



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SESSION

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM  
Windsor Town Council Chambers  
9291 Redwood Road, Windsor, CA 95492

**A G E N D A**

- 1. Greetings and Introductions**
- 2. Guest Presentation - Update on Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study**
- 3. RRWA Programs Updates**
  - Outreach Strategies
    - Environmental Column
    - Video Contest
    - RRWA Sponsorship of Clean-Ups
  - Russian River Friendly Landscape Guidelines
    - Bay Friendly Conference – September 17<sup>th</sup>
  - IRWMP Support
    - IRWMP Update
    - North Coast Workshops
  - Stormwater Training
    - Construction BMP/General Permit Training
  - Creek Week
  - Safe Medicine Disposal Program Update
    - Bus advertising
  - Outreach Material Order
    - Storm Drain Labels
    - Grease Scrappers
- 4. Forum and Advocacy**
  - Update from August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting with RWQCB staff
  - Discussion topics for future meetings with RWQCB staff (Nov 18)
  - Discussion of potential future advocacy items
  - RRWA comment letter regarding Healdsburg Wastewater Treatment Facilities Draft Waste Discharge Requirements
- 5. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**
  - October 12<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting
  - September 23<sup>rd</sup> Board of Directors meeting
    - Update on Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study
    - Potter Valley Project panel
- 6. Items of Interest**
- 7. Public Comment**
- 8. Adjourn**

The Russian River Watershed Association complies with ADA requirements and will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities upon request.

Please contact Phoebe Grow at (707) 833-2553 with any questions.

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*Meeting Summary (prepared by RRWA staff Phoebe Grow & Virginia Porter)*

**1. Greetings and Introductions (8:35)**

Attendees:

- Virginia Porter, RRWA
- Phoebe Grow, RRWA
- Patrick Givone - Town of Windsor
- Terry Macute, So. Co. Env. Health
- Rick Seanor, City of Ukiah
- Lauren McPhaul, City of Ukiah
- Heaven Hix, City of Santa Rosa
- Jennifer Burke – City of Santa Rosa
- Forest Frasier – City of Santa Rosa
- Mike Kirn – City of Healdsburg
- Eydie Tacata, City of Rohnert Park
- Nazareth Tesfai – SCWA
- Corbin Johnson – So. Co. Parks
- Kevin Fredrickson – City of Cotati
- Marcus Trotta – SCWA
- Lisa Steinman – So.Co. WMA
- Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
- Cynthia Naha – Hopland Pomo Indians
- Mario Hermosillo – Cloverdale Rancheria

Cynthia Naha (Hopland Band of Pomo Indians) and Mario Hermosillo (Cloverdale Rancheria EPA) introduced themselves since it was their first time attending, and also mentioned that the tribes have an active watershed group which they invite RRWA to attend.

**2. Guest Presentation – Update on Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study**

Marcus Trotta (SCWA) provided an update, and will also update our BOD at their 9/23 meeting. The work going on in the Santa Rosa Plain is similar to the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Study which was completed several years ago. SCWA has partnered with United States Geological Survey (USGS) and local municipalities on this project. They are in the final year of 5 year study. A third party facilitator, the Center for Collaborative Policy from Cal. State Sacto., interviewed over 55 individuals representing the primary SR Plain groundwater stakeholders in 2009. The interview findings show there is much interest in groundwater management and differing interpretations of groundwater management. Based on the finding a steering committee was formed.

There are outreach and information sharing workshops coming up: Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> in Sebastopol and Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> in Santa Rosa. Topics will include surface-water/groundwater interactions; groundwater movement; what having a groundwater management plan means. Marcus Trotta also recommended the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District's recent publication - Slow it, Spread it, Sink. He further mentioned that there is working going on for a publication focused on agriculture.

**3. RRWA Programs Update**

**OUTREACH STRATEGIES**

Environmental Column: RRWA environmental columns were discussed:

- **September:** Rick Seanor (City of Ukiah) authored an article on street sweeping, complete with a photo. Thank you Rick!
- **Future topics/annual calendar:** The following authors and topics are scheduled in this Work Plan year:
  - **October** - Jennifer Burke (City of Santa Rosa) – Reduce Irrigation: water conservation and stormwater benefits
  - **November** - Lauren McPhaul (City of Ukiah) – Fats, Oils and Grease
  - **December** – Reg Cullen (So.Co. PRMD) - Rainwater Harvesting

- **April 2011** – Forest Frasier (City of Santa Rosa) Stormwater topic

We will fill in the schedule further at the next meeting.

Student Video Contest:

We will ask our Board to endorse a topic at their December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and the Working Group can discuss this again next month. Nazareth Tesfai (SCWA) suggested hazardous waste disposal, Low Impact Development (LID) in Sonoma County and Slow it Spread it Sink it. The topic of LID may be too complex for a short video.

Topics from past years are:

- 2010 – Illegal Dumping
- 2009 – Outdoor residential water conservation
- 2008 – Indoor residential water conservation
- 2007 – Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG)
- 2006, 2005, & 2004 – Stormwater Pollution Prevention

RRWA Sponsorship of Cleanups:

The following clean-up campaigns were supported by RRWA in the current Work Plan:

- Russian River Watershed Cleanup - September 25 & 26 - \$1,500 (unspecified)
- Sonoma Co. Coastal Clean-Up - September 25 - up to \$500 which typically sponsors the BBQ
- Friends of Gibson Creek – \$200 for efforts on Gibson and Orr Creeks, tributaries of the Russian River

**RUSSIAN RIVER FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES**

The launch event is the morning of November 16 at Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa. We will outreach to Green Industry Professionals through RRWA and through member agencies. The document is being printed very soon. RRWA/SCWA/Santa Rosa are participating in a vendor table at the Bay Friendly Conference – September 17 to introduce our guidelines. We also hope to develop a bookmark for residents with the web link to the document.

Discussion resulted in the following: the content is appropriate for nurseries; the guidelines suggest relying on pesticides only as a last resort and has a focus on Integrated Pest Management (IPM); the Bay Friendly project includes a 40 hour training program and we may want to do something similar in RR watershed in the future

**IRWMP SUPPORT**

There will be workshops held by the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCIRWMP) in each of the 7 counties in the Plan to introduce the first round Prop 84 and Prop 1E project upload process. Virginia Porter handed out a one-page background piece on the NCIRWMP that is based on the City of Santa Rosa's internal training document. The schedule and process for any member agency to get a project into the plan was reviewed.

Jennifer Burke (City of Santa Rosa) distributed a proposal of a potential RRWA project –with each member agency having a project that demonstrates the principles of LID and/or Russian River Friendly Landscaping. The group discussed whether we should move forward with this idea. Our existing RRWA MOU is very helpful in already having a structure for administration of funds. LID concepts are strongly encouraged by our RWQCB. RRFLG overlaps strongly with LID. Our goal would be one location at each of the nine member agencies and we would tie in watershed-wide education. This project would likely meet many of the statewide priorities.

RRWA's current task for IRWMP includes advocating for members projects, facilitated transfer of information, and providing a forum for NCIRWMP to communicate with member agencies. We could potentially change our direction with approval of the Board.

Members weighed in on the idea and with much enthusiasm supported the idea. Staff will bring this to the Board on Sept 23rd.

#### STORMWATER TRAINING

Our Work Plan task is for Construction BMP Training to reflect new General Construction Permit. As discussed at the previous meeting, RRWA will modify the task to work toward having a private trainer offer 24 hrs "Qualified SWPPP Practitioner" (QSP) training and 36 hr "Qualified SWPPP Developer" (QSD) in our watershed early next year. There will be a fee for this training. We also will try to have an overview training with SWRCB staff this fall. In addition, we will endeavor to have testing shortly after the qualification training in 2011. RRWA staff is working on these three items and will keep the group posted as it develops.

#### CREEK WEEK DEVELOPMENT

A number of member agencies have adopted Creek Week proclamations. Our RWQCB suggested that we initiate a press release about this project. The group agreed this was a good idea. RRWA staff will follow-up.

#### SAFE MEDS

Phoebe Grow updated that a bus ad is going up in Sonoma Co Transit's 45 buses – 1 in English, and 1 in Spanish for each bus. Thank you to Lisa Steinman (SCWMA) for making RRWA aware of this opportunity.

#### OUTREACH MATERIALS ORDER

Grease Scrapers/Door Hangers -1,000 each are being ordered. RRWA staff will contact each agency on the stormwater label order for their preference for flowing to "creek" or "river." We will distribute the materials at a working group meeting soon.

### **4. Forum and Advocacy**

#### Update from August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting with RWQCB staff

Virginia Porter updated that the RWQCB staff will use RRWA for communication to member agencies in the Russian River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development in the next 2 -3 year timeline. RWQCB staff member Rebecca Fitzgerald is now heading up the TMDL section. RRWA's concern about TMDLs is that they become part of Basin Plan and our permits will be affected by these limits. We also discussed RRWA's plan to comment on Healdsburg permit. The RWQCB is working on the groundwater portions of Basin Plan.

#### Discussion topics for future meetings with RWQCB staff (Nov 18)

RRWA will be meeting with the RWQCB EO and staff Nov 18. No topics were proposed for this meeting.

#### Discussion of future potential advocacy items

No specific items were proposed.

#### RRWA comment letter regarding Healdsburg Discharge Permit

RRWA has distributed a draft letter to the Working Group and Board and has received few comments. We will seek Board approval by email and submit by this Friday, Sept 17, if approved.

Brenda Adleman (RRWPC) expressed concern that our letter focus on using as much recycled water as possible with as little regulation as possible. She has seen many examples of over-irrigation in Rohnert Park, and has pictures of nutrient contamination in the Russian River (circulated to the group). She asserted that

recycled water has many contaminants, including pharmaceuticals. She stated the State Recycled Water Policy allows for more stringent requirements. Title 22 concerned mostly with drinking water, not so much with environmental concerns (fish, aquatic life, etc.)

## **5. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**

### Working Group

- October 12 – further discussion of IRWMP project; Work Plan projects
- November 9 – Work Plan development

### Board of Directors

- September 23rd (4th Thurs): Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study update, Panel on Potter Valley Project
- December 2nd (1st Thurs): Work Plan guidance, RWQCB1 Executive Officer presentation

## **6. Items of Interest**

Rick Seanor noted that the Friends of Gibson Creek have a cleanup of Orr Creek – Sept 25.

There is a clean up on Foss Creek October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00 - 11:30am - BBQ afterwards.

Pollution Prevention week next week. Posters from BAPPG are available.

SCWA asked who is submitting comment letters on Healdsburg's permit. Response: most likely Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, RRWA, WateReuse, and Windsor.

Heaven Hix (City of Santa Rosa) noted that RWQCB TMDL staff in evaluating nutrient loading based on land use on the Russian River seems to find that septics are contributing, and that stormwater is as significant.

## **7. Public Comment:**

Public comment was taken throughout the meeting and those comments are reflected in the meeting notes on the specific topics.

## **8. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 10:25.

**Note – A Stormwater Phase II Forum was held immediately following the Working Group meeting.**