RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 22, 2024
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
(Hybrid Meeting)

Zoom and

Windsor Town Council Chambers
9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, CA 95492

MINUTES

Directors and Alternates Present

Marjorie Morgenstern	City of Cloverdale
Ben Ford, Vice-Chair	City of Cotati
Ron Edwards	City of Healdsburg
Sandra Maurer	City of Sebastopol
Mark Stapp	City of Santa Rosa
Susan Sher	City of Ukiah
Maureen Mulheren, Chair	County of Mendocino
Adriane Garayalde	Sonoma County
Andrea Rodriguez	Sonoma Water
Brian Wheeler	City of Cloverdale
Chris Herrod	City of Healdsburg

Directors present represented ten of the ten RRWA member agencies and constitutes a quorum.

Additional Attendees

Valerie Quinto – North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB)
Claire Myers – City of Santa Rosa
Sean McNeil – City of Santa Rosa
Katie Robinson – City of Santa Rosa
Nick Sudano – City of Santa Rosa
Elizabeth Cargay – Windsor
Alisa Keenan – County of Sonoma
Billy Dixon – Sonoma Water
Paul Piazza – Sonoma Water
Brenda Adelman - Public
Bob Anderson – Public
Sabrina Marson – RRWA Staff
Vanessa Apodaca – RRWA Staff
Andy Rodgers – RRWA Executive Director

A. **Call to Order and Introductions -** Meeting called to order by Chair Mulheren at 9:07 am. Roll call was taken.

B. **Approval of the Agenda -** Agenda was approved with no revisions.

C. Approval of Standing Items

a. Minutes: October 26 Board of Directors Meeting – Vice-Chair Ford moved to approve. Director Edwards seconded. Director Maurer abstained. Minutes approved.

D. Guest Presentations:

a. Annual Dialogue with Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board – Valerie emphasized her gratitude and the importance of collaboration with RRWA:

- Quarterly meetings between RRWA Chair, Vice-Chair, and RRWA staff
- Including RWQCB staff in EPIC meetings
- RRWA Executive officer and Vice-Chair for annual presentation to NCRWQCB
- Congratulated Streets to Creeks on its successes
- City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma Water collaborations on Salmonid Restoration Conference and Laguna de Santa Rosa
- Forming the wastewater operators' forum

Valerie shared updates from the NCRWQCB:

- NCWQCB is still in the process of updating Phase 1 MS4 permit
- R3MP monitoring plan was out for review. The vision for R3MP is an alternative to MS4 permit requirements.
- Basin Plan triannual review final staff report will be released soon. Recommendations will be considered in June.

<u>Questions/Comments:</u>

Director Maurer asked to speak more about the Technical Advisory Board
Valerie – It's not yet formed - or timeline to form board but will be after CEQA.
Vice-Chair Ford asked about cultural beneficial use examples from other watersheds.
Valerie- Stanislas River Watershed
Director Garayalde thanked Valerie for coordinating culture staff.
Director Stapp expressed concern about sediment from vineyards.
Valerie – Sediment removed from shade and temperature is most concerning.
Director Edwards inquired about cannabis regulations.
Valerie – Ag staff is working with cannabis.
ED Rodgers asked if all Board positions are filled.
Valerie – Board is 7 members, currently 5 members seated.

b. Streets to Creeks—Nick Sudano, City of Santa Rosa

The project is a high priority for regional membership and MS4 Permit compliance. Consistency in outreach and branding, updated 40 fact sheets in English and Spanish. Residential, ethnic communities, children and industrial/commercial facilities. Targeted audience in 4 phases, zip code targeted campaigns, expanded YouTube videos, adaptable marketing campaigns, social media, and advertising – physical (billboards) and digital (website). Expanded promotional items through community recognition. Year over year growth is strong. Actionable campaigns included 'Neighbor to Neighbor' watch, digital action trackers, and funding campaigns. Creek protector program activity books for children. Interacts with public and creates community engagement. Creates community awareness, reduces

barriers, encourages and tracks behavior changes. Next phases will include LID awareness, storm drain models, trash pilot studies, and move towards permit compliance for 2030 trash campaign.

E. January 9 TWG Meeting Updates

a. Guest Presentations – Reach out to Vanessa (RRWA) for presentation copies.
   i. Laguna TMDL's, Matt Graves, RWQCD
   ii. Trash Capture Chris Sommers, EOA, Inc.

F. Board of Directors Business

a. Form 700 guidance—RRWA Directors file Form 700 with their own agencies. RRWA does not collect these forms.
b. Key project updates
   i. 2023 Steelhead Festival—February 10 – Thank you Director Salmon and Director Ford. 8,000 plus attendees!
   ii. Cloverdale Citrus Fair—February 16-19 – RRWA provided tabling supplies, reach out for more supplies – so successful we ran out of seed and buckets!
   iii. Our Water Our World – Stores and trained staff located on interactive map and updates are in development – guidance handbook and fact sheets in English and Spanish.
   iv. High School Student Video Contest – Judging time coming up and winning videos will be presented at May board meeting. Thank you to Sonoma Water education staff for spearheading.
   v. Bilingual Educational Placemats – Over 44,000 placemats have been distributed – now more than 50 restaurants! New locations added, some restaurants have closed, but now in Libraries and non-restaurants.
   vi. Carbon Gardening Videos – Relaunched videos in English and Spanish. "What to Plant" is most popular social media post.
   vii. Russian River-Friendly Landscaping – Biennial workshop - subcommittee focusing on landscape contractors – Joined CA Landscapers Contractors Association.
   viii. Executive Programs & Initiatives Committee (EPIC)—January 4 – Operators forum initiative will be put on after rain season.
   ix. Safe medicine and sharps disposal
      1. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – Federal Funded
         a) October 28, 2023 results – Almost 450 lbs. within the watershed!
         b) April 27, 2024 – Get police departments on alert
            Andy updates on funding of disposal, more locations, subcommittee watchdog to oversee locations are more available to watershed residents, consolidated website for more information about disposal.
      2. Social media campaign update – English and Spanish images and video versions for campaign

c. 2024/2025 Work Plan Introduction
   i. Overview – Andy summarized the 5-month planning process, overall structure is unchanged, main changes are additional field trip for BOD and Strategic Plan. City of Ukiah will maintain charge for administrative services of $4,000.

ii. Technical Working Group recommendation – Vanessa summarized general benefit projects. Discontinuing and repurposing funds from environmental articles, R3MP and CASQA subcommittees to Streets to Creeks program. Continue to provide support to member agencies with funding and regulatory advocacy, stormwater program support, CASQA membership. Vanessa summarized special benefit projects. Support for Phase 1 Child Outreach, OWOW, Sonoma State WATERS, Streets to Creeks, grant support, and Operators' Forum.

Andy discussed the rolled up overall increase of $33,984.

iii. Consider adoption

Questions/Comments:
Director Maurer asked about the difference between Streets to Creeks Campaign and Campaign and Pilot
Vanessa – Campaign and Pilot includes a robust campaign and pilot trash study for 2030 trash regulation compliance.
Alissa – Pilot study involves member agencies for track 1 and track 2.
Vanessa – Campaign only is for agencies not doing the trash study as they will provide their own plan.

Vice-Chair Ford recused from item C4 and moved to adopt the 24/25 Work Plan. Director Stapp also recused from item C4. All voted "Aye" with none opposed. Director Maurer moved to adopt Task C4, Alternate Wheeler seconded. None opposed. Fiscal Year 24/25 Work Plan adopted

G. Regional Advocacy and Initiatives updates

a. RRWA/RWQCB
- Quarterly meeting update from January 30 - Vanessa summarized potential future regulatory requirements and advocacy. Reduced meeting frequency from previous adopted work.
- Executive Director Andy and Vice-Chair Ford presented to RWQCB about RRWA on December 12.

b. Russian River Water Forum
c. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP)
- Andy summarized RRWA work plan and how not funding the monitoring program moving forward is a success. RRWA is designed to get work going and provide a regional vision to better allocate resources to priorities.

d. Russian River Confluence
e. North Coast Resources Partnership
f. Comment/Support Letters –
- Connecting Cloverdale to the Bay
- City of Santa Rosa Lower Colgan Creek Restoration Project.

H. Items of Interest

a. NBWA Conference at SSU - April 19th, 2024 – Save the date– looking at the future of North Bay.

I. Public Comment

Director Maurer inquired about an organization chart for RRWA, partners, sponsorships. Andy noted graphics were being developed in a previous work plan but stopped due to assignment changes. RRWA will plan to provide an organization chart in 2024/25.

J. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:49

RRWA Calendar Summary:
Unless otherwise noted meetings are held at Windsor Town Council Chambers, 9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, California 95492

Upcoming TWG Meetings (Virtual meetings only) 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	**Upcoming Board of Directors meetings 9:00 am – 11:00 am**
April 9, 2024	May 23, 2024

Environmental Columns
December — Thank you, Angie Daniel of the City of Santa Rosa - Taking the Dirty Out of Stormwater
January — Thank you, Amber Fisette, of the County of Mendocino - Eight Ideas to Make Your New Year's Resolutions Green
February — Thank you, Cristina Goulart, Environmental Program Manager, of Town of Windsor - Take Your Litter Home
March — Thank you, Andrea Rodriguez, of Sonoma Water - Fix a Leak Week - March 18 through March 24

Important Dates
February 16-19, 2024 – Cloverdale Citrus Fair
April 27, 2024 – National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
May 9, 2024 – Awards Ceremony for High School Video Contest (Time TBD)