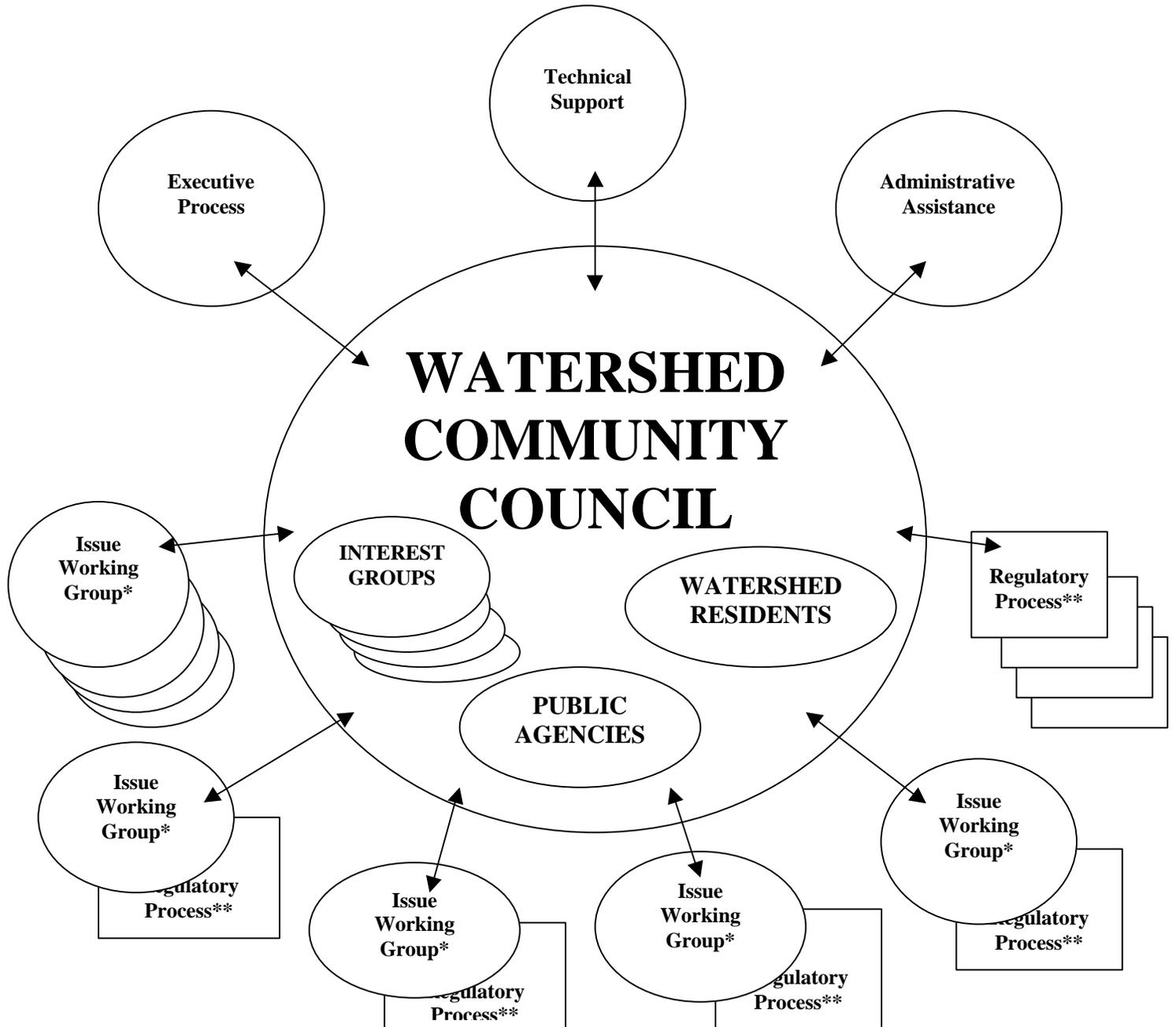


RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This diagram illustrates a draft framework for the Watershed Community Council (WCC) and how the WCC could be the link for what, where, and how issues are resolved in the Russian River Watershed.



***Possible Issues:** Urban & Infrastructure, River Stability, Exotic Vegetation & Forestry, Water Diversion, In-Stream Gravel Mining, Flood Management, Dam Operation, and/or Water Quality

****Possible Regulatory Processes:** Storm Water Permits, Gravel Mining EIRs, Timber Harvest Plan, 404 Permits and/or Section 7

The Russian River Watershed Community Council (WCC) Funding

The funding responsibility is a joint effort among Local, State, and Federal agencies.

The Federal share is provided through the Corps of Engineers.

The States share is provided through the State of California Resources Agency.

Mendocino and Sonoma Counties will be providing support staff.

THE STATES FUNDING PROCESS

The State of California is providing a Russian River Watershed Coordinator, Cathy Bleier, who is on loan to the California Department of Conservation from the California Department of Forestry. The California Department of Conservation is providing funding for facilitation, mailing, and office staff. In addition, the watershed effort is Pilot Project of Governor's Watershed Protection and Restoration Council, which includes staff support from various state agencies, including CDF, DFG, SLC, DoC, DWR, Coastal Conservancy, CA Energy Commission, CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture, SWRCB, North Coast RWQCB, and Cal/EPA.

Possible Future Funding could include (1) Governor's Budget directed funding for Watershed Community Council staff support by state agencies (2) State funding for selected discrete projects endorsed by Watershed Community Council (3) State support for federal funding of projects endorsed by the Watershed Community Council (e.g., matching funds and/ or lobbying support in DC) (4) Potential for CA Biodiversity Council/Watershed Community Council joint projects and efforts.

THE CORPS FUNDING PROCESS

The U.S. Congress appropriates funding for General Investigation of water resource problems. The Corps planning procedures require that the San Francisco District meet certain specific objectives.

First Step: Complete a reconnaissance report to identify Federal interest. (Completed in 1997)

Second Step: Complete a Project Study Plan (PSP), which includes the structure and cost of the WCC process and a letter of intent from the State of California stating their willingness to cost-share in the watershed implementation process. (The PSP is subject to scope changes as the technical picture unfolds.)

Third Step: After Headquarters approves the PSP, the Feasibility Study is initiated. This is the time when the WCC will identify the issues and solutions to the issues that are effecting the integrity of the watershed. It is anticipated that the Feasibility Study will be completed in two phases.

Phase I – Develop the WCC, identify the issues of concern to the community, and preliminary analysis of suggested actions including hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, identify the preferred alternative.

Phase II – Establish the future conditions to complete implementation of any identified studies including any Environmental Impact Statements and/or Environmental Impact Reports, define the watershed issues, and evaluate the alternative actions.

**Possible Actions for
The Russian River
Watershed Community Council (WCC)**

***Mission:** To protect, restore, and enhance the environmental and economic values of the Russian River watershed through an open, community-based process which facilitates collaboration and communication among all interested parties.*

The WCC could define the issues and provide possible alternative solutions to the issues within the watershed, which will provide the regulatory agencies with a WCC preferred alternative.

The WCC includes agency staff as members to streamline the decision-making process. The structure of the WCC is to ensure early community participation and provide a “one stop shop” for regulatory actions within the watershed.

The WCC could be a pivotal link in processing actions that effect the water resources in the watershed and the river.

The WCC could review other pending actions affecting the watershed and could receive official publications that pertain to Russian River watershed resources.

The WCC could be a data base center for field studies and historical information concerning the issues important to the Russian River watershed.

The WCC could set priorities critical to the watershed and river health, as well as facilitate the implementation of restoration projects within the watershed using grant money and other funding sources.

An Example of Watershed Community Council Involvement

