



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SESSION

October 12th, 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. Update from September 23rd Board Meeting**
- 3. RRWA Programs Updates**
 - Outreach Strategies
 - Environmental Column
 - Video Contest – Topic discussion
 - Russian River Friendly Landscape Guidelines
 - Registration outreach for 11/16 event
 - IRWMP Support
 - IRWMP update
 - RRWA project – draft project description and next steps
 - Stormwater Training
 - Construction BMP/General Permit Training
 - Safe Medicine Disposal Program Update
 - Outreach Material
 - Distribution schedule
- 4. Forum and Advocacy**
 - Discussion topics for future meetings with RWQCB staff (Nov 18)
 - Discussion of potential future advocacy items
 - RRWA oral comments at October 29th RWQCB meeting - Healdsburg Wastewater Treatment Facilities Draft Waste Discharge Requirements
- 5. Work Plan 2011-2012**
 - Potential project discussion
 - Schedule
- 6. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**
 - November 9th Working Group meeting – Work Plan development
 - December 2nd Board of Directors meeting
 - Update from RWQCB Executive Officer
 - Work Plan guidance
- 7. Items of Interest**
- 8. Public Comment**
- 9. Adjourn**

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

Please contact Virginia Porter, RRWA Executive Director, at (707) 833-2553 with any questions.

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

1. Greetings and Introductions (8:35)

Attendees:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| - Virginia Porter, RRWA | - Reg Cullen – So Co PRMD |
| - Phoebe Grow, RRWA (phone) | - Eydie Tacata, City of Rohnert Park |
| - Toni Bertolero – Winzler & Kelly for
Town of Windsor | - Paul Wade – City of Cloverdale |
| - Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah | - Kevin Fredrickson – City of Cotati |
| - Heaven Hix, City of Santa Rosa | - Brad Sherwood – SCWA |
| - Jennifer Burke – City of Santa Rosa | - Lisa Steinman – So.Co. WMA |
| | - Brenda Adelman, RRWPC |

2. Update from Sept. 23rd Board Meeting

Virginia Porter (RRWA) provided the update. The Board received a status report from Marcus Trotta, (SCWA) regarding the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study; this was the same presentation our group heard at our Sept. meeting.

The Board was asked to review the project concept proposed by Santa Rosa and supported by the Technical Working Group, and to vote on whether RRWA should proceed with submitting this RRWA project to the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCIRWMP). The Board fully supported RRWA moving forward with submittal

The majority of the meeting was dedicated to a panel on the Potter Valley Project (PVP). The goal of the panel was to answer 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 – SCWA
- Paul Kubicek and Craig Geldard – PG&E
- Janet Pauli – Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission

- David Keller – Friends of the Eel River
- Guinness McFadden – Potter Valley farmer

The panel physically described how the PV 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. In 2004 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a Biological Opinion (BO) on the operation which resulted in flows from the Eel to the Russian being reduced. The PVP is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the license is currently held by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). The current license expires in 2022 and work will begin on the relicensing in 2017.

Some key perspectives from the panel included:

- PG&E wants to continue operation of the project and has cooperated in installing fish screens to protect Chinook 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.
- 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.
- 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.

The Board meeting minutes provide more details from the presentations.

3. RRWA Programs Update

OUTREACH STRATEGIES

Environmental Column: RRWA environmental columns were discussed:

- **October:** Jennifer Burke (City of Santa Rosa) penned a column on protecting our watershed during the fall months with irrigation reduction and clean-up. Thank you Jennifer!
- **Future topics/annual calendar:** The group discussed future columns and there were several new sign-ups. Healdsburg also plans to write an article early in 2011. The following authors and topics are scheduled in this Work Plan year:
 - **November** - Lauren McPhaul (City of Ukiah) – Fats, Oils and Grease
 - **December** – Reg Cullen (So.Co. PRMD) - Rainwater Harvesting
 - **January** – SCWA or Santa Rosa - Bottled water VS Tap Water
 - **February** – Lisa Steinman (So Co. WMA) Keep Florescent Bulbs out of the Trash
 - **March/April** – Forest Frasier (City of Santa Rosa) Stormwater topic
 - **April, May** – to be determined
 - **June** – Reg Cullen (So Co PRMD) – Watershed knowledge/Stormwater behaviors – from baseline surveys

Phoebe Grow (RRWA) noted that many of our columns have featured prominently in the Community Voice which serves the Rohnert Park/Cotati area.

Student Video Contest:

We will ask our Board to endorse a topic at their December 2nd meeting. The Working Group recommended the following topics for the Board to consider:

- Used motor oil – what to do with it (in conjunction with So Co WMA)
- Hydrologic cycle and LID
- The sewer and the stormdrain – know the difference
- Creek Clean-up – (may be too similar to last year)
- Regardless of the topic – there is an interest in having a Spanish version also developed

RRWA staff will check in with SCWA about the topics before bringing them forward to the Board in December.

RUSSIAN RIVER FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

The document is printed and we are only distributing to our Board, Working Group members and the Regional Board before the launch event November 16 at Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa. Two thousand copies were printed, with 500 paid for directly by SCWA. RRWA has 1,500 for distribution and many will go at the launch event. Save the Date cards are available – registration starts October 15.

Each RRWA member agency should outreach to Green Industry professionals through their storm water and water conservation databases. California Landscape Contractors Assn. (CLCA) has an article about the event in their news letter, as well as registration forms. We ask that each member agency designate no more than three attendees as we expect a full house.

The group was polled about whether a bookmark with the link for downloading the document would be helpful for interested homeowners and the response was yes.

IRWMP SUPPORT

Our Board supports RRWA submitting the project that was proposed at our last meeting and is being compiled and written-up by Jennifer Burke and Heaven Hix (City of Santa Rosa).

The group reviewed the NCIRWMP project scoring criteria. The Technical Peer Review Panel will be scoring the projects on Oct. 28th -29th and the PRP will approve a suite of projects on Nov. 10th.

Jennifer Burke polled the agencies about whether they are in or out. Specific information is needed to complete the grant application effectively – cost, compliance with State regulations, cost share, etc. The project needs to be uploaded by 5:00pm Monday Oct. 18th. Jennifer Burke has been in contact with NCIRWMP staff about our application and the challenges of RRWA being the sponsor when the forms are written for a single-agency applicant. Member agencies were also asked to consider whether their projects are phase-able.

Member agencies agreed to provide information and Santa Rosa staff will submit a draft project to the group later in the week for a very quick review.

STORMWATER TRAINING

RRWA staff is continuing to work toward having full-scale training for certification in early 2011 with testing to follow the training as soon as possible.

SAFE MEDS

Phoebe Grow updated that a bus ad is up in Sonoma Co Transit's 45 buses – 1 in English, and 1 in Spanish for each bus. Thank you to Lisa Steinman (SCWMA) for making RRWA aware of this opportunity.

OUTREACH MATERIALS ORDER

Grease Scrapers/Door Hangers – Materials are ordered and we will distribute the materials at a Working Group meeting soon.

4. Forum and Advocacy

Discussion topics for future meetings with RWQCB staff (Nov 18)

RRWA will be meeting with the RWQCB EO and staff Nov 18. No topics were proposed for this meeting.

Discussion of future potential advocacy items

We will seek formal support for our IRWMP project – have received verbal support from John Short.

RRWA Oral comments regarding Healdsburg Discharge Permit – October 29 RWQCB meeting
RRWA will make oral comments consistent with the written comments at the October 29 RWQCB meeting.

5. Work Plan 2011-2012

Due to limited time, this topic was discussed only briefly with recognition that our Nov. meeting will be dedicated to Work Plan development. Eydie Tacata (City of Rohnert Park) supported continued Phase II stormwater forums. Support for further work on Low Impact Development and implementation of stormwater requirements was also proposed.

RRWA staff will do outreach by email between now and the next TWG meeting.

6. Future Meetings and Agenda Items

Working Group

- November 9 – Work Plan development
- December 14 – Work Plan update per BOD input

Board of Directors

- December 2nd (1st Thurs): Work Plan guidance, RWQCB1 Executive Officer presentation
- January 27th or February 24th – Work Plan Adoption

7. Items of Interest

Lisa Steinman asked the group, especially those involved in the Safe Meds program, if there was support for the new Recycling Guide featuring the Safe Med program – perhaps as the cover theme. No specific concerns were raised, but Phoebe Grow will follow up with the Safe Meds group, a number who were not present.

8. Public Comment:

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

9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:25.