

**Minutes of Meeting**

8:30 A.M., Thursday, August 22, 2013  
David C. Joseph Meeting Room  
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Audio recordings of board meetings are available at: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast); go to the Board Info tab and click on Meetings.

**i. Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Vice Chair Geoffrey Hales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ii. Roll Call and Introductions**

Board Members present: David Noren, William Massey, Geoffrey Hales and Irene Tynes

Board Members absent: Heidi Harris and John Corbett

Matt St. John introduced to the Board the three staff members promoted to Senior positions in the office:

- Stephen Bargsten, Senior Environmental Scientist, NPS, 401 Unit.
- Jim Burke, Senior Engineering Geologist, Southern Timber Unit.
- Dean Pratt, Senior Engineering Geologist, Northern Timber Unit.

Regional Water Board staff present: Matt St. John, David Leland, Samantha Olson, Patti Corsie, Fred Blatt, Bryan McFadin, Diana Henriouille, Mark Neely, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Craig Hunt, Colleen Hunt, Patty Gorup, Charles Reed, Stephen Bargsten, Janet Mahoney, Greg Nash, Clayton Creager, Katharine Carter, Jim Burke, Dean Prat, Stormer Feiler, Alydda Mangelsdorf, Adona White, Cherie Blatt, Kason Grady, David Kuszmar and Jeremiah Puget.

**iii. Board Member Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**

- William Massey met with State legislative members regarding water issues.
- Geoffrey Hales had conversation with Mike Miles, Humboldt Redwood Company, regarding the Elk River TMDL.

**iv. State Board Liaison's, Board Chair's and Executive Officer Reports**

The State Board Liaison, Steven Moore, was not in attendance.

Matt St. John, Executive Officer presented Jim Burke, Senior Engineering Geologist, Southern Timber Unit, with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Regional Water Board for his exceptional and dedicated work coordinating with CALFire, registered professional foresters, NTMP landowners and environmental interest groups in the development of the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan Waste Discharge Requirements permit.

Matt St. John also presented a Superior Accomplishment Award to Patricia Gorup, Staff Service Management I, Janet Mahoney, Staff Services Analyst, Greg Nash, Staff Informational Systems Analyst, Drew Bayless, Informational System Technician and Craig Hunt, Water Resource Control Engineer for their outstanding work in coordinating the office remodel phases until completion.

v. **Public Forum**

Comments were taken from:

- Matt Greene, California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA)

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** June 13, 2013

Motion: Geoffrey Hales moved to adopt the June 13, 2013 Minutes, William Massey seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

### **Uncontested Items**

No Uncontested Items at this time

### **Action Items**

No Action Items at this time

### **Workshops**

2. **Workshop regarding the Russian River Biological Opinion and development of the Russian River Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project.** Matt St. John gave the introduction on the purpose of the workshop, the nexus between Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act, and introduced the panel speakers. William Hearn, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), gave an overview of the Russian River Biological Opinion adopted in September 2008 to help restore and protect threatened or endangered species. Pamela Jeane, Assistant General Manager of Operations, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), gave an overview of SCWA's role and responsibilities to implement the Biological Opinion. Jeff Church, Senior Environmental Specialist, SCWA, gave an overview of the goals and objectives of SCWA's Russian River water quality monitoring, general observations on monitoring results and SCWA's future steps. Rebecca Fitzgerald, Senior Environmental Scientist, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Unit, gave an overview of the Russian River Pathogen TMDL with the definition and scope, implementation schedule, the history of monitoring efforts, and initial results.

Comments were taken from:

- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee (RRWPC)
- Don McEnhill, Russian Riverkeeper
- Eric Larsen, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- David Keller, Friends of the Eel River
- Kimberly Burr, Public

## Information Items

- 3. Municipal Storm Water Phase II Permit Renewal and Implementation Update.** Colleen Hunt, Environmental Scientist, Core Regulation Unit gave an outline on the program background, phase II permittees, general permit implementation, Russian River Watershed phase I & phase II alignment, inspections and future efforts.

Comments were taken from:

- Virginia Porter, Russian River Watershed Association

- 4. Update on Regional Water Board Response to Environmental Impacts Associated with Marijuana Cultivation in the North Coast Region.** Diana Henriouille, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, updated the Board on the response to environmental impacts associated with marijuana cultivation and introduced the speaker panel. Stormer Feiler, Environmental Scientist, Enforcement Unit, gave an update on the enforcement actions taken since the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting. Patrick Higgins, Fisheries Biologist and Volunteer Coordinator for Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP), updated the Board on the temperature and flow monitoring, algae studies, fish monitoring and education and outreach. Shelley Janek, Mendocino Resource Conservation District (MCRCD), gave a brief overview of the MCRCD mission of identifying conservation needs of landowners, working collaboratively with landowners, local, state and federal agencies, education, utilizing public and private resources, and developing and implementing conservation projects. Samantha Olson, Senior Staff Counsel, gave an overview of the state and federal relationship of law governing controlled substances and state law regulating discharge of water, as they relate to marijuana cultivation.

Comments were taken from:

- Larry Desmond, water resource and development consultant
- Devon Jones, Mendocino County Farm Bureau
- Matt Greene, Registered Professional Forester

- 5. Update on the Development of the Upper Elk River Technical TMDL and Implementation Program.** Alydda Mangelsdorf, Senior Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit, introduced Adona White, Water Resources Control Engineer, Planning Unit, who gave a presentation overview on the public release of the Upper Elk River Technical TMDL peer review draft staff report, the proposed approach for adoption and implementation, and the next steps and schedule.

Comments were taken from:

- Mike Jani, Humboldt Redwood Company
- Matt House, Green Diamond Resource Company
- Kristy Wrigley, Upper Elk River Resident

- 7. Update on the 2011 Triennial Review List of Priorities and the Strategy for the 2014 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan.** Alydda Mangelsdorf, Senior Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit, gave an overview of the Basin Plan, review and status of the 2011 Triennial Review short list of priorities, strategy for the 2014 Triennial Review, and Staff contact list for ongoing projects.

6. **Update on the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanup Program.** Craig Hunt, Water Resource Control Engineer, Cleanup Unit gave an update on the UST program, low threat UST Cleanup policy and evaluation results, Local Oversight Programs (LOP) requirements, the UST program issues, and next steps for the UST Program.
8. **Nonpoint Source Program Strategy and Five-Year Plan.** Mark Neely, Senior Environmental Scientist, NPS/401 Unit, gave a presentation on four initiatives for the Five Year Plan: 1.1-Ownership/Watershed WDRs for Timber Harvest and Nonpoint Source Activities, 1.2- Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Agricultural Lands, 1.3- Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program/Wood for Salmon, and 1.4- Watershed Stewardship Approach. He also discussed next steps for the Program.
9. **Executive Officer's Report.** See item iv.
10. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items.**
  - Chairman Noren requests that Enforcement Unit make conceptual recommendations regarding the Regional Water Board Response to Environmental Impacts Associated with Marijuana Cultivation in the North Coast Region at the September 26, 2013 Board Meeting.
  - Chairman Noren requests an update to the Board at the January 2014 Board Meeting regarding the pathway closure for UST Sites not identified for closure in the recently completed review.
11. **Other Items of Interest.** None requested.
12. **Closed Session.** There were no reports from closed session.
13. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**  
09:00 Thursday, September 26, 2013  
River Lodge Conference Center  
1800 Riverwalk Drive  
Fortuna, CA

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm.

Chairperson\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_