



## RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

### TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SESSION

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM  
Windsor Town Council Chambers  
9291 Redwood Road, Windsor, CA 95492

### **A G E N D A**

- 1. Greetings and Introductions**
- 2. Summary of July 29 RRWA Board of Directors Meeting**
  - Comment letter on Healdsburg recycled water project
- 3. RRWA Programs Updates**
  - Outreach Strategies
    - Environmental Column
    - RRWA Sponsorship of Clean-Ups
  - Russian River Friendly Landscape Guidelines
  - MS4 Permit Support
    - Stormwater Activities Table
  - IRWMP Support
  - Phase II Stormwater Update
  - Stormwater Training
    - Construction BMP Training
  - Creek Week Development
    - Draft Proclamation
  - Safe Medicine Disposal Program Update
  - Outreach Material Order
- 4. Forum and Advocacy**
  - Update from July 15<sup>th</sup> RWQCB Meeting
    - General Construction Stormwater Permit
    - Russian River TMDL Development
  - Discussion topics for future meetings with RWQCB staff
  - Discussion of potential future advocacy items
- 5. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**
  - September 14<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting
  - September 23<sup>rd</sup> Board of Directors meeting
    - Potter Valley Project panel
- 6. Items of Interest**
- 7. Public Comment**
- 8. 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.

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Windsor Town Council Chambers  
9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor CA

*Meeting Summary (prepared by RRWA staff Phoebe Grow & Virginia Porter)*

**1. Greetings and Introductions (8:35)**

Attendees:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| - Virginia Porter, RRWA             | - Teresa Gudino – City of Santa Rosa     |
| - Phoebe Grow (phone), RRWA         | - Martin St. George – City of Santa Rosa |
| - Patrick Givone - Town of Windsor  | - Eydie Tacata, City of Rohnert Park     |
| - Terry Macute, So. Co. Env. Health | - Nazareth Tesfai – SCWA                 |
| - Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah        | - Corbin Johnson – So. Co. Parks         |
| - Lauren McPhaul, City of Ukiah     | - Brenda Adelman, RRWPC                  |
| - Heaven Hix, City of Santa Rosa    |  |

**2. Summary of July 29th RRWA Board of Directors Meeting**

Virginia Porter provided the update. The July meeting had a different approach to the guest speaker, having member agency project presentations as follows:

- Healdsburg (Mike Kirn) presented on their new wastewater treatment plant and discharge project
- Santa Rosa (Jennifer Burke) presented on their Urban Recycled Water Project which our BOD has supported for federal funding with a letter
- Rohnert Park (Eydie Tacata) updated the BOD on their recent Phase II stormwater program inspection

BOD was pleased with the presentations. BOD requested that the Working Group discuss RRWA commenting on Healdsburg's discharge permit.

The BOD discussed the Working Group's last meeting and kicking-off the new Work Plan.

**3. RRWA Programs Update**

Lauren McPhaul, City of Ukiah, showed the group Ukiah's FOG program promotional item a "Can the Grease" can with liners. Ukiah's program concentrated on grease "hot spots" in their collection system and they will camera the sewers in May to see how effective the program has been. One thousand cans were distributed. It was noted that Santa Rosa has a "From the Pan to the Can" lid which can be used on any can.

Virginia Porter announced that the posters and flyers for nursery program from the 2009-10 Work Plan available for group members to take. The posters can be distributed in conjunction with inspections etc., and the filers are for individual employees and can be part of new employee orientation.

**OUTREACH STRATEGIES**

Environmental Column: RRWA environmental columns were discussed:

- **August:** Eydie Tacata (City of Rohnert Park) wrote the August column with the topic Wash Your Car Responsibly– Thank you Eydie!
- **Future topics/annual calendar:** The following authors and topics are scheduled in this Work Plan year:
  - **September** – Rick Seanor (City of Ukiah) – Street Sweeping
  - **October** - Jennifer Burke (City of Santa Rosa) – Reduce Irrigation: water conservation and stormwater benefits
  - **November** - Reg Cullen (So.Co. PRMD) - Rainwater Harvesting
  - **December** – Lauren McPhaul (City of Ukiah) – Fats, Oils and Grease

- **April 2011** – Forest Frasier (City of Santa Rosa) Stormwater topic

The December column will likely switch with the November column so that FOG can run before Thanksgiving. Phoebe Grow, RRWA, will follow up with the authors about the switch.

#### Student Video Contest:

Phoebe Grow presented this item. We will ask BOD to endorse a topic at the September 23rd BOD meeting and the Working Group can discuss again next month.

Topics ideas from past years are:

- 2010 – Illegal Dumping
- 2009 – Outdoor residential water conservation
- 2008 – Indoor residential water conservation
- 2007 – Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG)
- 2006, 2005, & 2004 – Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Martin St. George, City of Santa Rosa, mentioned that garbage and sediment are issues. Heaven Hix, City of Santa Rosa noted that sediment in relation to TMDLs (total maximum daily loads), and trash are also good but very closely related to last years topic.

#### RRWA Sponsorship of Cleanups:

The following clean-up campaigns are supported by RRWA in the current Work Plan and checks will be sent out soon for the fall campaigns:

- Russian River Watershed Cleanup - September 25 & 26 - \$1,500 (unspecified)
- Sonoma Co. Coastal Clean-Up - September 25 - up to \$500 which may sponsor the BBQ
- Upper Russian River Clean-Up – date TBD- \$200 for supplies/gas

Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah, will follow-up to see if anyone is taking over Becky Kress's efforts from past years for the Upper Russian River Clean-up.

#### Russian River Friendly Landscape Guidelines

A reminder that the launch event is the morning of November 16 at Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa. We will outreach to Green Industry Professionals through RRWA and through member agencies. The document will be printed late summer, and our BOD will receive them at their September meeting. We are also participating in Bay Friendly Conference – September 17.

#### MS4 Permit Support – Stormwater Activities Table

Phoebe Grow presented the memo outlining the 2009-10 RRWA projects that respond to stormwater permit compliance. The memo is prepared to assist member agencies with annual reports. Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, requested copy, and staff will e-mail this to Brenda.

#### IRWMP Update

Final Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package for Planning, Implementation grants for both Prop 84 and Prop 1E have been released by DWR. The North Coast IRWMP (Integrated Regional Water Management Plan) staff posted a memo on 8/6/10 outlining next steps for our region. The North Coast plan will be open for new project integration this fall. Projects need to be in the Plan to qualify for Prop 84 and Prop 1E funding.

For Prop 84 – the NCIRWMP staff plans workshops in the fall for project proponents, with uploading of projects expected in Sept-Oct, and the Technical Review Panel prioritization in Nov, with the regional grant due to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) January 7, 2011. Matching funds for the regional grant are 25%.

Prop 1E projects are submitted directly to DWR but must be part of the IRWMP. The date for uploading these to the NCIRWMP is yet to be determined. Maximum project award is \$30M, and match funds is 50%. Grants are due to DWR April 15, 2011.

It has been over 5 years since projects were added to the plan, and many member agencies have projects in the plan. Members are encouraged to look now at the State guidelines to see how projects can be most fundable. The North Coast will have a total of \$37M from Prop 84, but first round funding is only \$4.1M. Prop 1E has a total statewide of \$212M for first-round funding.

Agencies should be looking for ways to partner with each other and other entities like non-government organizations (NGO's). We will discuss this more at our next meeting.

#### Phase II Stormwater Update

Phoebe Grow updated that the draft permit now expected in early 2011, and an RRWA Phase II Forum is scheduled after the next Working Group meeting on Sept 14th, 2010. Mona Dougherty, RWQCB1, will attend, and discussion will include the current permits "extension," what to expect in inspections, and other topics the Regional Board considers priority. An agenda will be distributed a week in advance. Heaven Hix noted that the Regional Board staff has said a guidance letter is coming out soon.

#### Stormwater Training

RRWA is tasked to work with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to carry out Construction BMP Training which reflects the new General Construction Permit. The group discussed the preparation of storm water pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs) and the significant training requirements for practitioners and developers. A rough count of agency staff that might need this training was taken and the need appears significant. Staff will investigate what it would take to get trainers into our area.

For our current Work Plan it might be most effective to either set the stage for certification training or have the SWRCB do an overview presentation to engineers and contractors as well as agency staff.

#### Creek Week Development

Creek Week will be Sept 25 – Oct 2. Virginia Porter will distribute a draft proclamation to member agencies ASAP. Ideally Councils and Boards should make the Proclamation the week or two prior to the beginning date (Sept 25th), depending on their meeting schedule (the week of Sept 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>). Patrick Givone, Town of Windsor noted it might be too late for Windsor this year based on their Council agenda schedule. Rick Seanor noted Ukiah might blend the Creek Week proclamation with their stormwater proclamation.

#### Safe Meds

Phoebe Grow updated that Safeway has dropped out because of insurance reasons. Nazareth Tesfai, SCWA, noted that the City of Sonoma Safeway is actually still participating.

Martin St. George introduced the topic of locked collection boxes, noting that they are big and some pharmacies don't like them. Some other programs are migrating to locked boxes, and Washington State has had them for years.

RRWA is holding off on the targeted outreach campaign in our current Work Plan for now until the Safe Meds Program settles down relative to participating pharmacies and waste hauling contracts.

#### Outreach Materials Order

Grease Scrapers/Door Hangers -1,000 to be ordered; and Storm Drain Labels -1,000 to be ordered for delivery to participating member agencies by Sept (hopefully next meeting).

#### **4. Forum and Advocacy**

##### Update from July 15<sup>th</sup> RWQCB Meeting

Virginia Porter attended the July 15 RWQCB meeting, which included presentations on the General Construction Stormwater Permit and the Russian River TMDL development.

Regarding the General Construction Permit – the State focused on the changes in the new permit including the risk-based approach to determining the level of site BMP's, and requirement for sampling and posting. Heaven Hix offered to distribute the PowerPoint presentation that was used by the State at this meeting.

Regarding the Russian River TMDL development, sediment and temperature are listed for whole river and the TMDL will be developed regional. Laguna TMDL data gathering is underway now, and the Laguna TMDL moving forward first. Indicator bacteria TMDL is also accelerated and the Board is expecting to consider it in 2011-2012. The reservoirs are listed for Mercury which is detected in fish. Currently RWQCB is working on Hg data gathering. Green Valley Creek and Big Sulpher Creek are on hold.

RWQCB has asked RRWA to participate as a stakeholder in the TMDL process. These will affect stormwater and wastewater discharge permits. Staff will work with RRWA BOD on background/education as to how TMDLs are likely to affect member agencies.

Rick Seanor inquired about the sources of Hg in the lakes. It appears to be atmospheric and mineral based, not from stormwater. Lake Sonoma may have had a Hg mine at one point.

##### Discussion topics for future meetings with RWQCB staff

RRWA will be meeting with the RWQCB EO and staff August 17. No topics were proposed for this meeting. Potential future advocacy items include the phase II stormwater permit, Healdsburg wastewater permit, and the Russian River TMDL.

The RWQCB is working on Healdsburg's discharge permit criteria related to recycled water application in urban and agricultural areas. Proposed requirements in their permit were of concern for member agencies due to the limits that might be put on recycled water sites. We expecting a new draft permit within the next two weeks. We may need Working Group review and feedback before the next meeting.

Brenda Adelman expressed her concern regarding recycled water runoff and her concern that the regulations might get too loose. She also provided the group a copy of a photo study carried out by RRWPC on the lower Russian River. She noted that Ludwigia is getting worse.

#### **5. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**

##### Working Group

- September 14<sup>th</sup>, Center for Collaborative Policy - Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study - Phase II Forum afterwards

##### Board of Directors

- September 23rd (4th Thurs): Panel on Potter Valley Project - Center for Collaborative Policy - Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study
- December 2nd (1st Thurs): Work Planning guidance, RWQCB1 Executive Officer presentation

#### **6. Items of Interest**

Heaven Hix passed out a document that was produced by the Southern Sonoma RCD – “Slow it, Spread it, Sink it.” This is modeled after Santa Cruz's publication and it is mostly for home owners – a layperson's guide. It is user-friendly and available on the RCD's website.

Nazareth Tesfai, SCWA reported that Pollution Prevention Week is the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Sept.

Nazareth Tesfai also reported that SCWA is doing outreach for copper and cyanide reduction, including using RRWA copper plumber/designer outreach flyers

**7. Public Comment:**

Public comment was taken throughout the meeting and those comments are reflected in the meeting notes on the specific topics.

**8. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 10:16.