



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING  
September 14, 2021 at 10:30 AM

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY VIA REMOTE CONFERENCING SERVICE—  
NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86571844564?pwd=N0U1akc5aWFtbGRQWDJGbnHN5Mmxmdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 7184 4564

Meeting Password: 487030

**SUMMARY NOTES**

Andrew Stricklin – City of Ukiah  
Eric Janzen – City of Cloverdale  
Jon Caldwell – City of Cotati  
Ben Kageyama – City of Healdsburg  
James Linderman – County of Mendocino  
Claire Myers – City of Santa Rosa  
Katie Robinson – City of Santa Rosa

Nick Sudano – City of Santa Rosa  
Andrea Rodriguez – Sonoma Water  
Elizabeth Cargay – Town of Windsor  
Joe Gaffney – City of Sebastopol  
Sabrina Marson – RRWA  
Vanessa Apodaca – RRWA  
Colleen Hunt – Public

**1. Greetings and Introductions**

- Review Agenda—Meeting called to order at 10:32 am

**2. Co-Permittee Meeting Updates**

Elizabeth (Windsor) shared the Streets to Creeks campaign will start at the end of September and run until January

**3. Program Management**

- FY 2020/21 year-end calculations/Rollbacks

Vanessa confirmed she reached out to each agency individually with details and that it was just over \$40,000 combined being returned. Sonoma Water's Water Education Program was the biggest contributor to the amount due to COVID.

She also noted that invoice cover letters have been updated to share project updates more efficiently.

**4. 2021/2022 Work Plan**

- Subcommittees
  - Safe Medicine & Sharps Disposal
    - Comments on UltiMed, Inc.'s home-generated Sharps Stewardship Plan submitted July 2, 2021.  
Vanessa updated the group that on July 30, 2021, CalRecycle notified UltiMed that the stewardship plan was incomplete. On August 27, 2021, UltiMed withdrew the stewardship plan. It is unclear if there will be a re-submittal of their plan and submittal of the other plans to CalRecycle.  
There is a DEA Take-back event—October 23
  - Russian River-Friendly Landscaping Program
    - Carbon Gardening Initiative update
    - Call for Subcommittee members—Sonoma Water and Santa Rosa are the only members represented. Reach out to staff if interested in joining.

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

Please contact Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, at 707-508-3670 with any questions.

- Other updates

Vanessa shared updates from the August 31 subcommittee meeting, which included Daily Acts for a Carbon Gardening kick-off. Daily Acts is completing stakeholder engagement and moving forward with the target audience being residential.

Santa Rosa and Daily Acts have partnered for workshops the RRWA is advertising. Vanessa requested that all members who have events, or opportunities (new or old) like Cash for Grass that RRWA can help promote, to email [cleanwater@rrwatershed.org](mailto:cleanwater@rrwatershed.org)

There is a RRFL sign application that was deemed 'Pending' until the landscape phases are complete (planting is on hold due to drought).

- SSU Rising Waters—Workshop on September 24—An email was sent to the TWG on Friday, September 10 with information regarding the The Nexus of Water Quality and Homelessness “Rising Waters” Results & Implementation Workshop on Friday, September 24.
- Form FY workplan 22/23 subcommittee?
  - Vanessa asked for the groups interest in creating a subcommittee due to the timeline of preparing the Work Plan. Elizabeth (Windsor) noted the TWG meetings should be a time when the technical portions of the work plan are noted and discussed. She doesn't see a need for a subcommittee except to dig into more detail on items, if needed. Nick (Santa Rosa) agrees with the comment and mentioned due to the cutdown in meetings this year, he is open to having additional subcommittee meetings.

**ACTION:** RRWA will send a Doodle poll to TWG contact to schedule a subcommittee meeting to kick off the work plan, and to prepare planning talking points and details to discuss at the November TWG meeting. This will also allow TWG member to invite other non-storm water agency staff to participate and talk budgets.

- Key projects
  - Permit Support
    - Stormwater activities table update—Completed and out to members. Any comments or suggestions for future drafts, email [cleanwater@rrwatershed.org](mailto:cleanwater@rrwatershed.org)
    - Residential construction waste educational materials—There are brochures on the Streets to Creeks webpage that cover construction/home improvement and painting.  
**ACTION:** RRWA to visit Streets to Creeks webpage for information and resources to use for outreach.
  - BMP posters/ educational posters for nurseries—Vanessa mentioned there are BMP posters (bilingual) that can be distributed.

**ACTION:** RRWA to Eric (Cloverdale) would like to have 10 of each for distribution to local nurseries and bulk storage yards.

- Streets to Creeks
  - Phase III Launch—September 27
    - a. Maps and landing pages for the zip code campaign coming soon
  - Neighbor to Neighbor awareness campaigns are available for community participation at [www.streetsforcreeks.org/neighbor-to-neighbor](http://www.streetsforcreeks.org/neighbor-to-neighbor)
  - Action Tracker is in production

- Spanish URL is live [www.es.streetstocreeks.org](http://www.es.streetstocreeks.org)
- Creek Week—September 19-25, 2021
  - Website and flyer are complete and ready for distribution. Additional event information can be emailed to [cleanwater@rrwatershed.org](mailto:cleanwater@rrwatershed.org)
- OWOW
  - Article: Enjoy pollinators in your garden, Avoid Neonics
  - Cloverdale Nursery is interested in joining

QR code posters are in development that direct to the website &/or the fact sheets. They will provide an alternative for retailers who don't have space for or that don't want racks or for folks that are reluctant to take the fact sheets. No comments were provided, and the group is in support of the new resources.
- Children's placemats
  - Spanish translation—Comments to the draft in the meeting packet will be accepted until September 30 and can be emailed to [cleanwater@rrwatershed.org](mailto:cleanwater@rrwatershed.org)
  - Locations
    - Wing Man in Cotati - Permanently closed
    - Healdsburg Bar and Grill opting out for now due to COVID
    - Cloverdale, Cotati, Sebastopol, and Ukiah each have two locations.
    - Santa Rosa and Windsor have one. Healdsburg has zero. RRWA staff is working to find new locations. Any leads can be emailed to [cleanwater@rrwatershed.org](mailto:cleanwater@rrwatershed.org)
- Environmental Articles
  - BONUS September article: "Enjoy pollinators in your garden, Avoid Neonics," authored by Suzanne Bontempo, of Plant Harmony and program manager of Our Water Our World

Agency Author FY 2021-22 List			
Month	Agency	Draft Due to RRWA	Topic
October	Ukiah	August 31	The Bioretention Geek
November	Healdsburg	September 30	Drought
December	Santa Rosa	October 30	TBD
January	County of Mendocino	November 30	TBD
February	Town of Windsor	December 31	TBD
March	Sonoma Water	January 31	TBD
April	Guest/ RRWA staff	February 28	TBD
May	Cloverdale	March 31	TBD
June	Guest/ RRWA staff	April 30	TBD

## 5. Russian River Watershed Coordination

- RRWA Board of Directors meeting—July 22 update
  - Creek Week Proclamation approved
  - Bilingual placemats instead of Spanish translation
  - Highschool Video Contest theme is "Drought is Here. Save Water"
  - Water conservation yard signs through the RCD and Mendocino County. RRWA helped with Distribution. RRWA staff have 12 available. If interested, email [cleanwater@rrwatershed.org](mailto:cleanwater@rrwatershed.org). Sonoma Water has partnered with the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership and they have signs available if anyone wants one.

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

Please contact Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, at 707-508-3670 with any questions.

- May 8, 2021 presentation by SSU – Rising WATERS included reported on team findings. The public event recording, “Deep Dive: Water & Homelessness,” can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-AQvrG0Yfg>

- August 21 Drought Drop-By event update

3,333 Kits distributed

Santa Rosa	1300
Windsor	133
Healdsburg	75
Cloverdale	292
Cotati	120
Mendocino	500
Other	913

**TOTAL 2,420**

Santa Rosa is planning one for October 9. It has not been determined if other cities will join.

- Drought Campaign

- Drought mandates and local events

Vanessa provided the recent RRWA website mandate updates. No changes were noted by the TWG. Email changes to [cleanwater@rrwatershed.org](mailto:cleanwater@rrwatershed.org)

Cloverdale	Mandatory 35% reduction
Cotati	Voluntary 20% reduction
Healdsburg	Mandatory 40% reduction/74 gallons per person per day
Santa Rosa	Mandatory 20% reduction
Sebastopol	Mandatory 25% reduction
Ukiah	Subject to Regular Updates
County of Mendocino	Voluntary 20% reduction
County of Sonoma & Sonoma Water	Sonoma Water and its water contractors are required to reduce total diversions from the Russian River by 20%
Town of Windsor	Mandatory 20% reduction

- Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)

TAC meetings October 13 & November 10. Presentations include Streamflow data assessment and Riparian corridor mapping

- CASQA updates

- PIPP Subcommittee July 29
- Phase II Subcommittee August 19
- Phase II GP reissuance September 16

Parts of the permit are looking to be completely re-written and organized: Asset management, trash, and alternate compliance will be looked at.

## 6. Forum and Advocacy

- RRWA/RWQCB Quarterly Meeting—September 7 update
- October RWQCB meeting—Andy and RRWA Vice Chair presenting. SSU will be presenting Rising WATERS
- Long term R3MP funding strategies are being looked at by staff.

RR Confluence—Supervisor Hopkins office facilitating watershed-wide branding initiative. Committee includes Water Board, both counties, Conservation Works, and volunteers.

LID vegetation needs to be maintained during curtailment orders

- Regional Water Board meeting—August 19 update
  - Written comments for TMDL until September 22. Hearing for readoption scheduled for December

## 7. Items of Interest

- Climate Resilience Budget Trailer Bills SB155 and SB170 passed September 9, 2021 Both long and complex. A few preliminary take-aways from a very quick review:
  - \$3.7B package, \$440M for this fiscal year
  - \$25M allocated for local and regional adaptation planning this year
  - \$225M allocated for grants and local/regional adaptation planning and implementation in years 2 & 3
- Grant opportunities
  - Applications under the Drought Resiliency Projects (DRP) funding opportunity are due on October 5, 2021— Access the funding opportunity by searching [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) for funding number R22AS00020.
  - Applications under the Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG) funding opportunity are due on November 3, 2021—Access this funding opportunity by searching [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) for opportunity number R22AS00023.
  - Applications under the Environmental Water Resources Projects (EWRP) funding opportunity are due on December 9, 2021—Access this funding opportunity by searching [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) for opportunity number R22AS00026.
  - Prop. 68 San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program Climate Adaptation Funds accepting pre-proposals on a rolling basis—
  - Applications under USFWS National Fish Passage Program funding opportunity are due December 31, 2021—Projects to restore fish passage such as dam removal, road culverts (installation/replacement), bridges, water diversions, installation of fishways.

Vanessa provided details for each grant, including brief overview, amount available, and where to access more information.

Vanessa asked if there was interest from the group in forming a regional funding subcommittee: No comments were provided.

She also let the group know RRWA is always available as a funding mechanism or to facilitate regional funding applications or to provide letters of support for individual agency funding applications.

- Funding program updates
  - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)—\$3.46b added on August 8. To be eligible, project must be covered in a local Hazard Mitigation Plan
  - IRWM Round 2 Implementation Grant—Applications will be due either March or September 2022 depending on IRWM region.
  - California Infrastructure Funding—State budget includes \$5.1 billion over the next 4 years to the state’s “water resilience and drought preparedness and response”. Includes \$85m for groundwater cleanup and water recycling projects

- Letters of Support for WIPPES Act (HR 4602)  
Vanessa reported on other updates:
  - [AB 818 \(Bloom\)](#) passed off the Senate Floor with a 39-0 vote on 8/30, and the Assembly Floor in concurrence with a 76-0 vote on 9/1. RRWA signed on to a letter requesting Governor Newsom sign AB 818 into law
  - Sonoma Water’s [Water and Energy Education program](#) is ready for the return to in-person learning.
    - Teachers and districts to provide in class, on campus (outdoors), field trips, or virtual lessons.
    - 2021/2022 brochure was mailed to every teacher in service areas.
    - Two new programs to highlight this month:
      - [Drought education and resources](#)
      - [A Call to Action](#)

2022 Theme “Drought is Here. Save Water”

Anticipated 2022 timeline

- January – Info packets will be mailed to all media teachers and science chairs at every high school in our service area (all of Sonoma County, Mendocino County, and Novato)
- April – videos are due
- May 18, 6pm – Award Ceremony at Sonoma Water (in conjunction with our small grants program showcase)
- June – Final video compilation will be distributed to the Board
- Regional Water Board posted draft Amendment Order No. R1-2021-0041
  - Available on the Regional Water Board website for tentative orders for Board decisions.  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders)
  - This Order is intended to amend the Water Quality Trading Framework for the Laguna de Santa Rosa.
  - Written public comments are due by October 11

**8. Public Comment—NONE**

**9. Adjourn— 11:20am**

**RRWA Calendar Summary:**

Unless otherwise noted, RRWA Meetings will be virtual.

<b>Upcoming TWG Meetings 10:30 am – 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Upcoming Board of Directors meetings 9:00 am – 11:00 am</b>
November 9, 2021 January 11, 2022 March 8, 2022 May 10, 2022	October 28, 2021 February 24, 2022 May 26, 2022
<b>Environmental Columns</b>	
August – Thank you, RRWA Safe Medicine Disposal Subcommittee - Operations Group, Safe Medicine Disposal Program Update September – Thank you, Colleen Hunt for the City of Cotati, Creek Week 2021 – Ways to Get Involved with Protecting Our Creeks October – City of Ukiah, The Bioretention Geek November – City of Healdsburg, TBD December – City of Santa Rosa, TBD	
<b>Important Dates</b>	
September 18— Coastal Cleanup Day September 19-25—Russian River Creek Week September 20-26—National Pollution Prevention Week	