

Russian River Property Owners  
Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Date: June 8, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: 1000 Hwy. 128 Geyserville, CA

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Following an informal reception, Chair, Brad Petersen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Board Members Brad Petersen, Cam Mauritson, Brett Munselle, Harry Black, Rickie Pina, Carolyn Wasem, Paul Foppiano, and Pat Burns were present.

Approximately 60 members of the RRPOA membership was in attendance.

**2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Item 1. Election of Board Members**

President Petersen proposed the following names for 2022/2023 Board of Directors: Brad Petersen, Harry Black, Carolyn Wasem, Rickie Pina, Paul Foppiano, David Fanucchi, Pat Burns, Allan Nelson, Richard Rued, Bret Munselle, Cam Mauritson, and Justin Miller

The Board of Directors was unanimously approved.

**Item 2. Election of Officers**

President Petersen propose the following nominees for RRPOA Officers:

Brad Petersen, President  
Harry Black, Vice President  
Carolyn Wasem, Secretary  
Rickie Pina, Treasurer  
Paul Foppiano, Past President

The Officers were unanimously approved.

**Item 3. Amendment to Bylaws**

President Petersen proposed changes to the bylaws. These included:

- (i) Amending specific language to ensure grammatic correctness of Bylaws.
- (ii) Number of Directors shall consist of at least three (3) but no more than twelve (12) Directors until changed by amendment to these bylaws.
- (iii) The exact number of Directors *shall be fixed within these limits, by a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors, as confirmed by the membership* The exact number of directors shall be fixed within these limits, by a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors, as confirmed by the membership.

- (iv) At least two-thirds of all directors shall be landowners who reside on their property in the Russian River watershed in Sonoma County.

The amendments to the bylaws were unanimously approved by membership.

**Item 4. Financial Report**

Treasurer Rickie Pina reported that \$ 29,777.55 was in the bank account for RRPOA.

Total members paid included 17, the total membership for 2020 included 49 entities.

The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved by the Board.

**Item 5. Approval of Dues**

President Petersen asked attendees to renew their membership and discussed the dues structure for the 2022/2023 year.

Membership Tier: Small property      Large property      Associate Member

\$45 - Small property: The small property membership tier is for homeowners.

\$90 - Large property: The Large property membership tier is for those with commercial operations.

\$25 - Associate member: associate member tier is for those who would like to participate as a non-voting member.

The dues structure for 2022/2023 was unanimously approved by the Board.

**3. ALEXANDER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT PROPOSAL**

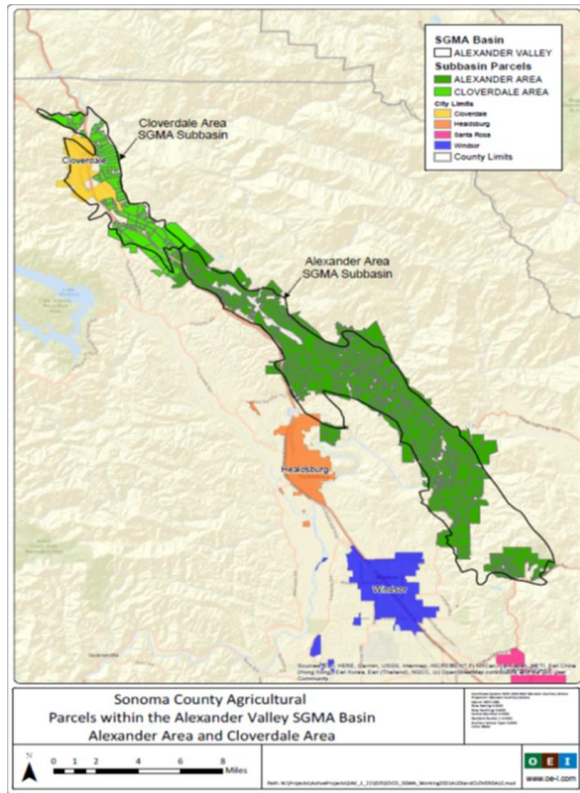
Guest Mike Martini discussed the need to form a Water District in Alexander Valley to ensure a voice in decisions as to water availability and management. The following points were stressed:

- Gain official standing...a 'voice' to participate in regional water supply discussions and projects (e.g. Potter Valley Project)
- Qualify as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency with a Board elected by Alexander Valley agricultural landowners
- Take responsibility for jointly managing the Valley's surface and groundwater in coordination with State agencies, the Sonoma County Water Agency, other County agencies, Tribes, nearby cities, other municipal water users and affected special districts;
- Invest in infrastructure that expands and conserves water supply through increased local storage, groundwater recharge, recycled water, and water conservation measures; and
- Gain authority to engage in Russian River channel maintenance and habitat restoration projects.

**DISTRICT BOUNDARIES:**

- The proposed district would encompass approx. 25,000 acres including 300 separate large agricultural land ownerships.
- The Basin boundary includes many parcels that straddle the boundary so the district boundary would be slightly larger as it would include entire parcel.
- The Basin boundary indicated by the green (parcel boundaries therefore extends slightly beyond the dark line that delineates the Basin Boundary.

- Boundary will encompass all parcels differentiated by their use status (irrigated agriculture, non-irrigated agriculture, rural residential. Commercial (winery) uses, etc.



#### 4. INTERIM ACTION INITIATIVES

A discussion related to actions needed to form a district was presented by guests including Adriane Garayalde, Peter Kiel and Dennis Murphy. A set of six 'Action Initiatives' are underway and will be pursued during the district formation process which may require two years to complete:

- Develop a Voluntary Water Sharing Program-- Working in the context of the ongoing State and local steering committee collaborative effort, develop a local plan to conserve water on a voluntary basis during the coming 2022 growing season.
- Participate in Potter Valley Project Deliberations – Unknown outcome of the Potter Valley Project and reduction of flow into Potter Valley due to PG&E equipment failure have heightened concerns for Russian River water supply reliability.
- Expand Well Monitoring Efforts -- One of the key objectives of the State's impending designation of the Alexander Valley as a 'Medium Priority Basin' is better documentation and monitoring of groundwater use.
- Complete Emergency Channel Maintenance Pilot Project -- Potential loss of River Road to bank erosion at the 'Munselle Property' and also potential damage to the Geyserville Bridge due to flooding has prompted Sonoma County to consider emergency actions to improve River channel upstream of the Bridge.
- Prepare Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan -- The State may declare the Alexander Valley a 'Medium Priority Basin' within the next few years. Initiating the preparation of a Groundwater

Sustainability Plan (GSP) prior to such designation will not only advance the time for its completion but may also influence the State's decision as they recognize the local effort.

- Expand Groundwater Recharge -- The Dry Creek Rancheria project offers an opportunity to expand its coverage from a few participating parcels to a more comprehensive geography that would consider recharge opportunities for the two groundwater basins (north and south Alexander Valley)

**NEXT STEPS:**

- RRPOA will continue its technical, organizational and liaison role related to District formation
- Action Initiative efforts will continue and managed by the RRPOA Board
- Parallel discussions with Senator McGuire's office and LAFCO will yield information leading to a decision by the RRPOA Board regarding how to proceed
- Collaboration with Sonoma Water and other agencies include Sonoma Dept. of Transportation and Public Works and the Dry Creek Rancheria re: action items and long-term water supply issues will continue.
- A "River Summit" is planned for the fall of 2022 and will focus on the status of threats to water supply, the Action Initiatives, District formation and cooperative Russian River Management and water supply efforts with existing agencies.

**5. PANEL DISCUSSION ON POTTER VALLEY**

Sonoma Water representatives Michael Thompson and Pam Jeane and Peter Kiel discussed Potter Valley and its impacts to water supply in the Alexander Valley.

- Current conditions – low flows and water rights curtailments are likely to continue a part of modifications to water to the Russian River.
- Currently the Two Basin Solution efforts are on hold as this group was unsuccessful at submitting a viable proposal to assume responsibility for the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project.
- A coalition of interests sent a letter to the FERC regarding the flow variances requested by PG & E on May 13, 2022. The letter expressed concerns about the request in change of flows and lack of PG&E's follow through on collaborative efforts in the region to address water flow needs. These points included:
  1. Lack of communication with the State Water Resources Control Board and a landowner/jurisdiction-based group regarding a Russian River water sharing program.
  2. Flow reductions associated with the PG & E request to dramatically reduce the flows into the East Fork of the RR from the current 75 CFS to a critical year designation of 5 CFS would be detrimental to the water sharing program.
  3. An understanding that drought conditions necessitate a reduction in flows however the dramatic reduction request by PG & E was unwarranted.

Sonoma Water encourages the formation of a District to ensure that Alexander Valley interests are represented as Potter Valley decisions are made.

In addition, the issue of “payment” for surface water associated with future diversions to the Russian River through Alexander Valley was discussed. From a long-term water security perspective, this may be the best approach to ensure continued surface water access.

#### **6. WATER SHARING PROGRAM UPDATE**

Guests Adriane Garayalde, Dennis Murphy and Peter Kiel discussed the Water Sharing Program. Russian River stakeholders have developed a voluntary water sharing program. The program was locally driven and attempts to manage water demand to address water shortages. The goal is to access water supply as long as possible in the dry season, avoiding or delaying curtailments. The following questions were answered:

1. What is the water sharing program? During drought, water users in the Upper Russian River volunteer to share water in an effort to have water available later in the season.
2. Who can participate? All water users in the Upper Russian River watershed.
3. How much do I have to conserve? Conservation is based on user’s historical water use (2017-2019), water right priority and source of water. The amount of conservation will range between 25%-75%. Participants will use their surface water diversions under participating water rights according to the conservation percentages provided for those rights for each month of the term of the program.
4. Can water be transferred or exchanged? Yes, among participating water users. Water users can shift supply among their own water rights. Participants can conserve more water than required and transfer that water to another participant or to another one of their properties.
5. What happens if I don’t participate? Participation in the program is voluntary. Those who choose not to participate will be subject to the State Water Board curtailment based on water rights priority.
6. If I conserve, will I lose my water rights? No. Participants will not lose their water rights. Participants are voluntarily working together during the dry season for a defined period of time to be able to allocate a limited water supply.
7. Can I leave the program or join late? Participants must sign up by June 20, 2022. Participants can leave the program; however, this is strongly discouraged because each and every participant is essential to success.
8. Will this be an annual program? Stakeholders and the State Water Resources Control Board intend to learn as the go and improve this program for use in future years.

Everyone with surface water rights in the Upper Russian River are encouraged to participate.

#### Item 7. Adjournment

With business concluded the Chair Petersen asked for a motion for adjournment. Board Member Wasem made a motion to adjourn, Board Member Burns seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is July 12th at 4:00 pm at 5155 Highway 128, Geyserville, CA.