



Community Clean Water Institute

ANNUAL REPORT 2001

Community Clean Water Institute is dedicated to promoting and protecting clean water and public health by identifying water pollution, advocating for sound water policies, and providing information to the public.

Board of Directors

Don Frank- President
Margaret Howe
Lisa Mador- Treasurer
Christina Newell- Secretary

Staff

Program Coordinator
Mike Sandler
Program Associate
Georgiana Hale

CCWI

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Dear Friend of Community Clean Water Institute,

An organization is born! The Community Clean Water Institute (CCWI) was formed out of a grassroots movement of people concerned with the quality of the water in their rivers, streams, and watersheds, and out of the desire to have a scientific basis from which to proceed in advocating for clean water. The public health and environmental impacts of pollution in water are well known, but there is a surprising scarcity of actual data on the water quality of specific rivers and streams. And if it isn't measured, it doesn't matter. So we're here to measure it, and to make it matter. Community Clean Water Institute is spearheading a broad-based effort to expand the scientific understanding of water quality in the watersheds of the North Coast Water Quality Control Board Region One through testing, monitoring, and education. The need for more data is vital to making smart decisions. Before elected officials or local watershed groups can plan land use, resource and water use, or conservation and restoration work, they need to know what the current situation is. To make this happen, citizens are becoming stewards of the land, assessing their watersheds, becoming citizen monitors, networking, sharing information, and creating a baseline from which we can make smarter choices.

What follows is CCWI's first annual report. After its first year in existence, CCWI now has a strong base of support from which to build a solid testing and monitoring network in the North Coast Region. Read on to hear about CCWI's accomplishments over the past year, and some exciting new initiatives. You can become involved too. Become a citizen monitor, notify CCWI of suspected water pollution through our complaint process, or support CCWI financially. Thank you for your interest in CCWI.



Mike Sandler, Program Coordinator

Included in this report: News & Updates, 2001 Accomplishments, Project Descriptions, Upcoming Projects

CCWI NEWS & UPDATES

Board news

In 2001, CCWI was founded, obtained 501©(3) status, and appointed its first Board of Directors. Current Board members are: Don Frank- President, Margaret Howe, Lisa Mador- Treasurer, and Christina Newell- Secretary. CCWI is in the process of appointing a fifth board member.

The Board adopted several policies during 2001, including: a policy on restricted funds, office policies and procedures, hiring and employee policies, and guidelines for developing partnerships with organizations. The Board policy on the use of restricted funds is further on in this newsletter.

Introducing our Technical Advisors



CCWI has a growing list of technical advisors who review water quality data, testing protocols, and make recommendations for testing. Here is a partial list of advisors, with their affiliations listed for identification purposes only.

Nels Worden, *Professor of Chemistry,*
Sonoma State University

Britt Bailey, MA., *Center for Ethics and Toxics*

Stephen Fuller-Rowell, *Formerly co-chair,*
Town Hall Coalition Water Committee

John Rosenblum, PhD.

Rosenblum Environmental Engineering

Internship Program

CCWI has a new internship program. Interns will test water quality in rivers from Sonoma County to the Oregon border. Office, administrative, website work is also available.



Mike Sandler
and Georgiana
Hale at Dutch
Bill Creek

Brian Baccarini, former Program Coordinator, left at the end of 2001. Heather Howitt served as interim Program Associate in November and December 2001. In early 2002, CCWI hired Mike Sandler as Program Coordinator, and Georgiana Hale as Program Associate.

Mike has over four years experience with program development in the environmental field. He has co-founded a socially and environmentally responsible business program, and has worked on local government sustainability programs. He graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1997 with a degree in Political Economy.

Georgiana graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Lewis & Clark College with a degree in Environmental Studies and has worked with other regional organizations focused on water protection.

Thank you to our Consultants . . .

Over the past year, CCWI has also benefited from the consulting services of Judith Olney and Lynn Hamilton, whose expertise with the legal and organizational aspects for new nonprofit organizations has been invaluable.

Funding Update

CCWI funding sources:

Town Hall Coalition (unrestricted, for the protection of drinking water sources, identification of source pollution, and related projects))

Sonoma County Water Agency (restricted)

City of Fortuna (restricted)

Note: CCWI has adopted a policy on the use of restricted funds. Restricted funds projects are carried out in partnership with an organization from the designated area. 100% of funds will go toward programs in the designated area, with 18% or less reserved for CCWI administrative and associated costs. Restricted funds will **not** be used for any other purpose than the purpose for which they were given to CCWI. For more information, contact the CCWI office.

PROJECTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2001, CCWI established the infrastructure to be able to do the important work of testing and monitoring water quality. Staff oversaw the legal formation of CCWI, purchase of office equipment, design of the logo and letterhead, obtaining start-up funding and support, human resources issues, and the creation of a brand new website. All of this laid the foundation for the formulation and development of a testing and monitoring program.

CCWI has developed a working relationship with Analytical Sciences, Inc. of Petaluma, California, which will perform laboratory work for CCWI. CCWI has also initiated dialogue with watershed groups in Sonoma County, regulatory agencies, and resource conservation districts. These connections will add to the CCWI knowledge base and allow for the development of future collaboration and sharing of resources.

2001: CCWI in Action

Groundwater Testing- Vine Hill School Road:

CCWI was contacted in September, 2001, by a group of concerned homeowners in the Vine Hill School Road Area of Sonoma County, who were concerned about pesticide use from a nearby vineyard, and the impact on groundwater quality. Upon the advice from CCWI technical advisors, and upon the request of the homeowner's group, CCWI conducted groundwater testing in an area which was considered representative of the area. With the help of Analytical Sciences, Inc. CCWI oversaw testing for Organochlorine, Organophosphorus, and Organonitrogen chemicals (EPA Method 8081, persistent organochlorine pesticides; EPA Method 8141, organonitrogen/organophosphorus herbicides and pesticides). Results came up negative for the pesticides tested.

Porter Creek- Gallo Complaint: In December 2001, CCWI received complaints of water quality contamination and destruction of fish spawning grounds in Porter Creek, near Healdsburg, California. CCWI conducted research into the area. Then, upon consultation with CCWI Board of Directors, CCWI filed a complaint on behalf of local citizens with National Marine Fisheries, California Department of Fish and Game, California Water Quality Control Board, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner and the Sonoma County Planning Department regarding the contamination of Porter Creek.

Responding to Citizen Complaints

CCWI received and responded to 8 complaints in 2001. Locations and water bodies affected included: Pocket Canyon near Guerneville, Bodega Bay watershed, Atascadero Creek, Porter Creek, Salmon Creek, Kellogg Creek, groundwater near Falstaff Road in Sebastopol.

Events

CCWI has co-sponsored several events. Most recent was the North Coast Water Coalition Water Forum, held February 9, 2002. CCWI is also a sponsor of the Youth Activist Convergence, scheduled for April 12-14, 2002. CCWI will facilitate a water workshop during the Convergence.

Web Site

Our website is up and running at www.ccwi.org. Special thanks to our web designer Bob Haroche from Onpoint Solutions for a wonderful design. The website is updated every two weeks, so check back often for new information.

2002: Projects

Citizen Complaints- Citizens who are concerned about a potential water pollution problem in their area can register a complaint on the Citizen's Complaints page of the CCWI website at www.ccwi.org/issues/complaints.htm, or by calling the CCWI office. CCWI responds to complaints in the following ways: making referrals to appropriate regulatory agencies and local watershed groups, sending information and fact sheets and providing technical assistance, and in certain cases arranging for testing and monitoring of affected areas.

Citizen Monitoring Program- Citizen monitoring is monitoring of the environment by community volunteers interested in watershed protection. By monitoring local creeks and rivers, citizen monitors will learn about their watershed, help pinpoint pollution sources, and identify widespread problems. CCWI is working with existing watershed groups to develop and support citizen monitoring programs.



Dutch Bill Creek-

CCWI is coordinating water quality monitoring on Dutch Bill Creek, a tributary of the Russian River which runs between Occidental and Monte Rio in Sonoma County, CA. Working with Analytical Sciences Inc., CCWI will conduct a round of water quality tests in March 2002, compile data from previous stream inventories and studies, and issue a fact sheet on Dutch Bill Creek by June 2002. CCWI will share information with the Dutch Bill Creek Watershed Group, and provide resources to them for outreach and education of the local community.

Fortuna- CCWI has developed a partnership with a group in Fortuna to conduct water quality monitoring along several creeks in the Fortuna area, as well as the nearby Eel River. CCWI will be compiling historical and new data into fact sheets for educational and community outreach purposes.

CCWI Watershed Library

CCWI is assembling a resource library, including testing protocols, and information for citizens interested in monitoring their watershed. CCWI has been distributing its fact sheet on well monitoring, developed by Stephen Fuller-Rowell, to several people who have called with complaints of potential groundwater pollution.

To find out more about current and upcoming projects contact the CCWI office, at (707) 874-3803 or info@ccwi.org

How Can Concerned Citizens Make a Difference?

Adopt the following Practices for Water Pollution Prevention . . .

For Your Household

Examples of good practices: limit paved surfaces; landscape with nature, irrigate during cooler hours of the day, limit fertilizer applications on lawns and gardens; proper septic system management; proper chemical use, storage, and disposal. Chemicals and oil should not be poured into sewers, where they can result in major water quality problems.

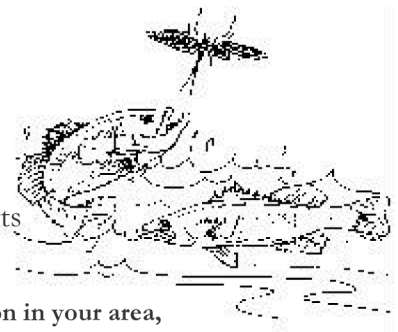
Become a Citizen Monitor

CCWI is working with existing watershed groups to develop and support citizen monitoring programs. Citizen monitors learn specific testing protocols, and then can collect samples and perform tests which will be used to develop CCWI factsheets, inform the public about potential pollution sources, and support efforts to clean up rivers and streams.

To find out more about becoming a Citizen Monitor, or if you have concerns about pollution in your area, contact the CCWI office at (707) 874-3803, or info@ccwi.org.

For Agriculture

Farmers can reduce water pollution by managing sedimentation through erosion control measures; managing nutrient use, and saving money through reduced use of fertilizers; reducing confined animal facility wastewater through waste management; managing irrigation by improving water use efficiency; managing pesticides through Integrated Pest Management (IPM); and managing livestock grazing to prevent overgrazing.



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