

## Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Thursday, October 7, 2021  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Video Conference

### Thursday, October 7, 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](#)

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

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Board Members present:              | Hector Bedolla, Kelli Gant, Gregory Giusti, Shaunna McCovey, and Valerie Quinto.   |
| Regional Water Board staff present: | Patti Corsie, Josh Curtis, Nathan Jacobsen, Matt St. John, and Claudia Villacorta, |
- iii. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure.** No reports or disclosures given.
- iv. **State Water Board Liaison's and Executive Officer's Reports:** State Water Board Liaison Dorene D'Adamo gave a comprehensive update on recent as well as upcoming State Water Board actions, including on the [drought](#), Emergency Curtailment Orders, water conservation, and financial assistance for drinking, bottled, and hauled water, along with financial assistance for wastewater systems and private water users in arrearages in the communities of the North Coast Region. Ms. D'Adamo gave an update on Legislation adopted (SB427, Senator Eggman) that will allow local water agencies to adopt ordinances that creates enhanced fines for water theft from their systems; and lastly reported that the State Water Board's annual [Water Quality Coordinating Committee](#) (WQCC) meeting will be held virtually on Zoom October 20 & 21, 2021.
- v. **Regional Board Chair's Report:** Chairman Giusti reported that he participated in the monthly Board Chair's meeting on Monday October 4, 2021 and highlighted the discussion of the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards roles in the development of the Integrated Report and 303(d) listings. Chair Giusti is encouraged that the State Water Board lead for this effort is Rebecca Fitzgerald, Environmental

Program Manager, Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section, Division of Water Quality, who originally was here at Region 1 and knows that with her quality of work and leadership.

vi. **Public Forum:**

**Comments were taken from:**

- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** August 19, 2021

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

Bedolla aye  
Quinto aye  
McCovey aye  
Gant aye  
Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

### **Information Items**

2. **Update from Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA).** Matt St. John, Executive Officer (EO) introduced Andy Rodgers, RRWA's Executive Director and Neysa Hinton, Vice-Chair, RRWA, and Sebastopol City Council Member. Mr. Rodgers gave an overview of RRWA's mission, structure, programs, association members, facts and roles, and provided updates on key RRWA initiatives and showed the winning video of the High School Video Contest (this year's theme was "*Know where water goes?*") that RRWA has sponsored for the past 18 years. Ms. Hinton spoke about her 5-year tenure with RRWA and highlighted the benefits of the association for the Russian River watershed and her represented City of Sebastopol.
3. **Report on Rising Waters Initiative: Water Quality & Homelessness – Results and Implementation.** Matt St. John, EO introduced Dr. Chris Halle, Sonoma State University, who gave a presentation on the history of the "Rising Water" Collaborative Initiative and presented the results of the initiative's faculty-student teams. Dr. Halle summarized the investigative issues regarding water quality and people experiencing homelessness that were addressed in this first year of research and summarized the comments from public sector experts that were received during a public workshop held on September 24, 2021. Dr. Halle opened up the discussion seeking input from our Board regarding the next steps of this research.

Board members expressed support for this important work and applauded the collaborative nature of the investigations.

4. **Executive Officer’s Report.** Mr. St. John’s oral report Matt St. John, Executive Officer spoke to the fact that this week is “Water Professionals Appreciation” week, and he thanked all of his staff, Board members, and all water professionals for protecting the waters of the North Coast Region. Mr. St. John also informed the Board that he requested that State Water Board staff with the Office of Research, Planning and Performance, Climate and Conservation Unit give an informational Board item at the February 2022 Board meeting on the status of water conservation efforts in the North Coast Region. Mr. St. John also reviewed the outcome of the Employee Engagement Steering Committee survey and their recommendations.
5. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest.** Board member Quinto modified her prior request for a presentation from the State Water Board staff about the kind of metrics related to compliance with the Emergency Water Curtailment Orders in the North Coast, since Ms. D’Adamo’s oral reports have and will continue to sufficiently cover this information.
6. **Closed Session:** The Board did not meet in Closed Session.

**Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**

9:00 a.m., Thursday December 2, 2021 and

9:00 a.m., Friday December 3, 2021

Hybrid Online – Zoom Meeting

Santa Rosa, CA

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_