



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SESSION

December 14th, 2010, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Windsor Town Council Chambers
9291 Redwood Road, Windsor, CA 95492

A G E N D A

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- 2. Summary of December 2, 2010 RRWA Board of Directors Meeting**
- 3. RRWA Programs Updates**
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 - Environmental Column
 - Outreach to eligible entities
 - Russian River Friendly Landscape Guidelines
 - Document distribution
 - Bookmarks and web link
 - MS4 Permit Support
 - Pollutant specific outreach
 - IRWMP Update
 - Phase II Stormwater Update
 - Stormwater Training
 - Schedule for training and certification testing
 - Safe Medicine Disposal Program Update
- 4. Forum and Advocacy**
 - Discussion topics for future meetings with RWQCB staff
 - Discussion of potential future advocacy items
- 5. 2011-2012 Work Plan Development**
 - Board direction
 - Budget data
 - Adoption schedule
- 6. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**
 - January 11, and February 8, Working Group meetings
 - February 24, Board of Directors meeting
- 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 at (707) 833-2553 with any questions.

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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 | - Rick Seanor – City of Ukiah |
| - Phoebe Grow, RRWA (phone) | - Eydie Tacata - City of Rohnert Park |
| - Patrick Givone - Town of Windsor | - Lisa Steinman – So.Co. WMA |
| - Teresa Gudiño – City of Santa Rosa | - Jennifer Sylvester - So.Co. Env. Health |
| - Forest Frasier – City of Santa Rosa | - Mona Dougherty - RWQCB |
| - Reg Cullen – So Co PRMD | |

2. Summary of December 2, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting

Virginia Porter (RRWA, ED) updated the group on key items on the Board agenda – the dialogue with the Regional Board Executive Officer, Catherine (Cat) Kuhlman, the student video contest topic, and Work Plan guidance.

Cat Kuhlman first thanked RRWA for its ongoing support and complimented the work we have done. Ms. Kuhlman had four key topics to discuss – stormwater, wastewater, the Laguna TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load), and the Mid-River TMDL.

Stormwater: The Regional Board approach to stormwater is prevention first, and filtration of water that can not be percolated. The goal is to protect the natural hydrograph. The Phase I agencies have been the focus for a long time and the Phase II agencies are now coming more into alignment with the Phase I's. The Regional Board appreciates the RRWA web site and monthly environmental columns, and looks forward to the LID workshop. Also, they have appreciated our training efforts on stormwater regulations.

Wastewater: Ms. Kuhlman takes personal pride in the level of treatment in our region – it has had a huge effect on water quality. We need to be vigilant regarding maintaining infrastructure. The Regional Board is very interested in RRWA taking part in developing guidance tools for the use of recycled water for agricultural purposes in our watershed. We need tools that can be used so that recycled water is being applied at agronomic rates. These guidance tools could streamline the permitting process. There is overall concern regarding CEC's (constituents of emerging concern); bioscreening tools need to be developed to screen for these chemicals.

Laguna TMDL: A number of our member agencies will be affected by the Laguna TMDL and the Regional Board would like RRWA to participate as a stakeholder during the development. The Regional Board is working closely with the Laguna Foundation – trying to define “what we think the Laguna ought to look like.” Adoption of the TMDL is scheduled for the 2012-2013 timeframe.

Mid-River TMDL: Though most of our agencies are not directly affected by this regulatory framework, the health of the watershed and the river is affected. The primary concern here is with the impact of septic systems, the homeless and recreation on the water quality of the river. SCWA is working with the Regional Board to install portable toilets in known problem areas.

The RRWA Board and Ms. Kuhlman agreed that regular updates are a good idea and RRWA staff will continue to schedule these dialogues.

A number of RRWA Board Members had questions and comments, and a general discussion of key topics took place. There is general interest in having members of the State Water Resources Control Board visit Region 1 to get a better idea of our unique conditions and regulatory priorities.

Regarding the Video Contest - The Board considered the topics recommended by the Working Group, and also introduced the topic of Pet Waste. The recommendation by the Board was that the topic be either “Pet Waste” or “Sanitary Sewer vs. Storm Drain – Know the Difference.” RRWA will present both of these ideas to SCWA.

Update on Work Plan guidance is included under Item 5 of these meeting notes.

3. RRWA Programs Update

OUTREACH STRATEGIES

Environmental Column: RRWA environmental columns were discussed:

- **December:** Reg Cullen and James Johnson (So.Co. PRMD) wrote an article about rainwater harvesting for water use on site. Thank you Reg and James – great timing with all this rain!
- **Future topics/annual calendar:** The following authors and topics are scheduled in this Work Plan year:
 - **January** – SCWA - 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/Earth Day topic
 - **April, May** – to be determined
 - **June** – Reg Cullen (So Co PRMD) – Watershed knowledge/Stormwater behaviors – from baseline surveys

Outreach to eligible entities:

RRWA staff has been in contact with the City of Sebastopol to follow-up on their potential membership. Sebastopol will not be ready for this decision prior to the Work Plan being adopted in February. Discussion regarding involvement of Mendocino County resulted in Rick Seanor (City of Ukiah) recommending that Virginia Porter contact the County administrator who is relatively new in the role. Ms. Porter will follow up on this recommendation.

RUSSIAN RIVER FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

Document Distribution

After distribution at our November 16th event, we have over 1,200 copies of the Guidelines. Staff recommended that RRWA retain about 200 copies and distribute the remaining copies to member agencies according to their portion of the budget for the project. All agreed that this method is fair and appropriate.

RRWA received a request from the North Bay Institute for Green Technology for 20 copies of the Guidelines to be used for text books for interns in training for green industry jobs. The group concurred that this was a good use of the books and supported providing 20 copies to the Institute.

Bookmarks and web link

The bookmark that was developed with the web-link for the document is ready, and the document should be on line soon. All agreed that the same method of distribution be used for the bookmarks as for the Guidelines document.

Teresa Gudiño (City of Santa Rosa) asked whether the group thought the idea of adopting declaration or proclamation similar to the “Bay Friendly Landscaping and Gardening – 7 Principles Declaration” was a good idea. All agreed. Virginia Porter will draft a proclamation and template staff report for the Working Group consideration and for potential adoption by our Board in February.

MS4 PERMIT SUPPORT – Pollutant specific outreach

The group discussed the pollutant specific outreach task in the current Work Plan. Phoebe Grow (RRWA) will work with the copermittees and Phase II agencies to complete this item. Reg Cullen will follow-up by checking specific requirements of the Phase I permit and get back to the group.

IRWMP UPDATE

The NCIRWMP PRP approved a suite of projects on Nov. 10th, and the RRWA project was not among the priority projects for this round of funding. RRWA staff will meet with NCIRWMP staff in February (after the Implementation Grant deadline of January 7, 2011) to get feedback on our application and future of our project.

The NCIRWMP Memorandum of Mutual Understandings (MOMU) is being updated to include three tribal representatives. The RRWA Board will consider becoming signatory to the new MOMU at their February meeting. Virginia Porter will distribute the existing and proposed MOMU to the group for review.

The NCIRWMP has been recommended for a \$1M planning grant.

PHASE II STORMWATER UPDATE

The current schedule for permit review and adoption is: spring 2011 – public draft; summer 2011 – public workshops; fall 2011 – permit adoption. Mona Dougherty (Regional Water Quality Control Board – Region 1) indicated their staff hopes to have an internal document for their review in January/February 2011. In addition, the State Board workshops will take place during the comment period; and the State Board has been collaborating with both regulated agencies, primarily through CASQA (California Stormwater Quality Association), and environmental groups during the permit drafting period. Workshops will be similar to those held regarding the Construction General Permit.

Ms. Dougherty also mentioned that agencies required to monitor for TMDL's may be able to use this monitoring to satisfy the requirements of the Phase II permit. Most likely the post construction BMP's will be prioritized with the highest values ones first. There will likely be the requirement for an inventory of industrial sites. There may be a requirement for added monitoring for streams with a risk to their biological integrity.

Phoebe Grow noted that the permit content will include monitoring and will have parallels to the State Construction General Permit.

STORMWATER TRAINING

RRWA is in contact with a number of private trainers to facilitate regional training in accordance with the schedule that follows. The Regional Board will try to hold the exams close to the training dates.

Schedule for training and certification testing is:

Training/Testing	Date	Location
QSD/QSP Exam	Dec 13 th , 2010	RWQCB (Santa Rosa)
Construction General Permit workshop	February 2011	Santa Rosa area
QSD/QSP Training	March, 2011	Santa Rosa area
QSD/QSP Exam	March/April 2011	Santa Rosa area
QSD/QSP Training (if needed)	June 2011	Possibly Ukiah area
QSD/QSP Exam	June 2011	Possibly Ukiah area

SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL PROGRAM UPDATE

Phoebe Grow provided the update. RRWA is now contracted with Asepsis for hauling and disposal and has moved out of the contract with Stericycle. A radio campaign with Maverick Media is in the works and should be airing soon.

4. Forum and Advocacy

Discussion topics for future meetings with RWQCB staff

RRWA will be meeting with the RWQCB EO and staff February 10, 2011. No topics were proposed for this meeting.

Discussion of future potential advocacy items

No specific items were proposed

5. Work Plan 2011-2012

Board direction

The Board reviewed the overall Work Plan direction that the Working Group has been crafting, and concurred with the general direction to include new staffing resources with Andy Rogers and ECON, and retain RMC in an advisory role. After reviewing the approach to each Work Plan task, the Board concurred with the direction the Technical Working Group has recommended. They support being in a “maintenance year” with the Landscape Guidelines, with consideration of expanding in the next Work Plan year. The Board supported both new projects – the *Agricultural use of Recycled Water Guidance* General Benefit Project, and the *Laguna TMDL Collaboration and Comments* Special Benefit Project.

Budget data

RRWA staff needs budget data from all member agencies, and several have yet to report in. The request was made to provide the data ASAP.

Adoption schedule

January 11 – Working Group to finalize draft Work Plan

Virginia Porter to meet with each Member Agency between January and February Working Group

February 8 – Working Group to incorporate Member Agency input

February 24 - Board to consider Work Plan adoption

The group expressed an interest in getting some low-cost RRWA promotional items such as wild flower seeds or pencils. Lisa Steinman will provide RRWA staff with a list of eco-friendly outreach items and staff will develop some options for the group to consider at the January meeting.

There was discussion about the Low Impact Development (LID) training support item which is in the current Work Plan and will be included in next year's Work Plan. There will not be two LID trainings, so funds from the current Work Plan will cover the cost regardless of which year the training occurs (a credit will be issued to the next Work Plan fees). The new LID manual will be in draft in April 2011 with a final document targeted for October 2011. The training will be timed to be effective within this schedule.

6. Future Meetings and Agenda Items

Working Group

- January 11 – Work Plan – final draft
- February 8 – Work Plan – review final budget and text document, incorporate member agencies' input

Board of Directors

- February 24th – Work Plan Adoption

7. Items of Interest

Lisa Steinman updated the group on the 2011 Sonoma County Recycling Guide which will include information about the Safe Medicine Disposal program in addition to a “keep our waterways clean” message. Ms. Steinman asked if there were RRWA funds available to help publish the guide in the phone book, noting the WMA has been given a special cost for this. RRWA staff will look at the budget, but it is not likely that there are undesignated funds.

Reg Cullen suggested RRWA having a meeting in the Ukiah area next year which could include a Potter Valley field trip. Rick Seanor had proposed this idea earlier in the year, and RRWA staff will look into this for a summer meeting time.

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 10:15.