

## Water Strategy Watershed by Watershed – December 11, 2008

### Summary



"I started out thinking of America as highways and state lines. As I got to know it better, I began to think of it as rivers." "America is a great story, and there is a river on every page of it."

"Rivers run through our history and folklore, and link us as a people. They nourish and refresh us and provide a home for dazzling varieties of fish and wildlife and trees and plants of every sort. We are a

nation rich in rivers. "Charles **Kuralt**, *The Magic of Rivers*

By participating you agreed to a new way of operating, to create new and varied connections and conversations that result in systemic and sustainable solutions for Mendocino County. Please accept our appreciation and respect for your attendance and commitment to a new way of doing business.

Photography: Brock - Photos do not necessarily match watershed narrative

### Appreciation

On behalf of MendoFutures and all of the participants we would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to Jennifer Seward, CEO, Jill Miller, Business Assistant and the Redwood Empire Fair staff for their gracious contribution and being integral to the solution.

### Summary

The day began with an introduction by Art Harwood, Executive Director of RFFI, Steve Zuieback, MendoFutures, Facilitators, David Henson, Executive Director, Occidental Arts & Ecology Center and Brock



Dolman, Director, OAEC Water Institute. Big kudos to those two for facilitating a great initial workshop.

Reviewed the objectives of the meeting:

- Convene a community-based process to help Mendocino County achieve “water resiliency”, watershed by watershed and county-wide.
- Help form new watershed groups (and advance existing groups) in key Mendocino watershed’s, providing them with specific methods and skills to sustain and succeed in organizing waters solutions in their watershed.
- Begin to develop plans for each watershed group on how to mobilize their watershed around the results of community mapping and goal setting.
- Identify support needed by each watershed group in order to further their work.
- Provide a well-structured conversation where divergent opinions are expected, appreciated and integrated into planning solutions to Mendocino’s water issues.



Steve Zuieback and Linda Perkins framed the day’s discussions and provided contextual perspective from which to move forward. Estelle Clifton followed by outlining the opportunities visually showing the various watersheds to be addressed. Before proceeding Brock/Dave provided some insight into having the most effective and productive break out sessions. In accordance with MendoFuture’s process we incorporated the following:

- **Conducting a Great Meeting**
  - Define the “We” for this meeting
  - Assure good and empowered facilitation
  - Welcoming and taking care of people
  - Facilitate and manage the agenda
  - End the session with clear next steps
  - End on time



**Change making process:**



- Community Mapping
- Choosing an Issue based on criteria
- Setting clear objective (s) to resolve the issue
- Being clear about the target (s)
- Conducting a “Power Analysis.” to develop a strategy to achieve the objective
- Develop tactics to move strategies forward

Each problem, challenge and/or issue selected must include:

- **Goal** – What is the distant vision?
- **Objective** – What are the behaviors to get to the goal and what are the achievable outcomes?
- **Strategy** – What is the plan? The larger more detailed steps towards the objective.
- **Tactics** - Small measurable steps that build on the strategy

Now it was time to begin mapping. This process included collaboratively determining the following:

- **Choosing an issue.** Here’s the criteria:
  - Is it winnable?
  - Will it bring our community together?
  - Do we have the resources to do it?
  - Will it set us up to take on even more important issues?
  - Will it build our organizational capacity?



- Is the timeline to “win” fast enough?

**Launching the Mapping process began with a “Power Analysis.”** A power analysis is a process whereby each watershed group looks at their respective watershed map and facilitates making

decisions on what that particular watershed wants and integrates the goal and agreed upon objective and builds respectful and sustainable, strategic partnerships and relationships. It is a tool used to assist groups in achieving their agreed upon objective.

### Power Analysis Steps

- Issue: Identify the issue using agreed upon criteria
- Objective: Determine performance and timelines
- Target: Define the who in the objective and issue. When targeting it is critical to identify the decision-maker that can give you what you want.

### Questions you could ask”

- Who are the natural allies in helping you influence targets?
- Who will likely be resistant/opposed to the objective?
- Who are secondary targets who can influence primary targets?
- 

### Sample Mapping of Watersheds

#### Upper Eel Upper Russian

- Users
  - Ag - PVID, RWKYCUD, Millview, RRFC, individuals
  - Municipal/industry: RVCWD, Calpella, Millview, City of Ukiah, Hopland, SCWA
  - Recreation
  - Environmental
- Ecosystems
  - Eel above lake Pillsburg
  - Eel below Lake Pillsburg
  - Tomki Creek Drainage



- East and west RR
- Main Russian below Coyote Dam
- Lake Mendocino
- Significant Problems
  - \*\*Illegal diversion (Elephant in the room)
    - Unenforceable
    - Not enforceable
  - Over appropriation – SWRCB process/CEQA/AB2121
    - Broken regulatory environment
  - Lake Mendocino storage
    - Diversion
    - Army Core of Engineers Feasibility Study
  - Off stream storage
  - Moratoria
- Water Users (who is impacted)

### Middle Russian

- Users
  - Districts, municipal
  - Ag
  - Rural/Residential
  - Sonoma Co



- Marin Co
- Recreation
- Activities (impacts upon)
  - Roads/Pavement
  - Industrial
  - Waste water

- Flood control/Storage
- Economy/illegal diversions, accuracy of water usage, water agencies acting cooperatively, drug pollution, illegal dumping, road maintenance, willingness of stakeholders to come to the table with an open mind and to discuss Marijuana problems and potential solutions.
- Ecosystems
  - Valley Oak, Oak Savanna, Oak Woodland
  - Riparian Corridor
  - Critical habitats. e.g. Steelhead and Coho Salmon
- Significant Problems
  - No infrastructure
  - Development constrained by water
  - Inappropriate development
  - Illegal diversion
  - Inability of common focus. e.g. The water was sold
  - Decision made from emotion vs. factual perspective
  - General health of the water
  - Large fires
- Water Users (who is impacted)
  - Fish/Ecosystems
  - Ag
  - Economy present and future
  - Tourism/Recreation
  - Downstream users
  - Future generations
  - Municipal users



- Fire suppression

## Navarro

### ➤ Issues

- Illegal drafting/unregulated
- Groundwater – failure of recharge
- Illegal water extraction related to marijuana cultivation, especially in July through October
- Meth chemical dumping
- Force to use riparian rights – AB2121 w/clear rules, off creek storage when safe
- Permitted water extraction's effects

### ➤ Ecosystems

- Watershed boundary
- Rivers/creeks
- Towns
- Sub watershed boundaries
- Critical habitat
- State Park

### ➤ Significant Problems

- Lack of money
- County General Plan lacks good water language
- Lack of “issue” ripeness
- Disconnected community re: issues
- Fragmented water policies
- Lack of understanding of “others” issues and ideas
- Lack of a common vocabulary/language
- Lack of good science to overcome the myths



- Current Laws on Riparian
  - Lack of a common goal
  - Lack of inter-county coordination
  - Grading ordinance
  - Lack of ground water management
  - Zoning
  - Ranch roads in county system
  - Graywater/compost toilets – code ordinances
  - Forest land conservation – CDF
  - Increased water storage/Jurisdiction?
  - Dollars for law enforcement
  - Legalize Marijuana to reduce local demand/growth and/or tax it
- Water Users (who is impacted)
- Marijuana
    - Crops
    - Processing
    - Ranching/grazing
  - Ag
  - Gravel extraction
  - Timber/wood harvest
  - Housing
  - Schools
  - Non paved roads
  - Recreation

#### Sample Watershed Meeting

- Welcome everyone, set meeting rules. e.g. Respect, see MendoFuture's Principles





- Introductions
- Agenda review, change, add
- Scheduled reports re: previous assignments and agreements
- Review old business
- New business and Next Steps – Who will do what by when

### **Possible Next Steps** as suggested by group

- MendoFutures support and help facilitate ongoing networking and progress
- Learn from best practices within in state and US
- MendoFutures optimize their in-house facilitator to assist us
- Coordinated communications to Board of Supervisors on General Plan
- A more unified approach with the county through better community consensus
- Organizational buy-in is integral to the above.
- Minutes of this meeting and all meetings
- See General Plan as a starting point and gain agreement from county.
- Map out county-wide water related projects and resources.
- MendoFutures assists in coordinating watershed meetings and next overall meeting