

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

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August 24, 2006

**RRWC Officers:** To All Russian River Watershed Council Members and Interested Citizens:

Tim Buckner:  
President

Our next Russian River Watershed Council (RRWC) meeting will be held on **Saturday, September 16, 2006 from 8:30 – 1:00 at Veteran's Memorial Hall, 205 West First St., Cloverdale.** Please review the attached Draft RRWC Meeting Agenda.

Bob Rawson:  
Vice-President

Scott Stegeman:  
Secretary

The RRWC will vote on the "Adopt a Community Watershed" program. Adopt-A-Watershed is an established program. The RRWC will amend the existing program for the Russian River watershed. The Adopt a Community Watershed will emphasize a watershed focus at a sub-watershed community level to ensure each watershed community is aware and involved with the protection and sustainability of their landscape. With awareness community members will have a better understand of the impacts of their actions on their local watershed, the larger Russian River Watershed, the estuary, and the ocean.

Colleen Fernald/  
Jim Nosera:  
Co-Treasurers

A proposal for the RRWC to work with SCWA to assess three tributary streams will be discussed. This is a broader effort by the SCWA to get local groups to outreach and collaborate on watershed restoration potential.

**Laurel Marcus** will provide a presentation on Fish Friendly Farming (FFF). One of the goals of FFF is provide property owners with an understanding and potential implementation mechanisms to support Region 1 & 2 State Water Board's fine sediment and water temperature TMDLs. Please see the attached pages for information on the program.

**Dr. Dan Smith**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ERDC, will present an update for the development of the Russian River Watershed Adaptive Management Plan (WMP). Please see the enclosed pages of the on-going WMP development. If you would like more information, please contact Karen Rippey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 415-977-8537/Karen.E.Rippey@usace.army.mil. Your involvement and interest is appreciated and welcome.

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, September 16, 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

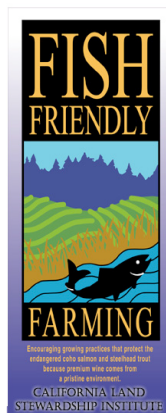
8:30	Refreshments and Coffee	
9:00	Draft September 16, 2006 RRWC Meeting Agenda	<b>Approval</b>
9:10	Draft July 8, 2006 RRWC Meeting Minutes	<b>Approval</b>
9:15	Agency Announcements	Discussion
9:20	Community Announcements	Discussion
9:30	Officer's Report	Discussion
10:00	RRWC Public Outreach	Discussion
10:20	Adapt A Community Watershed – Support for an educational process with a watershed focus to ensure each watershed community is aware and involved with the protection and sustainability of their landscape.	<b>Approval</b>
10:40	Proposal for RRWC Sub-Watershed Work Plan - Support for a proposal for the RRWC to work with SCWA to assess three tributary streams.	<b>Approval</b>
11:00	BREAK	
11:20	Fish Friendly Farming - Laurel Marcus	Presentation & Questions
11:50	Russian River Watershed Adaptive Management Plan (WMP) Update - Dan Smith – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC)	Presentation & Questions
12:50	Agenda Items for November 11, 2006 RRWC Meeting	Discussion
1:00	Adjourn	

## **FISH FRIENDLY FARMING**

The Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Environmental Certification Program is a comprehensive water quality improvement program for vineyards and orchards in eight watersheds in Sonoma, Mendocino, Napa and Solano Counties. In these counties, the two main pollutants of concern are fine sediment and high water temperatures. These pollutants affect a number of beneficial uses in the Russian, Navarro, Napa and Gualala Rivers as well as Sonoma, Greenwood, Salmon and Suisun Creeks, including cold freshwater habitat, fish migration and spawning, rare and endangered species, wildlife habitat, agricultural and municipal water supply and recreation. The FFF program has been identified by both Regions 1 & 2 Water Quality Control Boards as a recommended implementation mechanism on agricultural lands for the fine sediment and water temperature TMDLs. Since the beginning of the FFF program in 1999 over 50,000 acres have been enrolled, and the program has expanded to four counties and eight watersheds). All eight watersheds support steelhead trout, a federally-listed, threatened species. Coho salmon, an endangered species, and Chinook salmon also occur in several of the eight watersheds. The FFF program improves the broad range of conditions which are needed to support salmonid habitat. The FFF program is built around the freshwater life cycle of the salmon and the requirements of the Clean Water Act, Porter Cologne Act, Endangered Species Act, California Fish and Game Code, Water Code and local county ordinances. The California Land Stewardship Institute a nonprofit organization operates the FFF program.

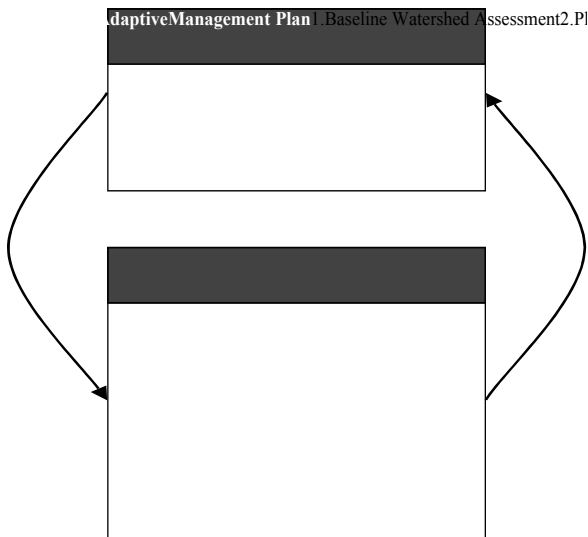
Each farmer works with the FFF program staff to apply BMPs on their own property. FFF staff provides the technical analysis for soil erosion, vineyard and hillside drainage systems, roads, creeks, reservoirs and other items and works closely with the farmer in inventorying the property and prescribing BMPs, and identifying critical erosion site repairs and creek revegetation and other projects.

The inventory and BMP identification and application on the property create a Farm Conservation Plan which is reviewed and certified by regulatory agencies. Three agencies- NOAA Fisheries, which has responsibility for federally-listed salmonid species, Regional Boards 1 & 2, which have responsibility for TMDLs and other water quality programs and the California Department of Fish and Game, which has responsibility for state-listed fish and wildlife, complete the certification. Each agency issues a certification letter, or an explanation of the actions needed to become certified. The regulators provide a third party review and assure that environmental benefits are implemented through the program. The farmer implements the majority of the BMPs on the property. The FFF staff review BMP implementation progress following certification. The FFF program requires re-certification every 5 years and provides a range of incentives for the farmer to enroll, become certified and remain certified.



## Russian River Watershed Adaptive Management Plan

The Russian River Watershed Adaptive Management Plan (WMP) is being developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in partnership with State Resources Agency (i.e. Department of Fish and Game), Sonoma and Mendocino Counties and Russian River Watershed Council. USACE Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) have been tasked to develop the model and plan to ensure the WMP is an effective tool for future resource protection. The WMP development process consists of two Components. Component 1 is the Watershed Adaptive Management Plan, and Component 2 is Research Studies.



The WMP will be:

- a tool to prevent further degradation
- a tool to develop a healthy and sustainable watershed.
- a tool to evaluate water quality, water quantity and the physical, hydrologic, and biological health and functions of the watershed.
- a tool to determine measurable goals and recommendations to implement improvements
- a tool to develop a healthy and sustainable watershed.
- a tool to support watershed assessment for the next 50 years.

ERDC is currently completing Task 1. The ultimate objective of Task 1 is to conduct a baseline assessment of the Russian River watershed that describes watershed conditions for restoration and protection potential, and synthesizes this information into a format that is accessible to the general public, local government, and other stakeholders. To this end ERDC has compiled existing information into a The Russian River Baseline Conditions Database (RRBCD) Part 1(Metadata) and Part 2 (Actual Data Values). Russian River Baseline Conditions Database Parts 1 and 2 have been posted to the Russian River Interactive Information System (RRIIS).

ERDC has also subdivided the Russian River Watershed into "watershed assessment units". Watershed assessment units represent relatively homogenous stream reaches in terms of geology, geomorphology, channel morphology, habitat, upland land use, disturbance, and other factors. Watershed assessment units will be the spatial entities that are assessed to describe watershed conditions for restoration and protection potential. Since the spatial scale at which ranking criteria will be developed is unknown at this time, it was suggested, and agreed to by the Technical Review Committee\*, that data should be compiled at the smallest appropriate spatial scale. A map of watershed assessment units has been posted to the RRIIS.

ERDC identified, from a wide variety of sources, indicators and metrics that could potentially be used to assess and rank the condition, vulnerability, and restoration potential of upland, riparian, and stream channel components of each watershed assessment unit. "Indicators" are defined as the characteristics, attributes, or processes that influence condition. For example, stream flow, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pool frequency, pool depth, and canopy cover are possible indicators for evaluating the condition of anadromous fish habitat. "Metrics" are defined as the specific way in which an indicator is measured. For example, the indicator water temperature could be measured using a seasonal average high/low metric, or annual maximum/ minimum metric, or any number of other ways. Condition is defined as the degree to which a watershed assessment unit approximates an unaltered, natural condition (e.g., extent of natural vegetation communities, and lack of roads, stream channel modifications, development, agriculture, etc.). Vulnerability refers to the susceptibility of the watershed assessment unit to future alteration, and restoration potential refers to the likelihood that active restoration measures will significantly improve the condition of the watershed assessment unit.

ERDC considered a variety of options available for assessing watershed condition, vulnerability, and restoration potential and determined that the Ecosystem Management Decision Support 3.1 (EMDS) provided the most suitable framework. The EMDS is a mature ArcGIS extension that integrates GIS, knowledge based model development and testing, scenario simulation, and priority analysis into a single framework (Reynolds et. al., 1996, Reynolds et. al., 2000, Reynolds 2002, Reynolds and Hessburg 2005). The EMDS is being utilized by the North Coast Watershed Assessment Program (Bleier et. al. 2003), as well as other watershed based analysis in the Pacific Northwest. More information about EMDS is available at the following web site: <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/emds/index.htm>.

The EMDS employs the NetWeaver logic engine to evaluate data against a knowledge base that provides a formal specification for the interpretation of data (i.e., models for assessing condition, vulnerability, and potential for restoration). The Netweaver software is described at the following web site: <http://64.225.232.230/>. The NetWeaver engine readily supports design of logic specifications for the types of large, complex, and abstract problems typically posed by ecosystem management. The logic engine also allows partial evaluations of ecosystem states and processes based on available information, making it ideal for use in landscape evaluation where data is often incomplete, and has the ability to evaluate the influence of missing information on the logical completeness of an assessment. The engine, in conjunction with the EMDS Project Environment and the Data Acquisition Manager, provides powerful diagnostic tools for determining which missing data is most valuable, given currently available data, and determining how much priority to give to missing data, given other logistical information.

ERDC in partnership with the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District will be working on Task 2 starting September 2006. Task 2 uses the watershed rankings developed in Task 1 to indicate where opportunities for watershed restoration and protection exist, to develop WMP measures, to develop a screening matrix and screen

management measures, to complete a cost/benefit analysis, and to compile information into a draft WMP.

ERDC will present the results of Task 1 at the September 16, 2006 RRWC meeting. Please check the RRWC website, [www.rrwc.net](http://www.rrwc.net), after September 1, 2006 for meeting agenda and presentation time. For more information, please call Karen Rippey, USACE Project Manager, 415-977-8537 or [karen.e.rippy@usace.army.mil](mailto:karen.e.rippy@usace.army.mil).

\* Technical Review Committee represents agencies, business and environmental entities, including: Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board, NOAA Fisheries, SCWA, CA Geological Survey, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.C. Cooperative Extension, U.C. Davis, and private consultant with experience in planning, geomorphology, hydrology, forest management, biology, range management and agricultural practices.

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**Russian River Watershed Council**  
**July 8, 2006, Veteran's Memorial Hall, Cloverdale, California**

**Approve Agenda of July 8, 2006 – Action Item**

Agenda approval – Ayes: 11, Nays: 0, Abstains: 0

**Approve Minutes of May 13, 2006 – Action Item**

Brain Haines requested that the draft meeting minutes provide a short description of the presentations. The last page of the minutes was inadvertently left out of the meeting packet. Comment noted.

Agenda approval – Ayes: 11, Nays: 0, Abstains: 0

**Agency Announcements – Discussion**

Karen Rippey, USACE, announced that the RRW WMP Technical Review Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 26, 2006, 10:30-3:00 at the Windsor Library.

Karen provided information from Derek Acombe, DFG, that the files being loaded on RRIIS are the Stream Inventory Reports. The Reports follow the guidelines provided in CA Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual. The Reports are from 1994 to present. There are 2 helpful documents. The first is an Excel spreadsheet that shows every stream that has a report and the second is a read me file.

Karen also stated that the Russian River Watershed Study was funded by the House but we will have to wait until the budget passes before we are assured of funds for FY07.

**Community Announcements – Discussion**

SWiG is putting on an event called Our Water – Our Future at the Veteran's Hall in Sebastopol on October 14, 2006 2P.M. to 10P.M.

**Officer Reports – Discussion**

Presidents Report: Tim Buckner reported that Marc Kelley and Carolyn Wasem attended the Steering Committee meeting representing the Sonoma County Salmonid Collison. They were interested in working with RRWC to promote the RRWC mission and to ensure restoration of salmonids in Dry Creek and Alexander Creek. The Steering Committee support the effort and voted to be a part of the organization. The next SCSC meeting is on July 12 at SCWA office.

Treasurers Report: The RRWC insurance is due in one week. Annual premium is approx. \$1200. Colleen will contact insurance company to see if the RRWC can pay quarterly. Colleen, Rusty, Rue, Scott Stegman, Chuck Conner, and Tim met with SCWA to request financial support for RRWC activities. Randy suggested that the RRWC look at 3 sub-watershed for salmonid restoration. Randy is looking for restoration models that can be used as templates for community involvement in restoration and to broaden the potential for success. Randy provided verbal SCWA commitment of \$4,000 for up front expenditures.

Because of the magnitude of the commitment Scott Stegman suggest that a vote be taken to record the RRWC support for the process.

Discussion: The RRWC should only take on a reasonable amount of work and to work collaboratively with other effort and not duplicate ongoing processes. The ongoing development of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) may be able to provide a clearer picture of where restoration should take place. Karen Rippey suggested that Dan Smith will be filling data gaps soon and it may be possible to work collaboratively with Dan to fill the gaps.

This is an opportunity for the RRWC to produce a product to illustrate the RRWC legitimacy and to get the name of the RRWC out to the public.

Motion: Accept SCWA funds to meet RRWC immediate funding needs and identify and determine future opportunities for restoration funds.

Approval: 11 Nays: 0 Abstains: 2

Secretary Report: Scott Stegeman mentioned that the Financial Procedures document was development and will be discussed as an agenda item.

### **Financial Procedures Committee – Report of guidelines**

The Financial Procedures and Controls, June 28, 2006, is a broader description of the operation procedures. The Fiscal Policies and Procedures, August 24, 2005, is a more detail description of procedures. One of these descriptions would be given to potential funders to provide comfort and assurance that the funds will be distributed correctly. A tax ID number is needed before funds can be provided directly to the RRWC. It was suggested to use the current approach of the Rose Foundation to receive and distribute funds.

### **Russian River Watershed Directory**

Originally, the Directory was seen as a desk top publishing to be a highly visual product. After much iteration, an Access data base provided a clear process for changing, modifying, and updating the data base.

It was found that email was the best way to get and share information but some entities do not have email so other ways of contacting entities need to be maintained. The Directory is a valuable product but the data needs to be updated. Rick suggested that the Directory could be updated for approximately \$2,000 annually.

A disclaimer should be added to state that the commercial entities listed should be hired at their own risk and that other commercial entities that would like to be named should contact.....

Karen will email Jen's contact information to RRWC members.

### **Next Steps & September 16, 2006 Agenda Items – Discussion**

Potential agenda items for September 16, 2006 RRWC meeting:

- Public Outreach Contract
- SCWA Project Funding
- Potential presentation: Fish Friendly Farming and WMP Update

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Laguna Foundation

**Dan Schurman**, Laguna Foundation Executive Director and **Joe Honton**, Watershed Outreach and Data Manager

The Foundation was founded 1989 with the mission to preserve the Laguna. The Laguna watershed is approximately 250 square miles. The Foundation is involved in restoration, education, research and developing opportunities for recreation. Joe provided an overview of the Restoration Management Plan (RMP), due to be completed in August of 2006. The RMP has been funded by State Coastal Conservancy and other local agencies/entities. The Plan focuses on self-sustaining ecosystem including invasive species (early detection/rapid response), habitat, bio diversity and structural diversity.

NASA and the Laguna Foundation are exploring the possibility of developing a watershed-scale model using GIS modeling software developed through NASA Ames Research Center, Chris Potter principal researcher. The USGS is developing a sediment transport model in 2006-2008 under the lead of USACE and SCWA.

Recreation in the Laguna may include additional hiking/biking trails, improved access for paddlers, and a car tour.

Important elements for the future planning are a State of the Laguna Conference, a Laguna Report Card and a permanent Laguna Stakeholder Council.

Dan discussed efforts to control Ludwigia in the Laguna... Ludwigia is choking water corridors, prevents successful mosquito abatement efforts, impedes water flow/flood control, traps sediment, threatens biodiversity, and pulls oxygen out of the system.

Also discussed was the Laguna Learning Center. The project to restore and convert the historic structures on Stone Farm is expected to cost approximately \$5,000,000. This will include the restoration of the house, two barns and the construction of an additional building. The house will be the new home of the Laguna Foundation and the new structure will house an interpretive center and research station; the barns will be used for ag history education programs as well as other public events.

**Dr. Andrew Collison**, Philip Williams & Associates,  
Rutherford Dust Project

The restoration planning for the Rutherford Dust project encompasses four and a half miles of the Napa River, from Zinfandel Lane Bridge to the Oakville Cross Road Bridge. The project reach is aligned with the Rutherford Dust appellation society. Each property owner contributed to the conceptual plan's cost which was based on the footage of river frontage. After the concept plan was complete, the group was able to receive funds from State Coastal Conservancy and Napa County (Measure A funds) to create a restoration plan. One goal was to determine if the downcutting of the channel was a system or localized problem. Currently the river is downcut between 12 to 20 feet. This affects ground water levels and separates the river from its natural floodplain, reducing back channel areas and concentrating flood water in the main channel. Over hundreds of years the river would create a new floodplain at the lower level. The plan is to enhance the natural process by constructing a new floodplain where possible.

Vineyard land values have pushed the developed land close to top of bank in many locations. To provide adequate river restoration in some of the more narrow and incised reaches it was determined that approximately 75 foot setbacks were needed.

The restoration concept focused on reducing excess erosive stress, rather than simply increasing resistance by hardening the banks. This approach is being promoted by State and Regional Water Quality Control Board staff, and PWA has provided training for Resource Agency staff in this technique across the State of California. Another aspect of the approach was to develop an understanding of river evolution and trajectory. This was done using the Schumm channel evolution model for incised rivers. Andy also used an example of erosion on the Russian River to illustrate how erosion and water movement will affect adjacent banks.