



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 8, 2011, 9:00 AM
Windsor Town Council Chambers
9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, CA 95492

A G E N D A

A. Call to Order and Introductions

B. Approval of the Agenda

C. Approval of Standing Items

- Minutes: September 22, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting

D. Guest Speaker Presentation – Dialogue with Catherine Kuhlman, Executive Officer of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

E. BOD Business

- Board Election of Officers for 2012
- IRWMP Update
 - RRWA project scoring
 - Next PRP meeting January 19, 2012 – Ukiah
- 2011-2012 Work Plan Project Updates
 - Web site – final review
 - Map layers – Board selection of priority layers
 - CAG Stormwater Workshop – rescheduled to January 26, 2012
 - Video Contest 2012 – topic selection
 - Safe Medicine Disposal update
- Recent and Ongoing RRWA Advocacy Items
 - Update from November 1 SWRCB meeting
 - Update from November 29 meeting RWQCB EO and staff
 - Next meeting with RWQCB EO and staff – February 2012 (date TBD)
 - Update - Department of Pesticide Regulation Proposed Restrictions in Urban Areas to Protect Water Quality
- 2012-2013 Work Plan Guidance
- Next Board Meeting – February 23, 2012 – SCWA presentation: Smart Development Guidebook; 2012-2013 Work Plan: consider for approval
- May 10 Board Meeting – reschedule to April 26 or May 3

F. Working Group Activities

- Next Meeting: January 10 or February 14, 2012

G. Items of Interest

H. Public Comment

I. Adjourn

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

Please contact Virginia Porter at (707) 833-2553 with any questions.

MINUTES
RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the meeting of the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) Board of Directors.

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Ukiah City Council Chambers

Directors and Alternates Present.

Jake Mackenzie, Chair	City of Rohnert Park
Richard Burt	Town of Windsor
Marsha VasDupre	City of Santa Rosa
Mark Landman	City of Cotati
Jenny Kidd	County of Sonoma
Bob Cox	City of Cloverdale
Mike Kirn	City of Healdsburg

Directors present represented seven out of the nine RRWA member agencies, constituting a quorum.

Additional Attendees.

Virginia Porter	RRWA Executive Director
Andy Rodgers	RRWA
Ashlee Llewellyn	RRWA
Catherine Kuhlman	NCRWQCB Executive Officer
Glen Wright	City of Santa Rosa
Rita Miller	City of Santa Rosa
Valerie Minton	Sotoyome RCD
Brenda Adelman	RRWPC

Board Actions.

- A. Call to Order and Introductions Board Chair Jake Mackenzie called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and everyone introduced themselves.
- B. Approval of the Agenda Mr. Mackenzie requested that the Board approve the agenda. The agenda was approved.
- C. Approval of Standing Items The minutes from the September 22, 2011 joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Technical Working Group were reviewed and approved, with one correction to the spelling of Board member Richard Burt's name. Marsha VasDupre (Santa Rosa) abstained because she had not been in attendance.
- D. Guest Speaker Presentation – Dialogue with Catherine Kuhlman, Executive Officer of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - Catherine Kuhlman began her presentation with thanks to RRWA for working together with the Regional Board; for the work on outreach; for work on stormwater programs which has resulted in delivering a better/cheaper product (e.g., Phase II outreach and Construction General Permit training); the creek sign project; and also the safe meds collection program.
 - The future has numerous challenges for the State: Budgets are being slashed; baby boomers now retiring; the legislature looking to streamline permit systems; further development of non-

point source programs, e.g., timber (this region has been in the forefront), dairies, irrigated agriculture, and discharge from county roads.

- A regional Waste Discharge Requirement for Recycled Water is envisioned, which will likely be a couple-year process. RRWA can expect to participate as a stakeholder.
- The State Board is working on the Phase II stormwater permit, with a draft out by the end of the year. It is uncertain how this draft will compare to the last one.
- Septic tanks – the State Board has a draft policy out for review and the RWQCB already has a septic tank chapter; the Region is seeking one set of rules.
- Laguna TMDL – monitoring is near completion, and modeling and public/peer review will follow. The challenge of how to address the impairments will be significant.
- Winter and summer pathogen study on the River is underway.
- What does this mean for RRWA?
 - Stay the course on stormwater – it has a high value.
 - Phase II regulations will come out soon and collaboration will help.
 - Set up forum to discuss development of recycled water WDR.
 - The RWQCB wants to continue the dialogue with RRWA.
- Jake Mackenzie mentioned that RRWA is just developing its Work Plan, and that there are common issues within RRWA, such as the Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDL.
- Jake Mackenzie asked each member agency for comments/concerns/feedback. The following comments were noted:
 - Marsha VasDupre (Santa Rosa) said that everything sounds positive. Staff is dealing with cuts; and the historical memory is retiring.
 - Glen Wright (Santa Rosa) said that not only is staff retiring, but positions are not being replaced. Catherine Kuhlman said they have lost a division and a number of managers, and it looks like it will be quite some time before things turn around. She may be able to fill a couple of positions, but overall, it will be less – and more of the State trying to shift everything to the region and the municipalities.
 - Richard Burt (Windsor) will be submitting a WDR to Board next week. He mentioned that opening up the recycled water permit brings concern. Ms. Kuhlman responded that she appreciates that those who have been “in this business” are concerned, but not having to revisit it every five years will be helpful to everyone.
 - Mark Landman (Cotati) asked what we are looking at as far as restoring Laguna. Cotati/Rohnert Park are doing a lot to get canopy restored in the headwaters. Lots of local pride and many, many volunteers from the community and Sonoma State University. Ms. Kuhlman responded she doesn't have an answer, but it will be a community dialogue; impossible to restore to original condition, so that won't be the management goal. Said there is flexibility and the goal will be what the community wants. TMDL's are work in progress; it is an adaptive management program. Having communities “face the waterways” rather than away is a new dynamic. Jake Mackenzie said there is so much work from the Laguna Foundation and others.
 - Ms. Kuhlman offered RWQCB staff to come make a presentation to RRWA on TMDL in June. Jake Mackenzie said each city council would also benefit from a presentation.
 - Bob Cox (Cloverdale) said they don't have the Laguna, but do have creeks with their own issues, and the City is working on them.
 - Jenny Kidd (Sonoma County) said that if Supervisor Mike McGuire can be supportive of programs/issues, i.e., septic tanks, to let them know.
 - Mike Kirn (Healdsburg) is interested in the idea of a regional recycled water permit. He expressed concern that agriculture might be treated differently and asked that the Water Board try to make the playing field level as far as reporting requirements are concerned.
- Brenda Adelman thanked Ms. Kuhlman for the report. She is concerned about irrigation in urban areas. A recent article stated that pesticides are the primary pollutant in waterways. She has lived on the Russian River with both septic and sewer, and sees both as problematic. Some people take care of their septic systems and others don't; the problem in the lower river is that most solutions are more expensive than folks can afford.

- Jake Mackenzie and the full Board expressed appreciation for the opportunity to have this dialogue.

E. Board of Directors Business

- Board Election of Officers for 2012
 - The Board unanimously approved reappointments of Jake Mackenzie as Chair, and Robin Goble as Vice-Chair.
 - The Board acknowledged the successful transition from RMC to Virginia Porter Consulting and ECON.
 - Chair Mackenzie and Virginia Porter noted they will be talking with Sebastopol about future membership.
- NCIRWMP Update
 - There is a Policy Review Panel (PRP) meeting January 19 in Ukiah. Other quarterly meetings are scheduled for Yreka, Weaverville and Eureka.
 - Marsha VasDupre asked about tribal representation. Jake Mackenzie, who is also Chair of the PRP of the NCIRWMP, responded that there is now geographic representation from tribes and it is a challenging but important issue. The North Coast plan is the first in State to include tribal representation.
 - Virginia Porter updated the Board on the NCIRWMP project assessment process which is being changed/upgraded as a result of a project upload glitch in the applications for the first round of Proposition 84 funding. The RRWA project would have been ranked 17th instead of 33rd if the project information had fully uploaded during the application process. Project funding priorities were not based solely on project ranking; geographic equity and other factors were weighed heavily also. RRWA is receiving assurances that the technical issues have been addressed.
 - Jake Mackenzie added that our region has the highest portion of disadvantaged communities in the State.
 - Marsha VasDupre asked if some of the money could go toward septic tank issues. Mr. Mackenzie responded that it depends on how the project is put together and what local matching funds are available.
 - RRWA will be presenting to the Policy Review Panel (PRP) in Ukiah, on the impact of the Phase II stormwater regulations on North Coast communities.
- 2011-2012 Work Plan Project Updates
 - RRWA Web Site – The Board reviewed the new web site and supported “going live” in January.
 - Map layer selection - The Board approved the proposed map layers, as recommended by the Technical Working Group, as follows; layers to be developed this year:
 - Creeks and Russian River with names
 - River access points and facilities
 - Safe Medicine Disposal sites
 - Demonstration landscapes, including Low Impact Development demonstration areas
 - Valerie Minton (Sotoyome RCD) noted that “hot spots” are monitored by the County Health Department and change regularly, so RRWA might want to link to their site for this information
 - Citizen’s Advisory Group stormwater workshop – Rescheduled to January 26 and will take place in Healdsburg from 10-noon.
 - Video contest topic selection -
 - The Technical Working Group recommended several topics:
 - Trash around schools (solid waste)
 - “Rethink your Drink”/“Take it from the Tap” (potable water and solid waste reduction)
 - Safe Medicine Disposal (wastewater and water quality)
 - Car care (stormwater)

- The Board discussed and supported the “Rethink your Drink/Take it from the Tap” theme with Safe Meds as a back-up topic.
 - Virginia Porter mentioned that there is a statewide program to get schools to make tap water available and encourage drinking tap water.
- Recent and Ongoing RRWA Advocacy Items
 - Update from November 1 SWRCB meeting – Jake Mackenzie and Virginia Porter from RRWA, and Cary Olin from SCWA presented the “Video Contest Greatest Hits” to the State Board to much laughter and appreciation.
 - Update from November 29 meeting RWQCB EO and staff – RRWA Chair and staff met with RWQCB staff and discussed our new Work Plan, stormwater program staffing and plans for the EO dialogue with RRWA Board.
 - Next meeting with RWQCB EO and staff – February 15, 2012.
 - Update - Department of Pesticide Regulation Proposed Restrictions in Urban Areas to Protect Water Quality – Chair Mackenzie provided the update noting that the State Department of Pesticide Regulations is proposing new regulations on application of pyrethroids by professional applicators; the County Agricultural Commissioner will be charged with compliance with the regulations.
- 2012-2013 Work Plan Guidance:
 - Virginia Porter provided the update based on the Working Group recommendations. The draft Work Plan reflects changes from the current Work Plan as follows:
 - Shifted hours to ECON where it works and within ECON to lower hourly rate positions where that can work.
 - Assumed RMC will not be in the Work Plan in the same capacity, though we hope to keep an open line of communication with Dave, Phoebe and Christy (as we have this year).
 - Andy Rodgers has lowered his hourly rate significantly and Virginia Porter reduced mark-up.
 - Inserted a Specialist position with ECON to diversify our resources.
 - Working Group assumes eight meetings only and will begin to meet for 2-hours instead of 1.5 hours; and to record only an action items list rather than meeting notes.
 - Phase I copermittees’ bottom line is high due to the Stormwater Awareness Survey, which other members might want to join if we do this project.
 - Phase II agencies have an increase due to the “place holder” hours to respond to the new permit.
 - Russian River-Friendly Landscape Guidelines project is developed to carry out an event and/or landscape rating.
 - NCIRWMP has added hours due to the pending Prop 84 funding and potential for our project.
 - Mark Landman asked about “bang for the buck” with the Landscape Guidelines project proposal. Virginia Porter responded that we propose an event similar to the 2010 launch event to link the Guidelines and RRWA to landscape professionals and managers. Mark Landman expressed an interest in having metrics on level of effectiveness. Virginia Porter said events are well attended and inquiries are fielded regularly by RRWA staff.
 - The Board supported the draft Work Plan and directed staff to proceed with individual meetings in January, with each member agency in lieu of an actual Board meeting.
- Next Board meeting: February 23, 2012 – SCWA presentation: Smart Development Guidebook; 2012-2013 Work Plan: consider for approval.
- The May 10 Board meeting was changed to April 26 to allow for the Student Video Contest winners to attend.

F. Working Group Activities

- The January TWG meeting will be cancelled. Eight meetings per year will take place instead of eleven, beginning with the 2012-2013 Work Plan.

G. Items of Interest

- Valerie Minton (Sotoyome RCD) announced a Russian River Watershed Symposium, being organized by the three Russian River RCD's (Sotoyome, Gold Ridge, and Mendocino), to take place April 27 at the Cloverdale Citrus Fair. The last symposium was held in 1998, organized by SCWA.
 - Topics:
 - Group plenary session in morning
 - Afternoon focus groups on various topics:
 - Landowner tools
 - Water conservation
 - Stream restoration
 - Fisheries recovery
 - Water quality
 - In-stream flows
 - Environmental education
 - Cultural diversity.
 - There is interest in RRWA providing a stormwater workshop.
 - Open to topics and speakers.
 - Virginia Porter will distribute agenda to Board.
 - Marsha VasDupre noted that she attended the 1998 symposium.
- The KRCB video project is going slow, but is moving forward.

H. Public Comment – Public comment was taken during the course of the meeting. No additional public comments were made.

I. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 11:05

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Windsor Town Hall

FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday, April 26, 2012
Thursday, July 26, 2012
Thursday, September 27, 2012
Thursday, December 6, 2012