RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 18, 2025
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
(Hybrid Meeting)

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

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94899744839?pwd=c045bCtSR1JWdm1rMVc4bXNxdk54Zz09
Meeting ID: 948 9974 4839 **Passcode**: 994548

AGENDA

Directors and Alternates Present

Marjorie Morgenstern	City of Cloverdale
Ben Ford	City of Cotati
Ron Edwards	City of Healdsburg
Chris Herrod, Alternate	City of Healdsburg
Caroline Bañuelos	City of Santa Rosa
Sandra Maurer	City of Sebastopol
Juan Orozco	City of Ukiah
Maureen Mulheren, Chair	County of Mendocino
Andrea Rodriguez	Sonoma Water
Sam Salmon	Town of Windsor
JB Leep, Alternate	Town of Windsor

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

Additional Attendees

Suzanne Bontempo – Our Water Our World, Guest Speaker
Nick Sudano – City of Santa Rosa, Guest Speaker
Chris Delaney – Sonoma Water, Guest Speaker
Jay Jasperse – Sonoma Water, Guest Speaker
Sean McNiel – City of Santa Rosa
Amber Fisette – County of Mendocino
Josie Slovut – County of Mendocino
Elizabeth Cargay – Town of Windsor
Alissa Keenan – County of Sonoma
Niel Hancock - Public
Bob Anderson – Public
Andy Rodgers – RRWA Staff, Executive Director
Sabrina Marson – RRWA Staff
Misha Bailey – RRWA Staff
Jaden Husser – RRWA Staff
Shin Tadokoro – RRWA Staff

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.

A. Call to Order and Introductions

a. The meeting was called to order at 9:04 by Chair Mulheren.

B. Approval of the Agenda—Agenda was approved with no revisions.

C. Approval of Standing Items

a. Minutes: September 25, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting – Director Salmon made a motion to approve. Director Maurer seconded. All members in favor. No abstentions, none opposed.

D. Board of Directors Business

a. **Program Spotlight Guest Presentation:** Suzanne Bontempo, Our Water Our World (OWOW).
    i. Suzanne introduced the OWOW information available in stores and online. Modifications to store labels are done depending on the store's preference. There are fact sheet displays in Healdsburg and Ukiah. Whispering Winds in Ukiah is a new location for OWOW with information display racks. Associate training continues at Prickett Nursery in Healdsburg with eight trained, and at Sebastopol's Harmony Farm and Garden Supply with nine trained, making seventeen nursery associates trained this year. 136 people directly engaged with the OWOW table at Harmony's event. Home Depot is the location that most frequently requires its OWOW materials to be restocked.
    ii. The next presentation will be in Cloverdale at the Garden Club.
    iii. Suzanne asked for information on other events that member agencies would like her to present at. Last year it was very successful to table at the Windsor Earth Day event, and Suzanne expressed that she would be interested in doing that again.
    iv. Vice Chair Ford asked if Suzanne has materials or experience overcoming big box store policies that do not allow OWOW materials to be placed in them, as he has experienced this. Suzanne recommended that it is most effective for him to inquire directly with the store as a City Representative, asking local management about their interest in joining the OWOW program.
    v. Per Director Edwards request Suzanne invited members to send her stores that are open to receiving OWOW materials.
b. 2025/2026 Work Plan Key Regional Projects
    i. Russian River-Friendly Landscaping
        1. Demonstration gardens – A new demonstration garden sign has been placed at North Bay Children's Center, Monroe in Santa Rosa. Jaden had the opportunity to speak to the class about watershed and environmental stewardship.
        2. Bi-annual Event – The event flyer has been attached to the BOD handouts; Jaden solicited the Board to distribute to their networks. The event targets the new law AB 1572 banning use of potable water on non-function turf.
    ii. Safe Medicine and Sharps Disposal
        1. Sonoma County Gold Resolution – The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors recognized the Safe Medicine and Sharps Disposal program that started in 2007. Andy estimates the program has prevented hundreds of thousands of pounds of medicine from entering the watershed.
        2. DEA Takeback Event – Andy solicited the Board members to

coordinate with their law enforcement divisions to see if they are interested in participating in the DEA Takeback event coming up in April 2026.

iii. Public Outreach and Engagement

1. **Program Spotlight Member Presentation:** Nick Sudano, City of Santa Rosa, Streets to Creeks
    a) Two separate campaigns ran in 2025, eight municipalities participated in the Trash Pilot Campaign.
    b) The 24/25 FY results are phenomenal. Clicks have increased by 3% from the previous year. $0.12 cost per click for the campaign shows efficiency. Outreach to the Spanish speaking community improved with changes in advertisement planning and techniques. The website was rebuilt to service phones and computers with a focus on mirroring the ad campaign around Sonoma County. Specific features include Low Impact Development (LID) and pollution prevention videos for storm drain hazards. Materials are reusable and branded, including car trash bag, sandwich bag, sticker, and lapel pin.
    c) The community cleanup part of the trash pilot began on Earth Day 2025. The Press Democrat featured the event. The pilot showed $0.11 cost per click with 73,700 clicks. 12,700 of those clicks were for the Spanish speaking advertisement. Leading up to the event five static images were placed around Santa Rosa each week for three weeks. The Santa Rosa clean up removed 325 pounds of trash, 975 pounds of sediment and an additional 180 pounds in the weeks leading up to the event.
    d) The pilot campaign is now over as of July 2025. Next steps include outreach to schools and the public as an expansion of the Trash Pilot. The campaign is now expanding to Marin, Napa, and Contra Costa Counties.
    e) Windsor is seeking permanent signage for the Creek critters.
2. Children's Educational Placemat update – Three new locations across the watershed added. Ready to distribute
3. Social media – Recent social media posts of watershed maps went viral and were very successful on Facebook.
4. Creek Week metrics – Ukiah picked up sixteen thousand pounds of trash during creek week. Other metrics were presented across the watershed.

c. Board Field Trip Update – NBWA staff is still coordinating the potential field trip. A spring trip to Pepperwood is the most likely candidate, and visiting Potter Valley is not so likely this year. Status is currently 'to be determined.'

d. RRWA Strategic Plan update – The first RRWA Strategic Plan has been developed and is now complete. The Strategic Plan is a living document that will be updated regularly. Chair Mulheren and Vice Chair Ford and the steering committee were given special thanks for their effort in developing the plan. Next steps include, 1) Use the Strategic Plan to inform the FY 26/27 Work Plan.

e. 26/27 Work Plan – Draft 3 of the Work Plan includes these changes:
    i. Shift staff assignments to reduce costs
    ii. Reduce number of TWG meetings
    iii. Add one Board meeting per year
    iv. Leverage clarified roles of TWG and EPIC

E. Advisory Committee Meetings

a. October 14 Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting
b. September 30 and December 9 Executive Programs and Initiatives Committee (EPIC) Meetings

F. Regional Advocacy and Initiatives updates

a. **Member Presentation:** Chris Delaney and Jay Jasperse, Sonoma Water, Russian River Resilience Watershed Network
    i. Chris presented about the Watershed Resilience Program explaining that DWR is considering this program as a replacement for the CA Integrated Regional Water Management Program. The Program includes climate change analysis, creation of a Watershed Network, and a Resilience Plan. The state has selected the Russian River Watershed as one of five pilot programs across the state. This program aims to connect climate resilience projects to state funding. The current phase of the planning process is assessing vulnerabilities in water resources based on future climate scenarios. The study includes the Russian River Watershed, plus Sonoma Water's water supply exports in Marin. The Watershed Network provides feedback on climate analysis and planning. The Watershed Network includes most organizations and governments in the watershed including tribal governments.
    ii. The climate analysis and future climate scenarios show impacts to ecosystems, temperature, water quality, fire and more. Temperatures in the watershed are predicted to, on average, increase by 3.7 degrees F in the next fifty years (2041-2070). If unchecked this will continue, increasing to 6 degrees F over today's averages. Precipitation is expected to increase by ~17% by 2100. The Initial Qualitative and Quantitative Vulnerability Assessment identifies spatial characteristics of vulnerabilities. The upper Russian River water supply reliability will be impacted due to reduced Eel River imports, which will also reduce Lake Mendocino storage. Lower Russian River is likely less impacted. Severe droughts and other climatic events will stress the system more than the past. The number of residents impacted by a 100-year flood event will increase going into the end of the century.
    iii. A January 20, 2026 technical meeting will dive into the details of the climate projections and anyone is welcome to join by contacting Chris Delaney to get on the Watershed Resilience Program listserve.
    iv. Chris solicited input on adaptation strategies. Jacobs Engineering is Sonoma Water's consultant, and they created a web map where individuals can participate by adding adaptation strategies.
    v. Next steps
        1. Develop adaptation strategies
        2. Technical meeting on quantitative assessment results (January 20, 2026)
        3. Watershed Network meeting mid- February
        4. Finalize the Resilience Plan
        5. Coordinate with RRWA for implementation of the Resilience Plan and the next phase of the Watershed Network.

    For more information on updates, contact Chris via his email: cdelaney@scwa.ca.gov

b. Legislative updates – A lot of water quality bills were sent to the governor's desk; however, many were vetoed. Some bills focused on regulating microbeads (AB 823), and mitigating PFAS (AB 682), and more.
c. Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP) - Engaged with member agencies.
d. Russian River Confluence – The Confluence is gaining momentum and coordinating with the RRWA to work together but not duplicate benefits.
e. North Coast Resources Partnership – efforts are continued with no major updates.

G. Board Member Exchange

a. What are your agencies working on?
    i. Dry Creek Valley Community meeting is being held on January 12th and a Public Policy Facilitating Committee meeting is on January 21st. This information will be shared across platforms.
    ii. Ukiah's Vice Mayor Juan Orozco informed the board that the City of Ukiah is in favor of a two-basin solution for the Eel River and Russian River.

H. Items of Interest

a. None.

I. Public Comment

a. None.

J. Adjourn

a. Adjourned at 11:04 AM by Chair Mulheren.

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 unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Meetings:

Board of Directors meetings (Open to the public) 9:00 am – 11:00 am	**TWG Meetings (Open to the public) 10:30 am – 12:30 pm**	**EPIC Meetings**
February 26 May 28 (TBD)	January 13 (Virtual) April 14 (hybrid)—Windsor	March 10 June 9
Important Dates		
RRFL 8th Biennial Event, Turf's Up! – Wednesday, February 11, 2026 | 8:00 am – 12:30 pm Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival - Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 10:00 am – 4:00 pm		