

NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the meeting of the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) Board of Directors.

Date: October 2, 2015
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Petaluma (Lucchesi) Community Center
320 N. McDowell Boulevard
Conference Room 2
Petaluma, CA 94954

Directors Present: Directors present included:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Madolyn Agrimonti	City of Sonoma and Sonoma	Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District
	Valley County Sanitation District	Paul Jensen	City of San Rafael
Jack Baker	North Marin Water District	Pam Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District
Keith Caldwell	Napa Sanitation District	Brant Miller	Novato Sanitary District
Damon Connolly	County of Marin	Judy Schriebman	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District
Frank Egger	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Robert Wilson	City of Petaluma

Directors present represented 12 out of the 18 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

Board Actions:

1. **Call to Order.** Jack Gibson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** None.
3. **Approval of the Agenda.** (See Handout) The Board unanimously approved the agenda.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting held September 11, 2015.** (See Handout) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on September 11, 2015 were unanimously approved.
5. **Treasurer’s Report.** (See Handout) The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as presented by Harry Seraydarian.
6. **Petaluma – Watershed Classroom.** Stephanie Bastianon, Friends of the Petaluma River (FOPR) provided a PowerPoint entitled “Friends of the Petaluma River – Watershed Classroom” and began with some background on FOPR including their purpose – to promote stewardship of the Petaluma River – and some examples of their ongoing efforts such as river cleanups and workshops. She then presented the Watershed Classroom mission statement geared toward educating youth in Petaluma and the principal emphasizing teachers as a guiding force. Stephanie emphasized “Geoliteracy”, understanding your environment through the local lens of the Petaluma watershed and presented the Watershed Classroom curriculum requirements and the link to project based learning and the California Common Core Standards & 21st Century Skills. She explained why the Petaluma River provides a perfect classroom given the habitat diversity and biological productivity. She highlighted the benefits to teachers and noted the \$500 stipend for new teachers (\$250 for returning teachers). Stephanie presented the resources available to teachers including the Watershed Atlas online website, seven water quality monitoring stations, a watershed timeline, and the many experts available in participating agencies and non-profits. She displayed the “watershed classroom” home page <https://www.watershedclassroom.org> and emphasized the opportunities for collaboration. Stephanie then summarized accomplishments for Year 2 and Year 3 of the program and presented goals for Year 4: include all school districts, include middle school, grow the interactive watershed classroom website, and grow the Watershed Atlas. Stephanie ended with a summary of needs and costs (\$30k) for website and software development, teacher training, and program administration. The NBWA Board Members had a number of questions. How is STRAW different? (STRAW is a partner and provides their own curriculum where the Watershed Classroom emphasizes the teacher creating a curriculum.) How clean is the Petaluma River? (Pretty clean – depends on time of year.) How was Atlas developed? (Andy Rodgers developed the tool with input from SCWA, City of Petaluma, and Sonoma RCD.) Who funds you? (SCWA and NOAA-Bay Watersheds Grant.) How are projects approved? (Teacher proposals are reviewed in the spring and most have been funded.) Do you input data to SFEI’s Eco Atlas? (Great tool – discussing now how to link.) Why is there a void at the middle school grade level? (Less curriculum tie-ins, so only some teachers have participated.) Are you including statistics in any curriculum? (No math teachers involved yet – will identify opportunities.)

7. **CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Programs and Grants.** Matt Erickson, CA Dep. Of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), provided a PowerPoint entitled "Salmon and Steelhead Recovery and Habitat Restoration" and began with an overview of the CDFW Bay Delta Region (which overlaps with the NBWA area) and their staffing. Matt highlighted CDFW priority programs: Drought Response, Coho Salmon and Steelhead Recovery and Habitat Assessments, and the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. He then described each program in more detail: Drought Response (monitoring, wet/dry mapping, identifying drying/back streams, fish rescues inside the drought voluntary initiative (VDI) area); Steelhead and Salmon Recovery (including Steelhead report card funding); Coho Broodstock Program (Russian River, and Salmon, Walker, and Scott Creeks); Habitat Assessments (including Petaluma and Napa Rivers and Marin County creeks). Matt mentioned the CDFW Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual and then presented photos of a large number of restoration opportunities in the North Bay. Matt then moved on to the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) focused on restoring anadromous salmonid habitat, which has provided funding since 1981 (\$250m, over 600 stakeholders and 3,500 projects). He also identified funding sources including the more recent Prop 1 and drought funding. Matt then presented photos and funding amounts for 17 different projects in Marin, Napa, and Sonoma that have been implemented in recent years. The NBWA Board Members had several questions. Are there any tools to deal with groundwater overdraft? (SWRCB and CDFW working on voluntary program to reduce use by 25%.) What is monitoring telling us? (Informs us on distribution – moving towards full life cycle fish monitoring.) Can you measure improvement after restoration? (Yes – looking at goals and number of fish.) Why are there no fish rescues on Corte Madera Creek? (Performed by volunteers, CDFW does mapping and reporting.) Can CDFW do more to encourage volunteer monitoring? (Natural Resources Volunteer Program used for photo documentation, temperature, and dissolved oxygen measurements.) What is data structure and how is it managed? (Weekly summary to Governor using funds for drought monitoring, need long term funding for monitoring.)

8. **2016 Conference Update.** Harry Seraydarian presented a PowerPoint to inform the Board that the date for the conference has been set for April 22, 2016 and a contract has been signed with Embassy Suites in the Napa Valley. The "placeholder" theme is – Water is Water? – Harry asked Board Members to suggest alternative themes or phrasing. Keynotes are Jared Huffman and Lois Wolk. Harry also presented the speakers and topics for 3 panels – Climate Adaptation – Extreme Weather Events; Integrated Projects (large and small scale); and Barriers and Bridges – Recycling, Direct Potable Reuse, and Groundwater Sustainability. Costs will stay the same as 2014 – \$95 (\$85 early before January 31, 2016) and Watershed Council Members at \$50. He noted the target for sponsors is \$50k and that member agencies would be hearing from Conference Committee Members about Sponsorship in the near future. Harry also noted that NBWA will update the Fact Sheet developed for the 2010 Conference.

9. **Items of Interest.**

- * Planting and Launching a Floating Island at the San Rafael Civic Center, Gallinas Watershed Council and Marin School for Environmental Leadership in coordination with Bioneers, Oct. 16, 2:45 p.m.
- * Biotech Bank Stabilization (Soil Bio-Engineering & Erosion Control) – Dec. 5, 2015, 11: 45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Spirit Rock Meditation Center, Marin

10. **Items for Next Agenda.**

- * Flood 2.0 Update – Caitlin Sweeney, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
- * Watershed Health – Dyan Whyte, Regional Water Quality Control Board
- * North Bay Water Reuse Authority Update – Keith Caldwell
- * San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Request – Keith Caldwell

Jack Gibson, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Submitted By: Elizabeth O. Preim-Rohla
Assistant to the Executive Director

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION:

November 6 – Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson Street, Novato, CA 94945

December 4 – Petaluma (Lucchesi) Community Ctr., 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954-Conf. Rm. 2