RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING
October 8, 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
Michael Harrigan – City of Healdsburg
Colleen Hunt – City of Sebastopol
Anna Perez – Town of Windsor
Amber Fisette – County of Mendocino
Bobby Spagnola – City of Cloverdale
Stuart Tiffen – Sonoma Water
Adriane Garayalde – Confluence
Suzanne Bontempo – Our Water Our World
Andrew Stricklin – City of Ukiah
Vanessa Apodaca – RRWA
Sabrina Marson – RRWA

- Review Agenda - Meeting called to order at 10:36 am.

2. **Guest Presentation**: Our Water Our World (OWOW) Program updates,
Suzanne Bontempo, Plant Harmony/OWOW

Suzanne Bontempo, the Our Water Our World program coordinator, discussed the program's partnership with the Russian River Watershed Association. Suzanne explained the program's focus on connecting water quality with pesticide usage, its national and international recognition, and its expansion throughout California. She detailed the program's components, including point of purchase materials, fact sheets, and QR code posters. Suzanne also shared her experience with the Sonoma County Beekeepers Association and her efforts to schedule trainings with hardware stores and garden centers. Suzanne strategically schedules trainings based on the pests people are likely to encounter during different seasons.

Suzanne discussed her role in organizing events and her willingness to join more events in the coming year. Vanessa (RRWA) asked about the possibility of tabling at events, to which Suzanne responded positively, stating she would be open to joining any event, pending schedule. Adriane (Confluence) suggested Suzanne join the Steelhead Festival, and Suzanne agreed, with RRWA confirming they are also a sponsor of the event. Vanessa offered to provide Suzanne with contact information for the event. The team also expressed their appreciation for Suzanne's work.

3. **Technical Working Group Business**
   - A- Executive Director Services
     - A.1 Board of Directors
       - Board Summary from September 26
       - BOD field trip – postponed
         The board field trip, initially scheduled for October 24th, was postponed due to the busy schedules of the agencies involved in the Potter Valley project.

- A.2 Member Agency staff meetings:
  - Executive Programs and Initiatives Committee (EPIC)—August 15
- A.3 General Administration
  - Rollback calculations
    About $123,000 will go back to the member agencies
  - Strategic Plan
  - 2025/2026 Work Plan – Draft 1
    Vanessa mentioned that the SSU program is changing, with a focus on water quality, urban creek analyses, and workforce development. She also mentioned a proposal in the works, which will be ready for presentation in the next few weeks. Vanessa and Colleen (Sebastopol) discussed a presentation for the Co-Permittees.

    Colleen proposed the idea of consolidating the outcomes of the Rising Waters project's five components into one place, ideally on the RRWA website, to make the information more accessible and utilized. Vanessa agreed to work on it. Vanessa also mentioned that the work plan is fluid and open to changes, and she encouraged the team to provide feedback. She also mentioned that Andy (RRWA) had some thoughts on the work plan, specifically about the advocacy work, which could be divided into legislative funding, resiliency advancement, and other areas. Vanessa emphasized the importance of timely communication to facilitate the work plan's progress.

    Vanessa suggested expanding the work plan's advocacy tasks to include regulatory forums, legislative information, funding opportunities, and resiliency advancement initiatives. Colleen agreed on funding and resiliency, but felt legislative information was adequately covered by CASQA.

    Aaron (Santa Rosa) raised setting aside funds for the next permit monitoring plan, though Vanessa noted the Phase 1 permit's uncertain timeline. Colleen will ensure Mendocino County is included in developing the fiscal year 2024-2025 work plan.

- B- General Benefit Projects
  - B.1 Outreach Strategies
    - Fiesta de Independencia—September 15
      Over 5,000 attendees of ALL ages
    - Russian River Friendly Landscaping
      New RRFL sign approved in Santa Rosa (Kaiser Foundation Hospitals). New RRFL handouts were included in meeting packet.
    - Safe medicine & sharps disposal
      DEA National Take Back day is October 26, 2024
    - Website updates
    - Social media
  - B.2 Russian River Friendly Landscaping Workshop Series
    RRFL Subcomittee presenting at November 19 North Coast California Landscape Contractors Association (NC CLCA) meeting on suggested workshop topics specific to landscape professionals. Workshop series to begin early 2025

- B.3 Regulatory Forum and Advocacy
  - Legislative updates
    CASQA has been tracking several bills
    CASQA members can access current status of 2024 Bills to Highlight / Consider Positions at https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=23&id=76e26a28-be1f-4f64-8606-d163da7c32e3
    Prop 4 summary
    - $10M Bond for environmental and climate projects
    - Water projects ($3.8B)
      i. Water quality
      ii. Floods/drought
    - Wildfire & extreme heat ($1.95B)
    - Natural lands, parks & wildlife ($1.9B)
    - Costal lands, bays & ocean protection ($1.2B)
    - Clean energy ($850M)
    - Agricultural ($300M)

    CASQA to release FAQ
  - Support/comment letters—Two letters were included in the meeting packet:
    a. Written Comments on the proposed Draft Municipal Stormwater Cost Policy
    b. Letter of Support for Grant Proposal—Russian River Confluence: Developing a Collaborative Watershed Group
  - Presentation to RWQCB—Tentative date of December 6
  - RRWA/RWQCB bi-annual meeting—August 20
- B.4 Regional Stormwater Program Support
  - Stormwater Activities Memorandum
    Completed – Final provided September 12
  - CASQA group membership
    - Login for handbooks
      - Industrial & Commercial BMP
      - Construction BMP
    - Subcommittee participation by member agencies
    - OWOW Annual Report
  - Restaurant placemats—59 current locations. Over 50,000 distributed
  - National Pollution Prevention—September 16-23
  - Creek Week—September 22-29
    Results and pictures presented in the meeting slides

- C- Special Benefit Projects
  - C.3 Regional Our Water Our World Contract
  - C.5-C.8 Streets to Creeks
  - C.10 Operators Forum

Vanessa provided updates on the Russian River Friendly Landscaping Program, upcoming events, website changes, and various initiatives' progress. She discussed the Proposition 4 bond, support letters, and a presentation to the Water Board. Vanessa mentioned collaboration opportunities and staff changes at the Regional Water Board. She highlighted the Children's Placemats program success and upcoming Operators Forum.

The full presentation is in PDF format and can be found at https://rrwatershed.org/event/technical-working-group-meeting-55/

4. **Items of Interest**
   - North Coast Resource Partnership Quarterly Meeting Friday, October 18, 2024, 9 am - 3 pm
     Register at https://url.us.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/46H6C9rL3BukoGL3F3igFqvCQh?domain=northcoastresourcepartnership.us17.list-manage.com
   - FREE in person workshop: Resilient Landscaping: Create Defensible Space that is Beautiful, Sustainable and Biodiverse
     When: October 13th, 2024, 9:30am – 12:30pm
     Where: Occidental Arts and Ecology Center Meeting Hall, 15290 Coleman Valley Road, Occidental, CA 95465
     Registration required!
     https://url.us.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/oauGCgJQ7KFAVDEktxTEC4gR40?domain=sonomaresilientlandscapes.us18.list-manage.com

5. **Public Comment**
   - None

6. **Adjourn 11:42 am**

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**
January 14, 2025 April 8, 2025	December 19, 2024 February 27, 2025 May 22, 2025
Important Dates	
Feb 8, 2025 — 16th Annual Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival April 24, 2025 — Tentative Date for Video Contest Awards Ceremony	