

**RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**"To Protect and Restore the Russian River Watershed"**

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April 26, 2006

**RRWC Officers:**

Tim Buckner:  
President

Bob Rawson: Vice-  
President

Scott Stegeman:  
Secretary

Colleen Fernald and  
Jim Nosera: Co-  
Treasurers

To All Russian River Watershed Council Members and Interested Citizens:

Our next Russian River Watershed Council (RRWC) meeting will be held on **Saturday, May 13, 2006 from 8:30 – 1:00 at Veteran's Memorial Hall in Cloverdale.** Please review the attached Draft Agenda.

At the March 11, 2006 RRWC meeting, the RRWC directed the Steering Committee to review and determine if the RRWC Bylaws should be submitted for incorporation. The Steering Committee reviewed and approved the submittal on March 20, 2006. Scott Stegeman submitted the final RRWC Bylaws to the State. Congratulation!!! This is a big step in organization development.

Brian Johnson's description of his presentation, *Trout Unlimited and Peregrine Audubon Water Rights Petition* is attached.

Marc Kelley's presentation will discuss the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by National Marine Fisheries Service and Home Builders Assoc, Sonoma Co Grape Growers, United Winegrowers, RR Property Owners, Syar Industries, and SCWA. The purpose of the MOA is for "identifying the basis for a conservation strategy which the parties will develop and approve and they will seek the support of other key stakeholders and conservation groups."

Please plan to attend our next RRWC meeting! If you have questions, please request information by sending an email to [steward@rrwc.net](mailto:steward@rrwc.net).

Sincerely,

The Steering Committee  
Russian River Watershed Council  
[steward@rrwc.net](mailto:steward@rrwc.net)

## RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING

steward@RRWC.net

www.rrwc.net

**Saturday, May 13, 2006  
8:30AM –1:15PM**

**Veteran's Memorial Hall  
205 West First Street, Cloverdale**

*The mission of the Russian River Watershed Council is to protect, restore, and enhance the biological health of the Russian River and its watershed through a community-based process, which facilitates communication and collaboration among all interested parties.*

### DRAFT AGENDA

8:30	Refreshments and Coffee	
9:00	Draft May 13, 2006 RRWC Meeting Agenda	<b>Approval</b>
9:10	Draft March 11, 2006 RRWC Meeting Minutes	<b>Approval</b>
9:15	Agency Announcements	Discussion
9:20	Community Announcements	Discussion
9:30	Officer's Report	Discussion
10:00	Public Outreach Proposal with Mendocino RCD	Discussion
10:15	New RRWC WMP Members	Discussion
11:00	BREAK	
11:20	Trout Unlimited and Peregrine Audubon Petition	Presentation & Questions
12:05	MOA Partnership (see cover letter and attached documents for more information)	Presentation & Questions
12:50	Agenda Items for July 8, 2006 RRWC Meeting	Discussion
1:00	Adjourn	

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**Russian River Watershed Council**  
**March 11, 2006, Veteran's Memorial Hall, Cloverdale, California**

**Approve Agenda of March 11, 2006 – Action Item**

Agenda approval – 12 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

**Approve Minutes of January 21, 2006 – Action Item**

Agenda approval – 12 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

**Community Announcements – Discussion**

Colleen Fernald requested that the RRWC consider being a member of the Sonoma County Water Coalition. Tim Buckner suggested that the Steering Committee consider the item at the March 20, 2006 Steering Committee meeting and potentially agenize the item for the May 13, 2006 RRWC meeting.

Bob Clemens announced that the Russian River Cleanup will take place on September 23, 2006.

**Approve RRWC Bylaws – Action Item**

Tim Buckner presented key elements of the RRWC Behavior:

Respect,

Be Brief,

No Volleying,

Honor Our Work, and

Be Constructive.

The RRWC Bylaws were approved at the January 21, 2006 RRWC meeting with the stipulation of legal review and approval.

Motion: Approve the Steering Committee to submit the Bylaws after legal review is complete. The Final Bylaws will be emailed to the RRWC listserv before the March 20, 2006 Steering Committee meeting for an opportunity for RRWC view.

Motion Approval: 8 ayes, 2 nays, 1 abstention

**Approve Agencies Voting Right – Action Item**

Because of the influences of agencies within watershed, it is to the advantage of the RRWC to have agencies be voting members.

Motion: Current RRWC agency members will be voting members.

Motion Approval: 11 ayes, 2 nays, 1 abstention

**Approve Laguna de Santa Rosa Settlement Agreement funding – Action Item**

RRWC has an opportunity to obtain administrative funding as part of the settlement agreement if the funds are not distributed in an eighteen month time frame. The disbursement started December 2005.

Motion: Approve receiving potential funding from the settlement with 10% RRWC management cost.

Motion Approval: 12 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstentions

### **WMP Update - Discussion**

Karen Rippey discussed the history and on-going work being completed by ERDC, see attached document. Bob Anderson, as a TRC member, stated his support for the work being completed by ERDC. Bob stated that ERDC has the best chance to obtain meaningful results from the data because they are compiling all existing information (which has not been done before) in a spreadsheet and transferring the data into a model that is applicable to the area.

### **Transitional Operation and Management - Discussion**

Because the RRWC coordinator accepted another position and the RRWC is moving to non-profit status, it is a good idea to review the RRWC. The Steering Committee will be discussing funding and membership in more detail at the March 20, 2006 meeting.

- The Corps outreach contract with the RCD which is partially completed. There is an opportunity for the RRWC to complete this contract with the RCD. The Outreach Workgroup will convene on Wednesday, March 15, to put together a proposal to submit to the RCD.

- **Liaison to the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District – Action Item**

Motion: Jerome Dix approve liaison to the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

Motion Approval: 11 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention

- Discussion of Trout Unlimited and the Peregrine Chapter of the National Audubon Society's petition for timely and effective regulation of new water diversions in central coast streams.

Motion: RRWC support the collaborative process to the Water rights issue.

Motion Approval: 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention

### **Next Steps & May 13, 2006 Agenda Items – Discussion**

Potential agenda items for May 13, 2006 RRWC meeting:

- Discussion of Public Outreach Contract
- Expand Membership
- Potential presentation: Water Rights Issue

## Trout Unlimited and Peregrine Audubon Water Rights Petition

MAY 13, 2006 RRWC MEETING

Contact: Brian J. Johnson, [bjohnson@tu.org](mailto:bjohnson@tu.org), 510-528-4772

There are more than 400 applications pending before the State Water Board for new surface water diversions along the north central coast of California. There are at least 1,406 existing authorized water diversions within the Russian River watershed in just Mendocino and Sonoma counties alone. The rate of unauthorized diversions is upwards of *75 percent* in some small watersheds, including those that host fragile populations of salmon or steelhead. Trout Unlimited has been working on these issues for more than a decade, building on Stan Griffin's tireless advocacy.

Toward the end of 2004, with Mendocino's Peregrine Chapter of the National Audubon Society, TU filed a formal petition with the State Water Board demanding action to assure that adequate water is left in streams for steelhead and Coho salmon as required by the public trust doctrine. The petition complements AB 2121, which TU got through the Legislature to require the Water Board to develop instream flow guidelines and principles for these same coastal streams. The petition is unequalled in its scope and focus. TU seeks true and lasting reform of the entire water rights application and permitting system from start to finish, including compliance, monitoring, and enforcement. (For a copy of the petition and other background information, see [http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/coastal\\_streams/tupetition.html](http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/coastal_streams/tupetition.html).)

Currently, we are leading a collaborative negotiation process to resolve these issues. Participants include the Water Board staff, CDFG, NMFS, agricultural water users, urban water agencies, and water development consultants. At the May 13 meeting, we will brief the RRWC on the structure we have established for these discussions and our current status, and discuss with attendees next steps. We look forward to your feedback.