

Notes from Russian River Watershed Community Council May 22, 1999

◆Start-ups

Kathy Reese reviewed the Getting Acquainted Form, whose purpose is to lend credibility and provide information. Completing the form is voluntary.

The forms were distributed. Results will be available on web site, if there is an interest.

Karen Rippey created a baby quilt for Nikki Barrett and asked members to sign it.

◆Presentation by Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs):

- History of Resource Conservation Districts - Started in the 1930's
- Project overview with individual report from the 3 Russian River watershed RCD's.

◆Membership Committee Recommendations - Richard Shoemaker

The Committee recommended the IRRWC accepts the proposed list of members as handed out on the May 22 RRWC meeting as balanced. Issues and Concerns were expressed by Public caucus geographic balance (northern area needs better representation) and all public members were not in agreement with distribution of membership/alternates.

Final Vote: 31 in favor 9 opposed 1 abstention

The motion passed with the provision to allow the public group to modify their alternates representation and membership geographic balance before the next meeting.

The Committee also recommended that total count per caucus be 18 and the appointments or seats created be balanced or filled to maintain geographic balance.

No issues or concerns were expressed.

Final Vote: 38 in favor 2 opposed 1 abstention

The motion passed.

The Committee also recommended that roll be taken at each general meeting of the RRWC to acknowledge the voting members or alternates seated. The roll is established by having a name label at each RRWC member seat.

No issues or concerns were expressed.

Final Vote: 42 in favor No opposed

The motion passed.

The Committee also recommended that all members of the environmental, economic, and public group provide a letter or resolution of their organization, business, or individual action appointing them to fill the RRWC membership seat. The name of an alternate will also be furnished. These appointments will be done on an annual basis.

No issues or concerns were expressed.

Final Vote: 34 in favor 3 opposed 3 abstentions

The motion passed.

The Committee recommended that the full council approve members of the public group as voting members. Each caucus may develop and suggest to the whole council criteria for acceptance and/or continued participation in the council. Issues and Concerns were parity public caucus being treated differently, most public caucus members represent groups, lack of trust of public caucus, hope that we will no longer be divided in future, caucuses capable of self-organization, needs to be sense of equality, public caucus can take responsibility, how will members – all members – be replaced if they leave the Council.

Final Vote: 10 in favor 34 opposed

The motion failed.

Alternate option proposed: Public caucus determines own members

Final Vote: 32 for 4 opposed 3 abstentions

The motion passed.

◆Seating the Council

Clarification were fielded on proposal to seat the council.

Balance on the economic caucus reflects: 7 Mendocino representatives, 8 Sonoma County representatives, 3 from both counties (noted by Bob Rawson)

Balance on the environmental caucus reflects: Geographic Balance between both counties (noted by Jay Halcomb)

Vote to Seat the Council: 24 in favor No opposed

The motion passed.

Vote for 3 RCD's to be voting members: 20 in favor, 5 opposed, 2 abstentions

The motion passed.

◆Steering Committee Workgroup Report - Jay Halcomb

Work group recommended the formation of a Steering Committee.

- Each caucus begin a process for identifying Steering Committee members – 9 member committee with three members from each caucus (alternate suggestion, a 6-member committee with two members from each caucus). Agreement to a 9-member committee.

35 in favor 2 opposed

The motion passed.

Recommendations for Steering Committee tasks and responsibilities were reviewed.

- Steering Committee task is to create the agenda for the Council meetings, incorporating the will of the Council.
- Steering Committee should take requests from working groups (that have been chartered by the Council) to be put on the agenda for Council meetings.
- At the end of every council meeting, suggestions for next Council meeting agenda items should be fielded.
- Steering Committee will manage the creation of meeting minutes working in conjunction with agency (and other) resources.
- People can access Steering Committee in personal conversation, by post or via e-mail to petition for an item to be included on the agenda.
- Steering Committee to be responsible for agenda chronology, what time constraints to be applied and what order items should be presented in.

Steering Committee Issues and Concerns were expressed:

- No one is overseeing legal structure.
- Steering Committee is not strong enough.
- Length of service on Steering Committee is an open issue.
- Not all members have access to the Web.
- Is a quorum required for the Steering Committee to act?

Recommendations for structure and operating principles:

- Steering Committee meetings should be scheduled as needed, for flexibility.
- Steering Committee meetings should be publicly noticed and open to the public.

Vote of schedule and noticed 39 in favor 1 opposed

The motions passed.

- Steering Committee minutes should be posted on the Web to minimize cost and maximize efficient distribution. Suggestions for Web Posting: For the present - post on Army Corps Website. Future - RRWC website to be established. Written copies of minutes would be available upon request from a member of the Steering Committee

Vote to put meeting minutes on the web site 39 in favor 1 opposed

The motion passed.

- Meeting sites should be rotated between Hopland and Cloverdale (an alternate suggestion is to rotate between Santa Rosa and Ukiah). The Steering Committee will decide on locations for its meetings – will rotate between the two counties.
- Decisions for Steering Committee made by consensus of Steering Committee members. Chairship of the Steering Committee will be handled by the Steering Committee (fallback would be a majority vote on procedural matters).
- Agency members may attend Steering Committee meetings but are not able to make decisions. RCD's may attend meetings or provide their input to Steering Committee members.
- At the beginning of the Council meeting, get agreement on the agenda 39 in favor 1 opposed

The motion passed.

◆Announcements

- Kay McCabe, Russian River Celebration Committee
– Request for co-sponsorship deferred to next meeting
- Bill Cox, Fish and Game
– Changes in permitting process (707-823-1001)
- Nikki Barrett
– Forming delegation to represent Council to political bodies and officials (use existing delegates - 2 from each caucus)
Vote 24 in favor, 8 opposed, 4 abstentions
The motion passed.
Informational communication only; no actual “lobbying” by this delegation:
Nikki Barrett, Nick Tibbetts, Bob Rawson, John Calaprice, Tim Buckner, Marc Green
- Diana Jacobs
– Suggested reading material – Totem Salmon
- Bob Clemens, Russian River Clean-Up Committee
Miles Croom, National Marines Fishery Service – Final Rules – Proposed Rule
- Eric Sunsweet – June 16th meeting, Caltrans herbicide spraying issues
- Ellen Faulkner
– Hillside Ordinance – not passed yet (input until June 15)

◆Ten Potential Speakers

The group prioritized speakers and others were added.

- Local, state and federal agencies working in the Russian River Watershed would like to provide the Council with an overview of the various agencies' activities, plans, priorities and opportunities for working with the Council.

11 votes

- Dr. Josh Collins, San Francisco Estuary Institute, 510-231-9539

Suggested topic: *Historic Ecology Mapping*

5 votes

- Bob Coey, Department of Fish and Game Biologist, 707-744-8704

Suggested topic: *Biological Assessment of the Russian River Waterways*

11 votes

- Mathias Kondolf, University of California at Berkeley, 510-644-8381

Suggested topic: *5 Elements for Effective Evaluation of Stream Restoration*

16 votes

- Park Steiner, Steiner Environmental Consulting, 707-743-1815

Suggested topic: *Fish Migration Barriers in the Russian River Watershed*

15 votes

- Karen Gaffney, Circuit Riders Productions, 707-838-6641

Suggested topic: *Invasive Species in the Russian River Watershed*

6 votes

- Miles Croom, National Marine Fisheries Service, 707-575-6059

Suggested topic: *Steelhead and Coho Recovery Goals*

12 votes

- Calvin Fong/Jane Hicks, Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch, 415-977-8460

Suggested topic: *The Corps' Regulatory Process and How it Works*

7 votes

- Helen Libeu, RRRAUL, 707-869-3302/707-823-7785

Suggested topic: *Forestry: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*

13 votes

- Paul Pugner, Corps of Engineers Water Management Section (Sacramento), 916-557-7101, and Carlos Hernandez, Corps of Engineers Hydraulics and Coastal Engineering (San Francisco), 415-977-8590

Suggested topic: *Slide show of dam operations*

1 vote

Write-ins:

- Philip Williams, P.W. Associates, Tiburon

Suggested topic: *Russian River Hydrology and Geomorphosis*

1 vote

- Mary Powers, University of California Berkeley, ESPM Department

Suggested topic: *Ecology of Northern California rivers*

1 vote

- Bev Wasson, Vineyard Management

Suggested topic: *New Vineyard Development*

- Richard Shoemaker/Mike Reilly/Diana Jacobs

Suggested topic: *Policy Potential of the RRWC*

- Karen Rippey

Suggested topic: *The Napa River Outcome*

- Laurel Marcus

Suggested topic: *For LM & A*

3 votes

- Bob Doppelt, Author, [Entering the Watershed](#)

Suggested topic: Pacific Rivers Council

1 vote

- Dr. Bob MacArthur, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants

8 votes

◆ Suggestions for future meetings

- Put announcements at start of meeting
- Consider having 1, 2, or 3 days of education
- Russian River Environmental Forum already has educational program
- Request by Russian River Celebration Committee to ask for sponsors
- Put dates on all lists/documents issued in Council
- Criteria for projects (from Andy Black)
- Date and location of next meeting at beginning of meeting

Next meeting dates: July 24 and September 11 Same location