



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

In accordance with Executive Order N-25-20 and N-29-20 regarding the Brown Act for public meetings during the public health emergency, the April River MAC meeting will be held virtually. The meeting will be on Zoom and on Facebook live, links below. After the event, videos are available both on facebook and on Youtube. YouTube Channel can be found under Sonoma County 5th District.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/99953723064?pwd=T3AxQWNRd0FBQW1QaE45MjU0dFhkdz09>

Passcode: 849719

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16699009128,,99953723064# or +12532158782,,99953723064#

Or Streaming Facebook Live on Supervisor Lynda Hopkins page <https://www.facebook.com/supervisorlyndahopkins/>

LOWER RUSSIAN RIVER MAC

AGENDA

April 15, 2020

5:30 – 7:30 pm

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council welcomes you to its meeting. Your interest and participation are encouraged and appreciated. Questions and comments may be entered in the zoom chat.

Call to Order

MAC Clerk/Nance Jones

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Statement of conflict of interest

(This is the time for the Chair, Vice Chair and Councilmembers to indicate any statements of conflict of interest for any item listed on this agenda).

Correspondence – none

Consent Calendar

Approval of February 2021 minutes

Approval of updated Bylaws

Public Comment on Matters Not Listed on the Agenda:

10 minutes

Please be brief and limit comments to two minutes and topics within the River Municipal Advisory Council region.

Regular Calendar Items

- A. Supervisor Hopkins: **15 minutes**
- Supervisor administers the Oath of Office for New Mac Representative: Guerneville Alternate Sarah Lindsay aka "Avi"
 - Presentation of the Board of Supervisors Gold Resolution to Vesta Copestakes
- B. Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA): **15 minutes**
Water agency representatives with an update on drought conditions along the Russian River.
- C. LandUse: **20 minutes**
Harman Dhillon and Martin Breuer of Breur Design presentation on planned renovation of the MD Gas Station on River Road between Rio Nido and Guerneville.
- D. GMRS Radio Network: **15 minutes**
Lois Lebovitch and Damian Bouné emergency preparedness update

Committees and reports:

20 minutes

Vacation Rentals: AdHoc Committee Report

Trash AdHoc – written report

Chair to appoint AdHoc committees

Proclamations

None.

Call for agenda items

Adjournment

Documents related to open session agendas:

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council regarding any item on this agenda after the posting of this agenda and not otherwise exempt from disclosure will be made available for public review at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-A, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.

Disability Accommodations:

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for persons having special needs due to disabilities. Please contact the Fifth District Field Representative at 707-565-2866 during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure necessary accommodations are made.

Lower Russian River MAC Meetings

Regular schedule = 3rd Thursday of every other month, agenda to be posted online 72 hours in advance on the LRR MAC page of the District 5/Supervisor Hopkins County website section, on the River MAC facebook page, and sent out via newsletter.

Thursday, June 17, Location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 19, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 15, 5:30 p.m.

Please visit the Lower Russian River MAC website for agendas, including meeting location and time:

Sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac.

Lower Russian River Mac

Agenda

February 18, 2021

5:30-7:30

Call to order Mac Clerk/Nance Jones

Pledge of allegiance Group

Introduction of new members: Chair Dillman officially introduced all the new members and welcomed them to the Lower Russian River Mac.

Lisa Nahmanson, Forestville

Alica Teeter, Hacienda

Naomi Hufstutter, Guerneville

Nic Pereira, Guerneville

Kyra Wink, Monte Rio/Villa Grande

Mike Nicholls, Cazadero

Alternates:

Tony Goodwin, Cazadero

Sherrie Owens, Hacienda

Lucy Hardcastle, Forestville

John Milo Chapman, Pocket Canyon

Cynthia Strecker, Monte Rio/Villa Grande

Joe Falejczyk, Rio Nido

Oath of Office-Supervisor Hopkins administered the oath of office for all new MAC representatives. They are:

Lisa Nahmanson, Alica Teeter, Naomi Hufstutter, Nic Pereira, Kyra Wink, Mike Nicholls, tony Goodwin, Sherrie Owens, Lucy Hardcastle, John Milo chapman, Cynthia Strecker, Joe Falejczyk

Roll Call: Clerk called official role call

Present: Lisa Nahmanson, Alica Teeter, Naomi Hufstutter, Nic Pereira, Kyra Wink, Jeanette Dillman, Vesta Copestakes, Pip Marquez de la Plata, Mike Nicholls

Election of New Chair and Vice Chair for 2021

Vesta Copestakes made a motion to nominate Pip Marquez de la Plata for Chair of the Lower Russian River Mac. Mike Nicholls seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion carried 9-0-0.

Lisa Nahmanson made a motion to nominate Kyra Wink as Vice Chair for the Lower Russian River Mac. Mike Nicholls seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion carried 9-0-0.

Approval of Agenda

Removal of the bylaws from the approval process of this meeting was pulled for the next meeting as it needed corrections. Kyra Wink made a motion to approve the agenda with the bylaws removed. Vesta Copestakes seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0-0.

Conflict of Interest- none

Correspondence-none

Consent Calendar-

Approval of December Minutes with one correction on page 16 spelling of Mike Nicholls name.

Approval of January 7th, Special Meeting Minutes

Approval of Annual Report

Vesta Copestakes made a motion to approve the consent calendar with Bylaws removed and correction on page 16 in December minutes of Mike Nicholls name. The motion was seconded by Kyra Wink. Motion carried 9-0-0.

Public Comment

Jeanne Broome- Senior at El Molino School and support a vote yes on measure A and B. The school is a has a strong community bond and it is vital to keep open

Vera Fauss- Project Manager of Friends of Fife Creek-the public restrooms in the Guerneville area are a disgrace. They need a regular cleaning schedule and upkeep. The community also needs more bathrooms. Vera has asked for this to be placed on the next Mac agenda.

Julie Hunter- West County VRBO operator and she supports measure B. Visitors will flock here regardless of the 4-dollar increase. Sad to see some locals against this. She has never heard anyone complain before about paying increased TOT. Please support measure B.

Ryan Van Berknoes-Supports measure A and B. He is a guide book writer and deals with massive tourist issues. He states that adding money will not affect bookings. Day tolls for everyone will affect day travelers negatively. Adding 4% is sustainable.

Galynne Sword- Longtime resident involved in with schools and is advocating for a vote yes on Measures A and B. It is important to not look at this as just another tax but to make schools viable. The community will lose population if there is no school to go to.

Steve Griffith- Supports Measure A and B and is a retired teacher from Forestville and father of 2 grads from El Molino. He has seen the crushing effects of underfunding of schools. Sees this as a positive change by authorizing a study. Will mean more stable district.

Elise Sokolay- Lives on Tyrone Rd and is concerned about new park and traffic. Wants to know when this will be addressed.

Randy Marcotte- Supports no on measure B. refers to Save Sonoma Jobs Site. He supports schools and EMS but does not support the four dollars increase in TOT This will hurt tourism and feels there is a better solution and the operators should have been included in making this decision.

Eric Fraser- He is a dad of a grad and says latest research on Measure B is flawed and that tourists paying fair share is a misconception. TOT never used for schools before and that it is a poor policy as it excludes students in Roseland and the coast. Please keep factual.

Crista Luedtke - Owner of many Guerneville business and advocates for yes on A and no on B. She supports schools and EMS but measure B is a bad and poorly put together measure. The key stakeholders were not included in the development of this measure. It is the wrong fix for this issue. Over three years the taxes have increase 33%. Occupancy is down so may not even achieve funding needed.

Randy Marcotte- Put links for no and yes sites in the minutes. Only one website found.
<https://www.savesonomajobs.org> , <https://www.taxtouristsfairly.org/>

Lloyd Guccione- When people are speaking while the clock is displayed, he can't see the participants and their reaction to the dialogue.

Regular Calendar Items

a. Informational- Report on Russian River Area Plan- Gary Helfrich

See attached for full set of slides

Key points as follows:

- Gary has been a resident of Camp Meeker for 32 years so he is a local
- Planning says what you can do and where but not what you can do
- Specific plans must be internally consistent
- Area plans clarify and interpret existing general plan
- Identify planning team and colleagues who will assist
- Get ideas from community
- Policies may need clarification
- Can look community by community

Board Comment

Pip Marquez de la Plata- Asked how the MAC can be of best use to PRMD in creating the plan.

Gary- Think of standards that may need clarification i.e., front yard setback, signage and design review, front yard fences

Mike Nicholls- Front yard and fences an issue in Cazadero. There is a lack of consistency. Some are four feet some are six feet with lattice on top. This is a good example of what needs clarity.

Vesta Copestakes- Looking for link to review plan.

Gary – please contact him for how to locate and clarification

Vesta Copestakes- Does the plan include fire vehicles in new roads and what about septic?

Gary- Not yet as there is no legal mandate for roads and septic not included in plan

Mike Nicholls- This is a very complex subject and asked Gary to develop a one-page tree on how to proceed.

Gary – Will develop one and send to Elise to be included in minutes.

Tony Goodwin- appreciates Gary coming. Would like part of plan to understand ways for people to live off their land minimally instead of having to spend thousands of dollars.

Public comment-

Brian Hughes- Does the area plan address consolidation.

Gary- addressed by LAFCO

Alexis Averbuck- Not purely esthetic and is it for public and private.

Gary- no plan for private property but could address fences, setback

Eric Fraser- basis of factual understanding. Permit Sonoma produces wrong information, Vacation Rentals study biased, for example vacation rentals offset permanent property. Wants everyone to agree on info first before proceeding.

Lloyd Guccione- Plans in West County have been going on for years. West County's problem was there were those who wanted development and those who did not. Hope the community and Gary understand the need to keep it beautiful.

Elise Sokolay- How does the county general plan interact with land for bike paths for example

Gary- County plan regulates all actions. Bike lanes must be in the general plan and the state must be consistent with the general plan

Randy Marcotte- Volunteered to help with Zoom technology. Where do you report problems on 116 and can we use 116 as more of a picnic area in town of Guerneville.

Gary- questions of trash go to Caltrans and TPW would need a policy in the plan

Peter Bridge- How do we help

Gary- Need professional staff and there are finite people

Sarah Yardley- no timeline yet but will keep group posted

b. Tourism Impact

1. David Robinson- Regional Parks Update and information on Shuttle and Waste Plans

David gave an update on areas addressed in 2020

- Mask Dispensers installed
- Education Station
- Trash pickups doubled and more cans
- Boat Launch sites
- Closed some parks which will not do in 2021
- Restricted access which will not do in 2021

New for 2021

- Adding more porta potties at Mom's Beach and Sunset Beach
- Moving the gate lower at Sunset Beach to help with traffic
- More trash cans
- Increased staffing
- Education for plastic disposables
- RFP for tube rentals
- RFP for shuttles and Sunset and Steelhead beach
- Increased park ranger patrols

Board Comment

Alice Teeter- requested contact info

Nic Pereira- jurisdiction of summer crossing. It is Russian River Rec and Park

Vesta Copestakes- Thanks so much for all of your efforts and can you explain more about the shuttles? What are the rules for clearing and cleaning up the trails?

David- just looking at shuttle plan now but would hope to decrease car parking. Can sign up as a park volunteer to help with clean up. Contact David.

Public Comment

Eric Fraser- Appreciate your dedication Hope that increases park usage and increased donations. Most users are county and local residents. Shuttle would be good from 101. Encourage visitation from county and outreach should go to visitors and users to help with decision-making.

Elise Sokolay- Plans for new Regional Park on Tyrone Rd where there is absolutely no parking. It puts residents on that area in danger. When is that park opening?

David- not sure but understands the plans are only for small guided hikes at this point.

Tony Goodwin- addressed Austin Creek and East Austin Creek. Learned it is a designated county park. Lots of trash and diapers. Wants trash cans and porta potties. People during the summer are all over people's yards leaving trash and using yards as bathrooms.

David- He will investigate and respond back.

2. Residential Parking Permit AdHoc Report- Kyra Wink and Lisa Nahmanson

See RPP AdHoc report in February 18, 2021 packet

Kyra shared some highlights from the survey data analysis:

Survey Question #1 - Does your neighborhood experience problems with parking, 53.7% stated yes **If so, what are top parking issues?** Most common comments were that roads are too narrow, parking affects egress of traffic, EMS, UPS, County busses etc... Many blocked driveways and gates, Illegal and unenforced parking by the county currently and huge increases in trash

Survey Question #2: Are your parking issues due to a nearby river access Point? 53.5% reported yes **If yes name nearby beach**

Guerneville = Dubrava Drakes, Riverside Drive and Vacation Beach

Forestville = Mothers (Mom's) Beach

Hacienda = Hacienda / Bridge, Moms Sunset and Cosmo

Rio Nido = Rio Nido / Harris Family Riverfront Park

Pocket Canyon = Cozy Cove and Neighborhood beach

Monte Rio = Monte Rio beach

Villa Grande = Patterson Point Preserve beaches

Survey Question #3: In which MAC Community do you live?

27.93% Forestville

23.1% Hacienda

18.02% Guerneville

12.61% Rio Nido

8.41% Monte Rio

7.21% Ville Grande

All others were 1% or less

Survey Question #4: Describe the potential Neighborhood boundary of what would be a possible RPP Zone. Too much to list. This detail to be used with break out groups in the future.

Survey Question #5: With an RPP, resident's carpark on their property and will be able to purchase Residential Parking stickers for street parking. An annual pass would cost around \$25 each with an option for temporary guest tags. In addition, there may be a program launch cost, to be determined based on operational costs. Would these costs be acceptable for such a program?

YES = 58.82 %

NO = 41.18% but many stated they would need more detail before voting differently

Survey Question #6: This program would require opt in ny neighborhood. Per County guidelines for road / neighborhood changes, adoption of the RPP will require 67% of the proposed homeowners to vote on the RPP with agreement required by 51% of those voting to establish a program. Is this something your neighborhood would be interested in working to create, should it be available?

YES = 64.59%

NO = 35.41% Comments mostly negative stating too hard to speak for my neighborhood, suggest linking neighborhoods to MAC Districts and ask per neighborhood

Survey Question #7: Do you Think an RP Program would address some of the parking issues you listed above?

YES = 53.02%

NO = 24.76%

Maybe = 22.22%

Survey Question #8: How many permits would residents need for on-street parking?

2 = 47.31%

1 = 16.54%

3 = 16.15%

4 = 20%

Survey Question #9: In addition to an RPP Program, are there areas in your community that should have time limits for parking such as a 2-hours or 4-hour parking?

No report as more data analysis is needed.

Survey Question #10: Is the RPP Needed year-round or for specific times of the year? Follow up question - When should we have an RPP In force? Summer/weekends/ specific hours?

Yes = 27.48%

No = 26.52%

Most responses were summer months, April /May through Sept / Oct and definitely weekends.

Survey Question # 11: Would you support an RPP Program in your neighborhood?

Overall

Yes = 64.40%

No = 35.60%

When question #3 (in which MAC Community do you live) was compared to Q#11 (Would you support an RPP In your Neighborhood), here are the results

Top 3 Yes

Hacienda group (77 Total respondents) Yes = 87%
Forestville group (93 Total respondents) Yes = 69.89%
Rio Nido group (42 Total respondents) Yes = 52%

Top 3 No

Guerneville (total 60 respondents) No = 50%
Monte Rio (total 28 respondents) No = 60.70%
Villa Grande (total 24 respondents) No = 58%

Next steps:

If approved will need to become a county ordinance. The AdHoc group will continue to work toward a final recommendation.

Board Comment

Vesta Copestakes-Many of the side roads are not maintained and people do that for a reason to discourage parking so that will need to be taken into consideration

Alice Teeter- Flyers were posted regarding the survey above River Road as these roads also get blocked and their input is needed

Public Comment

Phil Grosse- Glad to see Hacienda supporting. When there is a more detailed plan there will be a lot of support and he can help with communication and support.

c. Presentation- Jen Mendoza District Four and Elise Weiland District Five – The Re-Launch of the Russian River Confluence

See attachment in this packet)

Key points from the presentation:

- James Gore Supervisor from District Four launched the Russian River Confluence (RRC) to streamline the efforts along the river
- Looking at economic, recreational, and spiritual health of the Russian River
- The goal is to have the MAC's to work together

Mission- Driving community action towards a healthy, resilient and regenerative Russian River Watershed

- Development of 4 Committees
- Steering Committee
- Environment Committee

- Marketing Committee
- Funding Committee

Other key points from presentation:

- The goal is to bring the MAC's and the community into the process. An RFP for the Russian River Resilience, education and outreach is being developed
- Looking at bringing multiple groups together to look at marketing and branding
- Addressing trash in River is one item- Looking at how sources of trash get into river just not removal
- Looking for how all services can work together to improve the health of river and roadside clean-up.
- Reviewing legal options too.

Board Comment

Mike Nicholls- asked for slide deck to be included in minutes.

Alice Teeter- Proposed AdHoc to look at trash.

Nic Pereira- please be sure to include Spanish language and LatinX group in the process.

Public Comment- none

AdHoc Committees

Chair Pip Marquez de la Plata introduced the new AdHoc Committees and members for 2021

Vacation Rental AdHoc – To augment existing research done by last year’s AdHoc and collect additional data to better understand the neighborhood impact of Vacation rentals and to share their findings with the Lower Russian River MAC and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

Chair – Vesta Copestakes

Nic Pereira

Lucy Hardcastle

Parking Permit AdHoc – To gauge interest in and provide feedback in a Residential Parking Permit Program that may alleviate parking issues related to River Access by non-residents.

Chair – Kyra Wink

Lisa Nahmanson

Alice Teeter

Guernewood Park Hotel and Spa AdHoc (formerly Land Use AdHoc) – To present findings of previous Land Use Ad Hoc and coordinate a presentation with the LOK group and/or their representative, and any county agency (as the AdHoc deems necessary) at the April Lower Russian River MAC meeting.

No determination at this time. Will be agenda' for next month for discussion on whether this should be a standing committee.

Outreach/Communications AdHoc – To create a resource that allows the Lower Russian River MAC to better communicate with constituents. This will include locations to post notices, neighborhood group contact information, moderators of online neighborhood groups, etc.

Chair – Lisa Nahmanson

Naomi Hofstetter

Trash AdHoc – Will work with staff at District 5 to connect community clean-up efforts with available resources and ideas to address trash challenges.

Chair – Alice Teeter

Vesta Copestakes

Kyra Wink

Proclamations- none

Call for agenda items-

Chair Pip Marquez de la Plata called for agenda items from the board members and the community at this time.

- Guerneville bathrooms- community member Vera Fauss
- South End of Hacienda Bridge and who owns it
- Any updates needed for summer planning and from presentations here at this meeting i.e., shuttles, parking, trash plans
- Update on Armstrong Woods Park and reopening

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 by Mike Nicholls. Alice Teeter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0-0.

Attachment B

Vision: A Russian River watershed that is healthy, vibrant, accessible and is the economic, environmental, recreational and spiritual heart of the region



2017 – 2021 Reboot

Mission: Driving community action towards a healthy, resilient and regenerative Russian River watershed.

Collaborating Partners

- LandPaths
- Conservation Works
- Economic Development Board
- Sonoma County Tourism
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Transportation and Public Works
- Sonoma Land Trust
- Russian Riverkeeper
- Rancheria Tribal Representative
- Regional Parks
- Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
- Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce
- Shelter Co
- Agriculture and Open Space
- Sonoma Resource Conservation District

Current Activities:

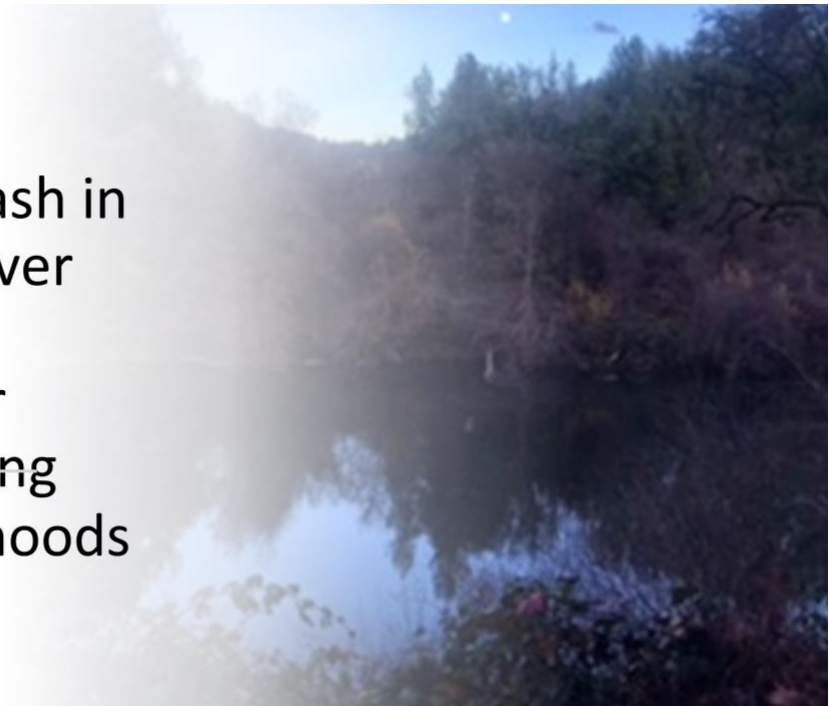
Foundational Organization Stage with 4 committee areas

- Steering Committee
 - Governance, Policy, Regulation
- Environment
 - Collaborative projects to support the health of the river
- Marketing
 - Russian River Resilience Marketing
 - Education and Outreach programs
 - Promotion through newsletter, website, social media of Environment projects
- Funding
 - Bringing in funding streams to support the river. Sponsorships, Donations, Grants, Contributions from partners.

Russian River Resilience – Education and Outreach

- **Brand:** the Russian River with an ecotourism and stewards -of-the-river focus. Engage visitors, residents and businesses alike
- **Messaging and media:** messages and media for stakeholders with educational and promotional campaigns
- **Small Business:** POS contact, education, merchandise, promotion
- **Promote projects:** trash receptacles, Adopt -a-highway, Flood Zone resilience, and attract sponsors, funding, participants.
- **Online Presence:** portal to engage and direct participation

Addressing Trash in
the Russian River
Watershed:
Preserving our
River, Protecting
our Neighborhoods





Trash is a problem in the Russian River watershed. How can we keep trash out of our natural ecology, get rid of potential health risks, and engage all participants in responsible use of consumer goods to reduce/reuse/recycle/pack in and out?

Impact of our ongoing trash issues:

- Health dangers of river/ocean waste: to people, animals, fish population, wildlife
- Human feces: vector for both viral and bacterial disease (cholera, typhoid, hepatitis, etc.)
- Trash piles attract rats , which can lead to human disease concerns (salmonella, hantavirus, leptospirosis, etc.)
- Reduced attractiveness as a tourism site
- Reduced quality of living for residents





Sources of Trash

Visitors

- Overflowing cans at river access points, roadside trash from vehicles parked in neighborhoods
- Lack of bathroom facilities and signage to access
- Culture of leaving trash and human waste on beaches, roadways, in neighborhoods

Residents

- Lack of penetration of residential trash service– contributes to roadside dumping and trash piles
- 2nd Homeowners– not present to monitor cans, guest trash, less likely to have scheduled pick up

Businesses without ecology mindset

- Consumables in plastic bags, non-compostable to-go containers, plastic water bottles, bottles and cans from alcohol consumed on beaches and on floats, dumped floaties

Unhoused

- General waste without disposal ability, hoarding
- Hazardous waste – human feces, needles and drug paraphernalia not easy to clean up



Assets & Responsible Entities

Main Street Guerneville Downtown Trash Service:

- ✓ Recology will pick up 4/w Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri and collaborate with county to fund and implement improved cans that discourage dumping

Businesses along River:

- ✓ Education Campaigns – Russian River Resilience education and marketing to address culture across region launched
- ✓ Merchandising – Confluence project to encourage sale of reusable items, recycle floaties, branded merchandise promoting river ecology

Residential:

- ✓ Collaboration – County and Recology resident education programs to encourage more pickup and less dumping

Roadside:

- ✓ Trash Mowing: TPW coordination with Recology, Riverkeeper to pick up trash before roadside mowing grinds it in; more frequent clean ups and mowing to reduce issue, no mowing trash clause in contracts.
- ✓ Collaboration with CalTrans for 101 and 116 corridor; SAC crew available, more in the works.
- ✓ Enforcing Covered Loads – work with Republic on tarping, CHP help with spot checks at Guerneville station if contracted/needed
- ✓ Adopt-a-Road program has been launched and ready for promotion



Ideas for Empowering People

- Provide greater support for neighborhood clean ups- supplies and pick up
- Report scofflaws
- Volunteer tourism for visitors- learning about the ecosystem
- Involve education and schools- juvenile probation camp
- Report problems- if you see something, say something
- Change the culture of the broken window problem
- Social media- post your trash pickup haul and clean up efforts
- Pride - connection to community with the brand (Confluence.. More to come!)



Education for Tourists

- Mindset that this is an ecological place to protect
- Signage for where and when to throw trash, locating facilities and provide more porta-potties
- “Pack in Pack Out” mentality
- Resources for Responsible Recreating!

Education for Residents

Disseminate education on current residential services



Shamed from dumping – take responsibility

Neighborhood clean ups – provide support

2nd homeowners – resources for empty and occupied homes

Businesses and Events

- Get involved in promotional / branding to benefit you and the river
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Merchandise that reflects the ecotourism, that educates and brands the river ecology.
- Signage along roadways, at events, at parking
- Event producers must be responsible for their trash for example bike races ask that riders not toss their gel packs along the roads and parades and festivals provide adequate

- 
- Confluence “Keep Tahoe Blue” type education/branding/marketing to engage visitors and residents in protecting our watershed
 - Give businesses tools to educate consumers and sell nonplastic/non-damaging branded goods/waste disposal too
 - Shift the culture across the RR Watershed to stewardship
 - Adopt a Highway– TPW has rolled this out | Confluence promoting
 - Mowing schedule notification and coordination
 - Regional Parks Educational plan
 - Residential trash service– educate on cost/benefit, 4x annual bin benefit
 - Engage homeless groups in bringing their trash out to collection point, provide supplies
 - Added No Mowing provision to 2021 waterboard permit for GalTrans.
 - Enforcement of current ordinances– what are current no dumping or trash ordinances and how to engage enforcement? Enforcement is a challenge as we need to see them or have evidence cameras?
- 



LOWER RUSSIAN RIVER MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL BYLAWS

Approved by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on September 25, 2018

Modified on November 13, 2018

Modified on April 15, 2021

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Municipal Advisory Council shall be the Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council
("River MAC").

ARTICLE II - AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

Section 1. In order to facilitate community engagement, the River MAC will make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and other County decision makers on the following Advisory Topics:

- a. Local issues brought forward by the community, River MAC representatives, or topics requested by the District Supervisor.
- b. Land Use Permit Applications when selected by the MAC or referred by the Permit and Resource Management Department
- c. Rezoning applications when referred by the Permit and Resource Management Department
- d. General Plan Amendment Applications when referred by the Permit and Resource Management Department
- e. Prioritization of Transportation and Transit Improvements when requested by the District Supervisor
- f. Health and Human Safety-Net Services when requested by the District Supervisor

Section 2. The duties of the River MAC shall include:

- a. Hold regular open and public meetings;
- b. Study and analyze the Advisory Topics;
- c. Keep the District Supervisor informed of any issues related to Advisory Topics within the community;
- d. Provide advisory recommendations on the Advisory Topics and annual reports to the Board;
- e. Comply with Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Policies and Procedures.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership. The membership of the River MAC shall be nine members. Requirements for membership include: members must reside within the boundaries of the Municipal Advisory Council, and be at least 18 years of age. There are no requirements for property ownership or citizenship. The District Supervisor will select members based on the following criteria:

- a. The Fifth District Supervisor will work with the community to identify sub-areas within the MAC Boundaries.
- b. The Fifth District Supervisor will work with the community to evaluate the sub-areas within the River MAC boundaries to determine proper representation on the MAC. This scoping exercise will inform the composition of the MAC for well-rounded representation. The River MAC will have the following representation:

Rio Nido: 1 Representative, 1 Alternate
Guerneville: 2 Representatives, 1 Alternate
Monte Rio/Villa Grande: 1 Representative, 1 Alternate
Cazadero and Duncans Mills: 1 Representative, 1 Alternate
Pocket Canyon: 1 Representative, 1 Alternate

- c. The Fifth District Supervisor will lead the community in an exercise to ~~nominate~~ select representatives and alternates to serve on the MAC using the identified sub-areas as a framework for the composition of the MAC.
- d. The Fifth District Supervisor will consider the community's nominations for appoint to the MAC and will select final nominations to submit to the Board of Supervisors for appointment.

Section 2. Appointment Authority. The District Supervisor shall submit selected applicants to the Board of Supervisors for appointment. Appointments shall be posted in accordance with the Maddy Act =(Government Code section 54970 *et seq.*).

Section ~~2~~ 3. Terms. A membership term is a two-year period. The River MAC members may be reappointed. Members may serve a maximum of two terms.

Section ~~3~~ 4. The Board of Supervisors shall classify the initial members into two classes. Class A shall consist of five members; Class B shall consist of four members. Class A shall have an initial membership term of two years. Class B shall have an initial membership term of three years. Thereafter, each member's term shall be two years. The District Supervisor shall determine which members shall serve the initial three-year term.

Section ~~5~~ 5. Attendance. Members are expected to attend all meetings of the River MAC. Absence from two consecutive or three cumulative absences from the River MAC meetings in a twelve-month period may result in removal.

Section 6.6. Removal. The District Supervisor may, in his or her discretion, recommend removal of a member to the Board of Supervisors. A majority vote by the Board is necessary to remove a member.

Section 7.7. Vacancies. A vacancy shall exist when a member dies, or submits a written resignation to the District Supervisor, or has been removed as set forth in Section 6. When a vacancy occurs, the District Supervisor will fill the vacancy consistent with membership criteria and submit recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for appointment.

ARTICLE IV- MEETINGS

Section 1. Brown Act. All meetings of the River MAC and, its committees and subcommittees, shall comply with the Brown Act (Government Code section 54950 *et seq.*).

Section 2. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the River MAC shall be held regularly at an established date, time and place open to the public. Notice of the meeting time and place should be given to the public and the MAC members at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting.

Section 3. Special Meetings. The Chair may call and preside over special meetings. The Chair may call a special meeting by providing notice of the time, place, and agenda to each member and the public at least (twenty-four) 24 hours before the special meeting. Only items on the agenda of the special meeting may be considered at said special meeting.

Section 4. Quorum. A quorum of the River MAC must be present at any regular or special meeting in order for a decision to be made on any matter. A quorum is defined as a majority of MAC members or voting alternates.

Section 5. Voting. While the River MAC will strive for consensus, every official action taken by the River MAC shall be adopted by a quorum vote. An alternate of the **River** MAC may vote under the following circumstances:

- 1) If a member of the MAC is absent from a meeting and the alternate replaces the MAC member for the full meeting;
- 2) If a member of the MAC recuses themselves from an item the alternate may replace the MAC member for the full meeting. If an alternate is sitting for a MAC member and the agenda includes items continued from a prior meeting, the alternate must state on the record that she/he has reviewed the relevant materials for the items on the agenda, including the minutes (if available) from the prior meeting.

Section 6. Abstention. When any member abstains from participation in any matter before the River MAC because of a conflict of interest, that member shall not be counted as present for

purposes of determining whether or not there is a quorum. An alternate may fill the MAC member's seat as outlined in sections four and five.

Section 7. Secretary. Administrative support for the River MAC shall be provided by staff identified by the District Supervisor, a voluntary agreement, contract, or other means.

Section 8. Notice. The River MAC meetings will be open and public, with notice of the time and place given to the public and the River MAC members at least seventy-two (72) hours before the time of regular meetings and at least twenty-four (24) hours before special meetings.

Section 9. Public Comment. At each River MAC meeting, members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the items on the agenda before being voted on, and on Advisory Topics within the jurisdiction of the River MAC.

ARTICLE V – ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES

Section 1. The River MAC shall have a Chair and Vice Chair. The District Supervisor shall appoint the first Chair and Vice Chair. After that, the MAC will elect the Chair and Vice Chair annually. The Chair and Vice Chair will serve for one (1) calendar year, or until replaced by the District Supervisor.

Section 2. Chair. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the River MAC and call for special meetings. The Chair shall carry out the duties listed in the Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Policies and Procedures.

Section 3. Vice Chair. In the Chair's absence, the Vice Chair shall assume the Chair's responsibilities. The Vice Chair shall carry out the duties listed in the Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Policies and Procedures.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES

Section 1: The River MAC may establish single-purpose committees or subcommittees, consisting solely of less than a quorum of MAC members on an as-needed basis by a quorum vote. The committees and subcommittees may conduct research, meet with members of the community and develop recommendations to bring back to the MAC in an open and public meeting. If the committees and subcommittees continue for a longer term, they will become standing committees and must comply with the open and public meeting requirements of the Brown Act. Alternate council members may serve on committees which shall not exceed more than four (4) council members. Community volunteers may assist in the work of committees and subcommittees as non-voting members.

ARTICLE VII – CONTRACTS

Section 1. The River MAC and/or members thereof shall not have the power or authority to bind the County of Sonoma by any contract or agreement.

ARTICLE VIII – MANDATE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is paramount to the success of the River MAC. MAC members will use the Community Engagement Guide ~~at the start of each calendar year~~, as approved by the River MAC members and the Fifth District Supervisor.

ARTICLE IX - CONFLICT OF INTEREST/GRIEVANCES

Section 1. Conflict of Interest. The River MAC members will not involve themselves in official River MAC activities that could materially benefit them personally, their business interests, or the interests of organizations that they represent. In a conflict of interest, the member will abstain from voting, and the abstention will be recorded in the minutes.

Section 2. Members and staff will comply with State of California laws regarding conflict of interest for publicly appointed bodies, including the Political Reform Act. The River MAC will implement the procedure for resolving conflicts of interest in the Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Recommended Policies and Procedures.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. A recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to amend these bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the River MAC by a quorum vote of MAC members; ~~provided that copies of the proposed amendments are sent to all members of the River MAC at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which such action is taken.~~ The amendment will not be effective until and unless it is approved by majority vote of the Board of Supervisors.

ARTICLE XI – MINUTES

Section 1. There shall be minutes of the River MAC meeting proceedings. The River MAC administrative staff shall be responsible for minutes and will be responsible for the sending of minutes to all River MAC members, the District Supervisor, and members of the public who request them. A record of minutes will be maintained by the River MAC secretary.

ARTICLE XII – RECORDS

Section 1. Records of all River MAC agendas, minutes, meeting materials, records of action, annual reports, and external communications from at least the prior two years shall be maintained by the River MAC Secretary and retained at a location designated by the District Supervisor. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying as required by the Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250 *et seq.*).

ARTICLE XIII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Except as otherwise provided by law, these bylaws, or rules adopted by the Board of Supervisors, Rosenberg's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority of the River MAC.

ARTICLE XIV – LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The River MAC shall comply with the legal requirements of the County of Sonoma, the State of California, and with federal funding sources. Nothing in these bylaws shall be interpreted to be inconsistent with the ordinances of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

ARTICLE XV - EFFECTIVE DATE

These bylaws and future amendments thereto, unless otherwise specified, shall become effective upon adoption by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

Approved by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on _____ .

Lynda Hopkins, Chair, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: March 16, 2021

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Honoring Vesta Copestakes For 20 Years Of Service To The Community as Founder and
Publisher of the Sonoma County Gazette**

Whereas, Vesta founded the Sonoma County Gazette to be the community's messenger, a vehicle through which we could hear the voices of small town across all of Sonoma County; and

Whereas, Vesta has been actively engaged in supporting the Forestville community as a leader in the Chamber of Commerce, the Forestville Planning Association, and ongoing community engagement in bringing to life projects such as the Downtown Forestville Park; and

Whereas, Vesta imagined and grew the Forestville newsletter into the West County and then Sonoma County Gazette as an expression of her community spirit; and

Whereas, Vesta has been a tireless advocate for community engagement in issues large and small, providing stories that help voters to get informed and involved; and

Whereas, Vesta nurtured citizen journalism for local community content that had been underrepresented by other publications, growing a devoted following of over 150,000 readers each month; and

Whereas, Vesta has been one of the original members of the Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council, helping grow this advisory entity to represent her district of Forestville and all of unincorporated West County; and

Whereas, Vesta has been a fearless advocate for local schools, recognizing students are our future; and

Whereas, Whereas Vesta shared her passion for justice and her love of Sonoma County with and for all of us.

Resolution #21-

Date:

Page 2

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, hereby expresses the highest gratitude for Vesta Copestakes' excellent public service provided to the Fifth District and to community members countywide.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Rabbitt:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.