

NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION MINUTES

May 7, 2010

MEETING MINUTES NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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

9:30 a.m.
Marin Community Foundation
5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200
Novato, CA 94949

Directors present included:

Jack Baker, North Marin Water District
Steve Barbose, City of Sonoma and Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District
Megan Clark, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District
John Dupar, Central Marin Sanitation Agency
Ernie Ganas, Bel Marin Keys Community Services District
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District
Beverly James, Novato Sanitary District
Diane Lesko, Sonoma County and Sonoma County Water Agency
Mark Luce, Napa Sanitation District

Directors present represented 11 out of the 15 agencies signatory to the Association MOU. Also Carole Dillon-Knutson represented Associate Member, City of Novato and Margaret Johnston represented Associate Member, Tomales Bay Watershed Council.

Board Actions

1. Call to Order. Jack Gibson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.
2. Public Comment. There was no public comment.
3. Approval of the Agenda. (See Handout) The Board unanimously approved the agenda.
4. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting held March 5, 2010. (See Handout) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on March 5, 2010 were unanimously approved, with one abstention by Megan Clark, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District.
5. Treasurer's Report. (See Handout) The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Harry Seraydarian who noted that the proposed 2010-2011 Budget Item would be discussed later on in the meeting.
6. STRAW Documentary. Laurette Rogers, TBI, presented a 35 minute documentary: "A Simple Question: The Story of STRAW," that chronicles The Bay Institute's STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed) Project. The story starts in 1992 with a 4th Grade class and their question: What can we do to help endangered species? The class picked the California freshwater shrimp and began a project that evolved into STRAW. The video focuses on Stemple Creek and emphasizes a watershed approach. Since STRAW's inception, 20 miles of stream have been planted with 31,000 native trees and shrubs, involving 700 teachers and 10,000 students. The film has won 4 awards and is up for 2 more. The NBWA Board had a number of questions. Have you worked on other creeks? (Yes – East Marin creeks include Old Mill, Novato; Napa River includes American Canyon; and also worked in Santa Rosa and St. Helena.) Does planting get kids more focused than clearing non-natives? (No, kids like removing invasive species.) How long has film been out? (Since October 2009.) How are you doing on fund raising with the film? (Not as well as hoped.) How are

projects identified? (RCDs, word of mouth from ranchers and teachers.) How many projects a year for STRAW? (Average 35.) How much does each project cost? (\$10k-25k.) Do you focus on any particular grade? (No, Kindergarten through High School included.) Do you work with Americorp? (Yes.) Are you working with Novato schools? (Yes, Hamilton, Loma Verde, Novato Charter.) Are you working with Napa New Tech High School? (No, heard of them – project based learning.) Do you work with Master Gardeners? (No.) Are you planting more than willows in urban areas? (Yes, learning more about placement of willows and planting more understory container plants. Project includes maintaining and monitoring plantings.)

7. Budget Options 2010-2011. (See Handouts) Harry Seraydarian presented budget options using PowerPoint slides and reviewed what had been presented at the March 5 meeting and the input provided by the NBWA Board. Harry then outlined the revised options for the 2010-2011 Budget (see handout) which included: (1) Prior year decision – Go up to 95% this coming year (5% reduction), and provide ~ \$75k for projects (recommended option); (2) Allocate entire carryover to “projects” (TBD); (3) Allocate all carryover to baseline budget (reduce membership costs by ~ 50%); (4) Split carryover between baseline budget and “projects” (reduce members costs by ~ 25% and allocate ~ \$40k to projects; and (5) Hold membership fees to 2009-2010 level (10% reduction from base). Harry explained that Judy Arnold had proposed Option 5 in a call after the March 5 meeting. Harry then summarized the efforts of the Technical Committees and the consensus of the Habitat Floodplain Technical Committee on a package of projects totaling \$75k. The projects included: (1) “Slow it, Spread it, Sink it” at \$25k (\$20k to SSCRCD and \$2.5k each to Marin Co. and Napa RCD); and (2) Education/Restoration at \$50k (Marin – STRAW,TBI: \$15k; Napa RCD – SLEWS: \$15k; Sonoma – SEC-EL: \$15k; and “Fish out of Water” Video – FOCMC: \$5k). Harry then presented a “policy” to address Petaluma’s membership (see handout). The proposed policy recommends that when a member requests termination consistent with provision 19(b) in the NBWA MOU and indicates: (1) Termination is due to temporary economic difficulties and (2) Interest in renewing membership – that NBWA will continue to show the member on our website and in NBWA printed materials for a period of up to 3 years. Beverly James noted that projects are allocated among all 3 counties while Marin County and Sonoma County fund a significant portion of the budget and Napa provides only a small portion. Beverly acknowledged we could not create members but we could address the disparity through project funding. Harry suggested it would be timely to convene the Administrative Steering Committee and revisit the membership issue. Mark Luce volunteered to go back and look at the sources of Napa funding. Ernie Ganas asked whether Option 5 would make a difference in project funding and Harry indicated we could likely cover the \$75k in projects with the additional income from the NBWA 2010 Conference. A motion and second was made to approve Option 1 and a vote resulted in approval with 4 “no” votes (Jack Baker, John Dupar, Ernie Ganas, Beverly James). John Dupar raised a concern about the Petaluma policy and suggested we should describe it as a leave of absence (inactive player). Further discussion indicated this approach might require amending the MOU. A motion was made and unanimously approved to adopt the policy as a temporary action with the understanding that the Administrative Steering Committee would be convened to consider amending the MOU. A suggestion was also made to put an asterisk next to “City of Petaluma *” on the website and explain their status.

8. Conference Feedback. Harry Seraydarian presented a PowerPoint summary of conference feedback (see handout). NBWA received 101 evaluations, almost 50% of attendance. The feedback was generally positive and consistent with prior conferences. Harry also summarized the Conference Committee suggestions for the 2012 conference which included: consider other locations; a Thursday rather than Friday; investigate cost for videotaping; extend morning registration time for networking opportunities; provide for more time for Q&A after panel presentations; and use a different online registration service. Harry noted that the conference had made a profit of approximately \$14k based on a large number of sponsors.

9. Items of Interest.

* Paul Helliker provided an update on the Bay Area IRWMP. The Bay Area identified 6 projects for supplemental Prop 50 funding (South Bay and NMWD (\$280k) Recycling, Regional Green Infrastructure, Regional Steelhead Monitoring, Mercury/PCB Risk Reduction, and a Bay Area Disadvantaged Communities Watershed Program). The Bay Area sent in comments on DWR guidelines for Prop 84 and expressed concern over cost benefit analysis required for projects. Paul is scheduling a meeting with DWR and 2 other regional efforts which are conterminous with funding areas (SAWPA and North Coast).

10. Items for Next Agenda.

- * Bay Area Update – Paul Helliker or Harry Seraydarian
- * North Bay Climate Initiative (possible)
- * Tidal Marsh Recovery Plan (possible)

* Projects for Board Approval

Jack Gibson, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Submitted By: Elizabeth O. Preim-Rohtla

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

June 4 – Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson Street, Novato, CA 94945

July 9 – Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949

No August

September 10 – Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949

October 1 – Petaluma (Lucchesi) Community Ctr., 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954—Conf. Rm. 2

November 5 – Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949

December 3 – Petaluma (Lucchesi) Community Ctr., 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954—Conf. Rm. 2