

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Thursday, December 2, 2021
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Video Conference

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Video recordings of Board meetings (since 2/2019) are available at:
[Prior Board Meeting Video recordings.](#)

Audio recordings of Board meetings (11/2018 and before) are available at:
[Prior Board Meeting Audio recordings](#)

Vice-Chair Hector Bedolla opened the meeting to administer the Oath of Office for Chair Greg Giusti & Board member Valerie Quinto, who were reappointed to the Board on December 1, 2021 by Governor Newsom.

- i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Giusti led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

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| Board Members present: | Hector Bedolla, Kelli Gant, Gregory Giusti, and Valerie Quinto. |
| Board Members absent: | Shaunna McCovey |
| Regional Water Board staff present: | Lisa Bernard, Patti Corsie, Josh Curtis, Matt Herman, Nathan Jacobsen, Alydda Mangelsdorf, Justin McSmith, Matt St. John, and Claudia Villacorta |
- iii. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure.** Board member Hector Bedolla disclosed that he attended a tour on October 7, 2021 with Matt St. John, Charles Reed, and Mike Reese to view sites with onsite waste treatment systems in the Guerneville and Monte Rio area. Board member Valerie Quinto stated she and several other Board members attended the annual Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting virtually on October 21 & 22, 2021 and encouraged future participation in these statewide coordination meetings.
- iv. **State Water Board Liaison's and Executive Officer's Reports:** State Water Board Liaison Dorene D'Adamo was not able to attend the meeting.

v. **Regional Board Chair's Report:** Chairman Giusti reported that he had several phone calls, virtual meetings, and briefings with Matt St. John, Executive Officer (EO), Dorene D'Adamo, State Board Vice-Chair and Liaison to the North Coast Regional Board; and Juaquin Esquivel, State Board Chairman to discuss various topics such as racial justice and equity, underrepresented local communities, and the 50-year anniversary of the Clean Water Act; he also attended the WQCC meeting.

vi. **Public Forum:**

Comments were taken from:

- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee
- Bill Massey, Former Board Member; Comments made for Item 5 with approval of Chair Giusti
- Kimberly Burr, Public

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** October 7, 2021

Motion: Board member Bedolla moved to adopt August 19, 2021 Meeting minutes; Board member Gant seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Bedolla aye

Quinto aye

Gant aye

Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

Uncontested Item

2. **Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2021-0021 to consider for adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements and Master Recycling Permit for the City of Willits Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B80078OMEN, NPDES No. CA0023060. (Matt Herman)**

Motion: Board member Quinto moved to adopt R1-2021-0021; Board member Bedolla seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Bedolla aye

Quinto aye

Gant aye

Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

Action Items

3. **Order No. R1-2021-0041 to consider the amendment of the Water Quality Trading Framework for the Laguna de Santa Rosa, as adopted in Order R1-2020-0012, Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Santa Rosa Regional Water Reuse System, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0022764, WDID No. 1B83099OSON.** Matt Herman, Water Resources Control Engineer, NPDES Unit, gave a joint presentation on Items 3 & 4, with a discussion on the background and goal of the Water Quality Trading Framework Amendment to both NPDES Orders R1-2012-0012 (City of Santa Rosa) and R1-2012-0010 (Town of Windsor). Mr. Herman reviewed the changes requested by both the City of Santa Rosa, and Town of Windsor to the Framework; the Public comments received; and the responses given; with the recommendation to the Board to adopt both Amendment Orders R1-2021-0041 and R1-2021-0042.

Comments were taken from:

- Dan Galvin, City of Santa Rosa
- Sean McNeil, City of Santa Rosa
- Veronica Siwy, Town of Windsor

Roll-call votes were taken separately for Items 3 and 4.

Motion: Board member Quinto moved to adopt R1-2021-0041; Board member Gant seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Bedolla aye

Quinto aye

Gant aye

Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

4. **Amendment Order to revise the Water Quality Trading Framework for Windsor Water District Wastewater Treatment, Reclamation, and Disposal Facility, WDID NO. 1B82037OSON, NPDES NO. CA0023345.** (*Justin McSmith*). See Item 3 above.

Motion: Board member Bedolla moved to adopt R1-2021-0042; Board member Gant seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Bedolla aye

Quinto aye

Gant aye

Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

5. **Public Hearing on Resolution No. R1-2021-0055 to consider adoption of an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to include the Action Plan for the Russian River Watershed Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and prohibition against the discharge of fecal waste materials.** Alydda Mangelsdorf, Division Supervisor, Planning & Stewardship Division, and Lisa Bernard, Senior Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit reviewed the proposed revisions to the Staff Report and the Revised Action Plan for the Russian River Watershed Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load including those identified and discussed at the August 19, 2021 Board meeting. Public comments received after the public review and comment period (ending on September 22, 2021) were reviewed and staff recommended that the Board adopt Resolution R1-2021-0055 to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to include the Revised Action Plan for the Russian River Pathogen TMDL and prohibition against the discharge of fecal waste materials in the Russian River Watershed.

Comments were taken from:

- Mike Thompson, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Pat Abercrombie, Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems – Residents Russian River (OWTS – RRR)
- Bart Deamer, OWTS – RRR
- James Christian, OWTS – RRR
- Rich Holmer, Public
- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee
- Dan Fein, Public

Following oral comments staff provided responses regarding several issues raised in the oral comments. Several Board members asked additional clarifying questions regarding the TMDL's program of implementation and staff responded.

Motion: Board member Gant moved to adopt R1-2021-0055; Board member Bedolla seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Bedolla aye

Quinto aye

Gant aye

Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Items

6. **Executive Officer's Report.** Matt St. John, EO, highlighted key points from several of the written articles in the EO Report as well as additional topics, including: 1) the North Coast Region's Point Source Discharge Prohibitions, unique in California, which represents a success of 50-years of implementation of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), and looking ahead to 2022, Mr. St. John intends to highlight other

North Coast Regional successes of the CWA; 2) Mr. St. John acknowledged the hard work and numerous accomplishments by Enforcement staff as reflected in the Enforcement Report portion of the EO's Report; 3) discussed staff's participation in an Inter-Agency working group with the California Department of Food & Agriculture to develop an On-Farm Composting guide that will be launching soon; 4) Mr. St. John noted that Regional Water Board staff have been working closely with the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance to provide necessary funding and support for water and wastewater projects for disadvantaged communities within the Region; and 5) Mr. St. John mentioned that the State Water Quality Control Board issued a Notice of Proposed Emergency Rulemaking regarding prohibition of activities and mandatory actions during declared drought emergencies and that the Public Comment period closes on December 23, 2021.

- 7. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest.** Board member Gant announced that this will be her last meeting as a member of the North Coast Regional Water Board and she is leaving the Board, effective December 31, 2021.
- 8. **Closed Session:** The Board met in Closed Session regarding items 8.d; no reports given.

Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment

9:00 a.m., Thursday February 3, 2022 and
Online – Zoom Meeting
Santa Rosa, CA

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Chairperson _____

Date _____