain groundwater stakeholders in 2009. The interview findings show there is much interest in groundwater management and differing interpretations of groundwater management. Based on the finding a steering committee was formed.

There are outreach and information sharing workshops coming up: Nov. 4th in Sebastopol and Nov. 17th in Santa Rosa. Topics will include surface-water/groundwater interactions; groundwater movement; what having a groundwater management plan means. Marcus Trotta also recommended the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District's recent publication - Slow it, Spread it, Sink.

E. Board of Directors Business.

- IRWMP Update - Virginia Porter, Executive Director, introduce to the Board a proposal from the Technical Working Group for RRWA to submit a project to the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCIRWMP) for Proposition 84 funding. The project is to install a Low Impact Development/Russian River Friendly Demonstration Landscape in the service area of each member agency. This proposal was introduced by the City of Santa Rosa. Staff needs Board approval to move forward. Nina Regor (City of Cloverdale) asked if every agency needed to define a specific project for the submittal, and the answer was yes. Chair Mackenzie called for a vote on the proposal, and it was supported unanimously.
- Comment letter on Healdsburg Permit – Earlier this month the Board supported RRWA sending a letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding the City of Healdsburg's NPDES discharge permit and the letter was sent. RRWA's comments concern the regulations that could make it more difficult for recycled water agencies to get users due to reporting and monitoring requirements. Staff will also present comments at the October 28 Regional Board meeting.
- Miscellaneous project updates – The Russian River-Friendly Landscape Guidelines lanch event is November 16; in the Safe Medicine Disposal program RRWA has now switched haulers to Asepsis.
- Schedule and agenda for next RRWA Board Meeting - Next meeting is December 2, 2010. Agenda includes an update from the Executive Officer of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Cat Kuhlman; Video Contest topic; and Work Plan guidance.

F. Panel Presentation – Potter Valley Project

The majority of the meeting was dedicated to a panel on the Potter Valley Project (PVP). The goal of the panel was inform the Board of the past, current and future effect of the PVP on the Russian River watershed by answering the questions:

- What is the PVP?
- What is the future of the PVP (range of options)?
- How might the future of the PVP influence the Russian River Watershed and RRWA's goals which include supporting improved water quality, fisheries restoration and watershed enhancement while maintaining compliance with regulations and water supply obligations?

The panel members were:

- William Hearn and Jeffrey Jahn– National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Don Seymour – Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)
- Paul Kubicek and Craig Geldard – Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)
- Janet Pauli – Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission (MCIWCP)
- David Keller – Friends of the Eel River
- Guinness McFadden – Potter Valley farmer

The following is a summary of the speaker's presentations:

PG&E – Greg Geldard and Paul Kubicek.

Greg Geldard described how the PVP has been diverting water from the Eel River watershed into the Russian River watershed in the process of generating hydroelectric power for over one hundred years. The PVP is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the license is currently held by PG&E. The current license expires in 2022 and work will begin on the relicensing in 2017. PG&E wants to continue operation of the project and has cooperated in installing fish screens to protect Chinook and Steelhead.

NMFS – William (Bill) Hearn.

In 2002 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a Biological Opinion (BO) on the PVP operation which resulted in flows from the Eel to the Russian being reduced. The BO decision returned substantial flow to the Eel River during fall winter and spring to preserve spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead. The NMFS BO attempts to mimic actual summer flows on the Eel below the diversion, provides higher flows in the fall and also more consistent and higher flows in spring.

Since the BO flows from the Eel to the Russian River watershed have been reduced by as much as 35%, depending on the type of water year, with an average reduction of 15% or 24,000 AFY. NMFS will consult on the relicensing process consistent with the Endangered Species Act.

MCIWPC – Janet Pauli.

Mendocino Inland Water and Power Commission was formed to be able to purchase the PVP should PG&E decide not to relicense; the Commission members realize some water supply benefit in the Russian River watershed from the PVP. Flows have been very low since the BO and the Commission has concerns about the effect on its members and the Russian River watershed as a whole. Potter Valley Irrigation District, one of the Commission members, has a 50 year agreement with PG&E for water supply from the PVP.

SCWA – Don Seymour

SCWA is the local sponsor for Lake Mendocino and SCWA owns and operates the water supply pool. Lake Mendocino has a seasonally variable water supply pool/flood control pool; SCWA operates the dam at Lake Mendocino and will need to release some of the water soon to provide

flood control storage for winter. SCWA has an interest in the upper watershed as well as the lower watershed and has responsibilities throughout.

Friends of the Eel River – David Keller

FOER is concerned that the Eel River has had its water taken and has not been compensated since 1908. The river and the watershed suffer because of the PVP and FOER wants 100% of the water returned to the Eel River. FOER asserts that the PVP is a water project not an energy project.

Potter Valley farming – Guinness McFadden

The PVP has resulted in supply in the Potter Valley for over a century and is only diverting a relatively small portion of Eel River flow. Fish count data shows that there are many pressures on the fish populations and that even with the diversion there have been high population years. The FERC Target Storage Curve needs to be updated to reflect the actual storage of Lake Mendocino.

Several comments and questions followed the panel presentation. Key information from this follow-up included:

- There is movement on the potential to raise Coyote Dam to increase storage of Lake Mendocino, but any significant action seems to be years away.
- Pikeminnow predation is an ongoing problem that is affecting fisheries in the Eel.
- Fisheries issues are driving decisions about the PVP. Chinook and Steelhead are both listed species and Eel River habitat is of prime consideration.

The Board thanked panel members for the very informative and lively presentation, and expressed interest in continuing to follow the PVP because it has such a significant role in the Russian River watershed.

G. Items of Interest. No items of interest were presented

H. Public Comment. Public comment was taken during the course of the meeting.

10. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Thursday, December 2, 2010
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Windsor Town Hall

FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday, January 27 or February 24, 2011