

Russian River Resiliency Subcommittee Kick-off Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Zoom

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting Objectives

- Discuss the vision for water resiliency in the Russian River basin.
- Discuss the focus and potential work products the Resiliency Subcommittee could develop or inform.
- Select Subcommittee co-chairs.
- Provide opportunity for public observation.

Welcome and Introductions

Subcommittee Member Introductions

- Subcommittee members, please write in the chat:
 - Your name
 - Affiliation
- E.g., Ben Gettleman, Kearns & West

Welcome and Agenda Review

Time	Topic
1:00 pm	Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review
1:15 pm	Recap of Planning Group Meeting #3 Resiliency Discussion (July 13)
1:35 pm	Vision for Water Resiliency in the Russian River Basin
2:15 pm	Focus and Potential Work Products for Resiliency Subcommittee
2:35 pm	Selection of Subcommittee Co-Chairs
2:55 pm	Recap of Meeting and Next Steps
3:00 pm	Adjourn

Subcommittee Purpose

The purpose of the Russian River Resiliency Subcommittee is to develop sustainable project concepts (beyond the PVP) that will improve insight on water availability, address water supply reliability, and reduce demand in the Russian River watershed under drought and climate change conditions in an equitable manner for the benefit of all beneficial uses.

– Planning Group Charter & Discussions

The Water Forum is a venue for collaboration and building shared understanding; it is not decision-making.

Participation Guidelines

Resiliency Subcommittee

- Please be mutually respectful.
- Actively listen.
- One person speaks at a time.
- Seek to satisfy mutual interests.

Members of Public

- Members of the public are invited to observe and may participate in the Miro Board activity.
- Interested members of the public may self-nominate to the Subcommittee if they are willing to commit to the work.

Participation Instructions: Resiliency Subcommittee

- Please use Zoom’s “raise hand” or “chat” functions and the Miro Board to participate.
- Please rename yourself: “RS: First Name Last Name, affiliation”
 - To rename yourself, click on “Participants”
 - Hover over your name and click the three dots on the right
 - Click “rename,” then follow the format above
 - E.g., “RS: Ben Gettleman, Kearns & West”

Recap of Planning Group Meeting #3 Resiliency Discussion (July 13)

Recap of Planning Group Resiliency Presentations, Part 1

- Upper Russian River Voluntary Sharing Agreement (John Nagle)
 - Sharing agreement between water rightsholders during drought; allowed 5 extra weeks of irrigation in 2022.
- City of Ukiah Water Resiliency Program (Sean White)
 - A diversified portfolio (surface water, groundwater, recycled water, and groundwater recharge) allows the city to bring its net water use near zero. (Includes agricultural use.)
- Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership (Claire Nordlie)
 - Collaboration of 13 utilities has decreased residential and commercial water use by almost half between 1995 and 2022. (Excludes agricultural use.)

Recap of Planning Group Resiliency Presentations, Part 2

- Alexander Valley and Dry Creek Rancheria Recharge Project (Adriane Garayalde)
 - Goal: capture high Russian River flows to recharge groundwater to replenish basins, increase soil moisture, and increase baseflow back to the Russian.
- Evaluating Water Resiliency Options for Potter Valley Irrigation District (Janet Pauli)
 - Reduced system losses by 25% since 2014; taking less than their water right in 2023.
- Russian River Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (Don Seymour and Jay Jasperse)
 - The Lake Mendocino pilot saved 19% more water in 2020 vs. the previously programmed releases.

Recap of Planning Group Resiliency Discussion

- Other water use reductions and potential projects:
 - SW has decreased deliveries from 66,000 acre-feet in 2004 to 37,000 in 2022.
 - Agricultural users are transitioning to recycled water and drip irrigation.
 - SW exploring potential use of FIRO at Lake Sonoma.
 - Potter Valley Tribe offered to help PVID as a partner.
- Discussion Questions:
 - How can water resiliency be pursued aggressively in the Russian River basin? What does Russian River resiliency look like? What should be the Russian River resiliency goals in the near- and long-term?
 - How can the Resiliency Subcommittee support in achieving the resiliency goals? What should it focus on?

Recap of Planning Group Resiliency Discussion, Part 1

How can water resiliency be pursued aggressively in the Russian River basin? What does Russian River resiliency look like? What should be the Russian River resiliency goals in the near- and long-term?

Ideas raised included:

- Importance of education efforts
- Learning to live within the water budget, land budget, and carrying capacity
- Regenerative land management practices, including prescribed fire
- Value of water storage
- Desire to get away from “resiliency” and more toward proactivity

Recap of Planning Group Resiliency Discussion, Part 2

How can the Resiliency Subcommittee support in achieving the resiliency goals? What should it focus on?

Ideas raised included:

- Index existing projects, data gaps, and what water is available
- Water budget, i.e., watershed ins and outs
- Collaboration hub for the region to identify new projects and partners that improve the basin's resiliency
- Extend water sharing agreements beyond states of emergency

Questions or additions?

Resiliency Project Matrix

- Based on the interest in understanding what projects are already ongoing, Kearns & West developed [this matrix](#)
- If you want to add, go ahead or email the facilitation team.

Project Name	Sponsoring Agency	Project Type	Point of Contact	Point of Contact Email (only if already public)	Description	Project Status	Website
Respect Russian River Campaign	Russian River Confluence	Riparian Restoration	Elise Weiland	elise.weiland@sonoma-county.org	The RESPECT RUSSIAN RIVER campaign was developed by the Russian River Confluence to create awareness around the	Active	https://www.russianriverconfluence.org/
Sonoma Valley Surface Water/Groundwater-Flow Model	Sonoma County Water Agency	Water Storage	Tracy Nishikawa	tnish@usgs.gov	Developing approaches and tools that will enable more efficient use and protection of water resources in a system of multiple	Completed	https://www.usgs.gov/centers/california-water-science-center/science/sonoma-valley-surface-watergroundwater-flow-m
Stormwater Management - Groundwater Recharge	Sonoma County Water Agency	Water Storage	Kent Gylfe	kgylfe@scwa.ca.gov	Sonoma Water is identifying opportunities to alleviate flooding, while possibly recharging groundwater aquifers or providing other	Completed	https://www.sonomawater.org/stormwater-groundwater
Santa Rosa Plain Drought Resiliency Project	Sonoma County Water Agency	Water Storage			Re-establish the functionality of a groundwater production well in the Santa		https://www.sonomawater.org/DroughtResiliency
Copeland Creek Riparian Enhancement and Erosion Control Project	Sonoma County Water Agency	Riparian Restoration	Kevin Cullinen	kcullinen@sonomarc.org	Improved water quality and the riparian corridor health along a reach of Copeland Creek by installing nearly 900 trees, shrubs,	Completed	https://www.rcdprojects.org/Project/Detail/4257
Water Supply Alternatives Plan	City of Santa Rosa Water	Drought Resiliency	Colin Close	CClose@srcity.org	Santa Rosa Water conducted a study of water supply options and developed an adaptive Water Supply Alternatives Plan for	Active	https://www.srcity.org/3762/Our-Water-Future#:~:text=To%20enhance%20our%20community's%20water.long%20ter
Mendocino County Water	City of Ukiah, Russian River	Water Resource			The purpose of the Task Force is to		https://cityofukiah.com/wp-content/uplo

Setting a Vision for Water Resiliency in the Russian River Basin

Setting a Vision – Miro Discussion

1. Envision that it's 2040 – what does a resilient Russian River Basin look like?
2. What are the main challenges to achieving basin-wide resiliency, and how can they be addressed?
3. What subtopics should the Subcommittee address within resiliency (e.g., supply, water quality, conservation, demand reduction, etc.)?
4. How can the Subcommittee most effectively contribute to achieving the vision of resiliency?

Focus and Potential Work Products for Resiliency Subcommittee

Potential Subcommittee Planning/Coordination Activities

- Identify resiliency goals/measurable objectives
- Identify existing programs and actions
 - Document what those programs/actions have achieved or will achieve
- Identify future or needed additional programs and actions
- Accurate water accounting
- Inter- or intra-region collaboration and education
- Identify funding for resiliency efforts

Focus and Potential Work Products

- What types of work product(s) could the Subcommittee produce?
- Who is the audience for the work product(s)?
- How should the work be organized? Who will do the heavy lifting?

Selection of Co-chairs

Selection of Co-chairs

- Role:
 - Work with the facilitation team to plan Subcommittee meeting agendas and coordinate with presenters
 - Support coordination/info sharing between the Subcommittee and Planning Group, and across Working Groups
 - Participate in report-outs during Planning Group meetings
 - Communicate with Subcommittee members between meetings as needed
 - The co-chairs are not expected to be decision-makers or to lead the Subcommittee meetings
- Nominations Received
 - Jaime Neary, Russian Riverkeeper
 - Jay Jasperse, Sonoma Water
 - Adam Gaska, Redwood Valley County Water District

Recap of Meeting and Next Steps

Recap of Meeting and Next Steps

- Meeting Recap
- **Planning Group Meeting #6:** Thursday, October 5, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Ukiah/Hybrid)
- Next Resiliency Subcommittee Meeting: TBD
- Homework for Subcommittee
 - Add programs to Resiliency program list



Meeting is adjourned.

Thank you for attending!