



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING
April 9, 2024 at 10:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91806438004?pwd=VDhtdFA5LzR6eFU0NVNZeTRHRDFrZz09>
Meeting ID: 918 0643 8004
Passcode: 114544

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Greetings and Introductions

Aaron Nunez – City of Santa Rosa
Josie Slovut – County of Mendocino
Claire Myers – City of Santa Rosa
Elizabeth Cargay – Town of Windsor
Michael Harrigan – City of Healdsburg
Elissa Overton – City of Sebastopol
Abra Biederman – City of Sebastopol
Vanessa Apodaca – RRWA
Andy Rodgers – RRWA

Alisa Keenan – County of Sonoma
Amber Fisette – County of Mendocino
Bobby Spagnola – City of Cloverdale
Stuart Tiffen – Sonoma Water
Chris Halle – Sonoma State University
Kerry Wininger – Sonoma State
University
Andrew Stricklin – City of Ukiah

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

2. Guest Presentation: Rising Waters Overview, Dr. Chris Halle, Sonoma State University Center for Environmental Inquiry

- **Summary of Rising Water Project**
 - Train students and faculty to engage effectively with community leaders.
 - The WATERS Collaborative – Rising Waters Initiative
 - Process – identify issues, collect and summarize data, brainstorm solutions, present and report.
 - Timeline
 - a. Fall 2018-Spring 2019 - Discussion begins.
 - b. Fall/Spring 2020 – Funding allocated.
 - c. Fall 2020 – Identify Steering Committee, grants awarded.
 - d. May 2021 – Student Led Public Workshop
 - e. Sep 2021 – Formal Public Workshop
 - Homelessness and Watersheds - Protection, quality, sanitation, conservation
 - a. Task 1: Mapping and Strategy in Spring/Early Summer 2024
 - b. Task 2: Barriers
 - c. Task 3: Alignment, Methods, and Results
 - d. Task 4: Water Quality Sampling and Observations
 - e. Task 5: Social Media Campaign
 - Expanding the Model - CEI asked to partner with CSU-Water to advise CA Sustainable Growth Council
 - Into the Future
 - a. Work with Sonoma Water and RRWA to develop pilot project near riparian area.
 - b. Expand long term planning in the county.

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

Questions

Alisa - Have you engaged with Sonoma County homeless Collision? Duplication of efforts?

Chris – Have not met with collision yet but happy to become involved. Alisa to facilitate connection.

Alisa – Potential to expand monitoring efforts beyond Santa Rosa Creek?

Chris – Met with Petaluma project managers for monitoring and validating e-coli testing. Not yet north of Santa Rosa. Would like to know if specific creeks need monitoring.

Stuart – Expand on challenges.

Chris – Some frustrations like negative engagement with community and misconceptions around homelessness. Also, liability concerns from agency attorneys.

Elizabeth – Why do you want to go north with studies?

Vanessa – Upper Watersheds want more consideration.

Chris – Value is in steering committee connections and to facilitate future involvement in north watershed programs.

Elizabeth – Outreach should use Mendocino County/Ukiah as pilot project to challenge misconceptions.

Chris – Public events to engage and educate citizens and help people connect with each other rather than “be right.”

Kerry – Students want to present at BOD meetings to discuss misconceptions and toolkits.

Andy – Excited to have students make presentations. Thank you SSU!

3. Technical Working Group Business

- Standing items:

- Board Summary from February

- Chair and Vice Chair Re-election

- Maureen Mulheren, Mendocino (Chair)

- Ben Ford, Cotati (Vice Chair)

- 24/25 Work Plan Adopted

- RRWA/RWQCB Quarterly Meeting

Vanessa shared updates

- Reduce frequency to bi-annual with optional third meeting.

- Ongoing initiative Wastewater Operators Forum / Regional Waterboard Staff Connections

- Advocated and mentioned LID features on private property are not sustainable and difficult to inspect – larger community features are allowed but permit language could be clearer.

- Reiterated concern with reducing the threshold for impervious surface – upcoming permit language will be clarified.

- Regional Waterboard Business updates

- a. Triannual review – anticipating June 2024 to include Laguna TMDLs and Tribal beneficial uses

- b. Cost of compliance reporting regulations

- c. Staff resources – state budget is impacting travel and what projects they can work on

Question

Alisa – appreciates new graphic format in TWG presentation.

Andy – How is Waterboard regulatory staffing for Co-Permittee meetings?

Elizabeth – RWQCB is trying to get additional staff.

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Andy – Timeline for new regulations?

Elizabeth – Nick said by May 7, Waterboard will have language out on costing requirements for the next permit – Co-Permittees will submit comments.

- Co-Permittee updates
 - Elissa - No updates
- Streets to Creeks car washing
 - Vanessa asked question from member agency whether car washing was party of Streets to Creeks
 - a. Elissa/Elizabeth share this not part of Streets to Creeks. Focus is on trash.
- 23/24 work plan close out
 - Steelhead Festival February 10, 2024
 - Very successful festival
 - BOD members and member staff helped table.
 - Estimates – 8,000 - 10,000 attendees!
 - Andy – Thank you for the support!

Question

Elizabeth – What were most sought-after promotional items?

Vanessa – Water drought conservation buckets and wildflower seed packets; interest in RRFL flyers and Safe Medicine Disposal information

- Town halls & partner outreach
 - Vanessa presented March 28 to South Ukiah Rotary Club; and Atascadero Green Valley Watershed Council who are interested in collaborating with RRWA. Both groups are interested in river clean-ups and participate in their own clean up events.
- Safe Medicine Campaign Shared on Instagram and Facebook
 - Metrics provided
- Earth Day events
 - Member agency events information provided
- High school video contest awards
 - Put a LID on it! – TWG suggestion
 - a. Submissions are in, judging to begin with awards ceremony scheduled for May 9
 - b. One RRWA staff on judging panel
 - c. Please RSVP – link provided in handout.
- Environmental Articles
 - May – Cloverdale Article
 - June – RRWA Farewell Article

Elizabeth – Thanks Vanessa for article table in one place

- Year-end budget projections
 - Vanessa updates on end of FY budgets; \$70k in anticipated rollbacks with underutilized special benefit task as bulk of rollbacks

Questions

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Amber – Can you delineate where rollback funds are coming from?

Elizabeth - Windsor, Elisa - Sebastopol, Aaron - Santa Rosa, Alissa – Sonoma County all want copies of breakdown.

Vanessa – A few member agencies request details. All members will be provided details in the future.

Elizabeth – Workplan on website says DRAFT, but it would be nice to have adopted Work Plan.

Vanessa – Update coming soon.

- 24/25 Planning
 - Schedule & Format of 24/25 TWG Meetings – will remain virtual
 - July 9, 2024
 - Oct 8, 2024
 - Jan 14, 2025
 - Apr 8, 2025
 - BOD meetings TBD

4. Informational Updates

- CASQA
 - Phase II Updates
 - Vanessa – RRWA Staff is participating; but will phase out by end of FY per TWG direction.
 - Update on cost report schedule - May 7 anticipated for Waterboard hearing and workshop for draft permit language.
 - a. Tentative April revised draft with 45-day comment period; could be delayed.
 - First reporting year for standardized cost reporting; anticipated Sept 2026 deadline

Question

Amber and Josie – requested information on how to join Phase II sub-committee.

Vanessa – Will send follow-up information on how to be added.

- Legislative Subcommittee
 - Andy – Legislative tracker available via Legislation Committee link - lists bills related to waterboard by priority.
- Placemats
 - New locations and metrics provided with budget information

Question

Elizabeth - When should we refresh them?

Vanessa – We refreshed a year ago with bilingual version but can update anytime.

Elizabeth – Will there be budget remaining?

Vanessa – At the end of May we plan to replenish our backstock, but remaining budget can be used for refresh if directed.

Andy – Supports refresh using new ideas.

- Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)
 - TAC Meeting May 8, 2024
 - SC Meeting May 22, 2022
 - SC to vote on accepting update draft of coordinated 5-year monitoring plan and recommended data management processes memo and

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presentation on draft criteria for selecting and implementing entity and preliminary estimates program costs.

- Support/Comment letters
 - Letter of Support for the City of Santa Rosa Community Project Funding request for Llano Trunk sewer line project
 - Letter of Support for Windsor Water Reclamation Facility Biosolids Handling Project
 - Please reach out if you'd like RRWA to write any letters of support or concern.
- Subcommittees
 - Safe Medicine & Sharps Disposal
 - DEA Take Back event – April 27, 2024
 - Russian River-Friendly Landscaping (RRFL) Program
 - Sub-committee is working to reorient and focus on commercial landscapes.
 - Engagement with and sponsorship for Santa Rosa CLCA.
- Executive Programs and Initiatives Committee (EPIC)—May 9
 - Operators Forum
 - Town of Windsor hosting first Wastewater Operators Forum
 - a. Excited to share information.
 - Mid-May – June
 - a. Tour of Wastewater Treatment Plant; Open invitation to follow.

5. Items of Interest

- Great Redwood Trail Master Plan in progress
- Rescape Training – April 9, 2024
- NBWA – Biennial Conference April 19, 2024
- Kerry – Center for Environmental Inquiry public open houses this and next month at Osborn Preserve

6. Public Comment

- None

7. Adjourn

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RRWA Calendar Summary:

Unless otherwise noted, RRWA Board of Director meetings are held at Windsor Town Council Chambers, 9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, California 95492, and Technical Working Group meetings will be virtual.

Upcoming TWG Meetings 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Upcoming Board of Directors meetings 9:00 am – 11:00 am
	Thursday, May 23, 2024
Environmental Columns	
February – Thank you Cristina Goulart, Environmental Program Manager, Town of Windsor, for Take your Litter Home March – Thank you Andrea Rodriguez, Sonoma Water, for Fix a Leak Week April – Thank you Sonoma County and Safe Medicine Subcommittee for Safe Medicine Disposal Stewardship Programs May – City of Cloverdale TBD June – RRWA / TBD	
Important Dates	
Monday, April 22, 2024—Earth Day Saturday, April 27, 2024—National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Thursday, May 9, 2024 – 6 - 7 PM Student Video Contest Awards Ceremony (Advanced Energy Center)	

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