

Russian River Watershed Council

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

Structure:

- **Council:** Composed of representatives of various community groups in the Russian River watershed. The Russian River Watershed Council will be responsible for recommending the scope of the program and its implementation. It will investigate issues, establish work-groups on discrete issues, establish benchmarks and timelines, utilize an unbiased technical/scientific committee to analyze proposals, ensure an open and inclusive public process, and seek to make consensus recommendations to the Steering Committee.
- **Administrative Committee:** Composed of representatives from public agencies with jurisdictions in the watershed. Responsible for providing logistical support for the Council, e.g., keeping a public calendar of meetings and events and arranging for meeting spaces and times. The Committee will maintain program records for public inspection, and will provide the Council (upon request) with policy guidance to ensure that Council recommendations are consistent with relevant law and are financially feasible.
- **Steering Committee:** Composed of the Resources Secretary, the District Engineer, and one representative from both Sonoma County and Mendocino County. Responsible for ensuring that federal, state, and local funds expended by the Russian River Watershed Council on projects it develops or endorses are spent wisely (though clearly not responsible for funding by a public agency on behalf of a discrete project in the watershed endorsed by the Watershed Council). Its members will act as the official partners for the USACE's legislative and contractual requirements. It will act officially on recommendations by the Russian River Watershed Council, and it will ensure that any recommendations which require state, federal, and/or local governmental action within the watershed are debated in a transparent fashion.
- **Workgroups:** Ad hoc groups composed of interested parties and individuals (not necessarily members of the Council) which provide data and recommendations to the Council on discrete issues, as requested by the Council.
- **Technical/Scientific Committee:** Composed of individuals selected by the Council to serve as consultants to and/or evaluators of any Council-sanctioned work product.

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Suggested Council Members

Resource Conservation Districts: Total = 3

Environmental Interests: Possible Total = 6

Economic Interests: Possible Total = 6

Public Representatives: Possible Total = 6

Ex officio/Federal: Possible Total = 6

Ex officio/State: Possible Total = 6

Ex officio – Elected Officials Possible Total = 3 (?)

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