RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING
January 14, 2025 at 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

(Hybrid Meeting)

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

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **Greetings and Introductions**

Derrick Montanye – City of Cloverdale
Bobby Spagnola – City of Cloverdale
Aaron Nunez – City of Santa Rosa
Claire Myers – City of Santa Rosa
Steve Brady – City of Santa Rosa
Josie Slovut – County of Mendocino
Michael Harrigan – City of Healdsburg
Colleen Hunt – City of Sebastopol
Anna Perez – Town of Windsor
Kevin Booker – Sonoma Water
Alisa Keenan – County of Sonoma
Kerry Wininger – Guest Speaker
Adriane Garayalde – Confluence
Paul Piazza – Sonoma Water
Andrew Stricklin – City of Ukiah
Vanessa Apodaca – RRWA
Sabrina Marson – RRWA
Jaden Husser – RRWA
Andy Rodgers – RRWA

- Review Agenda - Meeting called to order at 10:36 am.
- Vanessa introduced the newest RRWA staff member, Jaden, who will be taking on more responsibilities and potentially succeeding Vanessa.

2. **Guest Presentation**: Rising WATERS, Kerry Wininger, Outreach & Project Development Lead, Center for Environmental Inquiry, Sonoma State University

Kerry presented an update on the Rising WATERS project. The project aims to identify, study, and implement solutions to emerging complex water challenges, while preparing a workforce with knowledge, skills, and experience in problem-solving for cross-disciplinary challenges surrounding water issues. The project has been running for four years and has involved various teams, including a water quality sampling team that has won multiple best poster awards. The project is now transitioning to a broader initiative, focusing on urban and rural creek management, with the aim of establishing two sites for dynamic, multidisciplinary demonstration areas. The project also seeks to establish partnerships with regional organizations and to seek funding for high-priority education and training programs. A central database for all the resources that have been developed over the course of the project will be available, hopefully, by the end of the fiscal year. RRWA has a new webpage for the project https://rrwatershed.org/project/rising-waters/

3. **Technical Working Group Business**
   - Executive Director Services
     - A.1 Board of Directors
       - Board Summary from December 19
         Guest presentation: *Climate in the North Bay Region: Indications of Changes for the Coming Decades*, Dr. Dan Cayan, Research Meteorologist, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego.

Election of Officers: Chair Mulheren and Vice Chair Ford re-elected. The board is planning to repeat the Potter Valley Tour, which was successful two years ago, but is now aiming for a springtime event.

- A.2 Member Agency staff meetings:
  - Executive Programs & Initiatives Committee (EPIC)—December 10. Next meeting: March 11, 2025
    Meeting packet included HANDOUT 1–December 10 EPIC Meeting Notes
- A.3 General Administration
  - Strategic Plan— Andy indicated there is a RRWA Strategic Plan committee being formed. Representatives needed from: Board, EPIC, and TWG. Targeting January for final RFP issuance. Facilitator selection anticipated in February. Updates at February and May Board meetings. Vanessa proposed reallocating funds from the current work plan to increase the budget for the strategic plan. Vanessa asked that the TWG provide comments on the RFP by Friday, January 17th. The TWG suggested repurposing funds ($20,000) from the LID calculator update [from current work plan] to support the strategic plan.
    Meeting packet included HANDOUT 2 – RRWA Strategic Plan RFP DRAFT
  - 2025/2026 Work Plan – Draft 3
    Vanessa requested operating budgets from the members to update the work plan. Further discussion took place on the comments received and RRWA staff's responses.

    The work plan includes general benefit projects like outreach and communications, sponsoring events like Fiesta de Independencia and Steelhead Festival, supporting regional programs like the Russian River Friendly Landscaping event, and regulatory forums with the Regional Water Board. Andy (RRWA) will participate in developing the Russian River Watershed Network under a state resiliency planning project, including tribal engagement, municipalities, communities, NGOs, and other stakeholders. The proposed budget for general benefit projects remains largely unchanged from the previous year despite some additions like quarterly financial reporting and strategic planning. The TWG provided feedback on items like virtual/hybrid meeting formats, tabling event details, and specific task descriptions.
    Vanessa discussed the activities memo, anticipating a new permit possibly next year.

- B- General Benefit Projects
  - B.1 Outreach Strategies
    - Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival—February 8, 2025
      Booth signup sheet just released; Shifts from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
      OWOW's Suzanne Bontempo to table
    - Russian River-Friendly Landscaping
      Subcommittee members Paul and Thomas presented at the November 19 CLCA dinner meeting.
      CLCA Board engagement: Co-develop topics for CLCA dinner

meeting presentations and future RRFL symposiums. Participants noted that's the only time they get to interface with regulators, architects, designers and hear from experts outside the region.

- National Prescription Drug Take Back Day—October 26, 2024
  - ✓ Total of 577 pounds for Sonoma County
  - ✓ The DEA was not able to weigh by site this time
  - ✓ April was 481.1 pounds

  National Take Back Initiative Collection(s) Sites:
  1. Cotati Police Department
  2. Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety
  3. Santa Rosa Police Department
  4. Windsor Police Department
  5. Cloverdale Police Department
- Website updates

  Jaden provided a live demo of the Rising WATERS page recently added to the RRWA website https://rrwatershed.org/project/rising-waters/

  Since August 27 the RRWA website has had
  - ✓ 2.6K unique users
  - ✓ 4.4K views
  - ✓ The most popular pages are:
    - Homepage
    - Russian River-Friendly Landscaping
    - (Blog post) Fun Facts: Street Sweepers

  Budget spent: $5,400

  Budget remaining: $8,800
- Social media- RRWA staff shared social media metrics since July 1

○ B.2 Russian River Friendly Landscaping Workshop Series

Current fiscal year explored workshop series with feedback from the contractors that they prefer the biennial event. There are draft topics in the Work Plan, but the RRFL committee decides as planning evolves.

○ B.3 Regulatory Forum and Advocacy

- Legislative updates- CASQA Legislation subcommittee meeting January 22

  CASQA members can access current status of 2024 Bills to Highlight / Consider Positions online
- Support/comment letters
  - ✓ October 28, 2024 Letter of Support for WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Application Sonoma County Water Agency- Sonoma-Marin Water Efficiency Program
- Presentation to RWQCB—April/June 2025
- RRWA/RWQCB bi-annual meeting—February 20

Colleen mentioned that the Regional Water Board is reviewing the trash implementation plans written in 2018 and will provide a 30-day response period.

○ B.4 Regional Stormwater Program Support

- CASQA group membership—Vanessa acknowledged that the funding appears in two places due to the complexity of the CASQA group membership.
- Restaurant placemats—Vanessa discussed the placemats program, which has expanded to include various locations. RRWA staff

received a comment about the possibility of mailing placemats instead of delivering them in person and acknowledged that some partners might prefer this. Vanessa also discussed RRWA's efficiency in delivering placemats, aiming to optimize time and resources.
Two sites recently added:

- ✓ Mombo's Pizza – Cotati
- ✓ Luigi's BBQ & Deli – Cotati

$7,400 budget remaining.

- C- Special Benefit Projects
  - C.3 Regional Our Water Our World Contract
  - C.4 Sonoma State WATERS Project- the proposal is included in the meeting packet as HANDOUT 6 – RRWA Proposal Dec 10 2024
- C.10 Operators Forum- Convene a working group comprised of operation staff to identify potential cost saving measures through regional information sharing.

  October 17 - Hosted by Sonoma Water at Guerneville Wastewater Treatment Plant

  April 2025 - Next forum (Host is tentatively Santa Rosa)

  Budget spent: $11,000. Budget remaining: $18,600

The full presentation is in PDF format and can be found at https://rrwatershed.org/event/technical-working-group-meeting-57/

4. **Items of Interest**
   - Climate Resilience in the North Coast of California
     - January 29-30
     - Registration, detailed agenda, and meeting information will be shared and updated on this page

   https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/north-coast-resource-partnership-quarterly-meetings/
   For more information: kgaffney@northcoastresourcepartnership.org

   Meeting packet included HANDOUT 7 – Funding Table_RRWA_25-01-07

5. **Public Comment**
   - None

6. **Adjourn 12:30pm**

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**
April 8, 2025	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	