

NBWA
Watershed Council Meeting Summary
May 7, 2013 – 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Novato Sanitary District
500 Davidson Street
Novato, CA 94945

I. Introductions.

- * Introductions began at 4:10 p.m. and Harry Seraydarian, NBWA Executive Director, reviewed the agenda and added – 2014 Conference Input.
 - * Council Member News
 - May 13 – Tam Valley-Mill Valley – “Healthy Watersheds Healthy Creeks” – 7-9 p.m.
 - May 23 – Napa Watershed Symposium – presentations and tours – 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- http://www.napawatersheds.org/app_pages/view/5473

II. North Bay TMDL Updates.

Napa RCD – Leigh Sharp provided an introduction to the North Bay TMDLs and noted the funding was from EPA through SFEP and NBWA (NBWA’s role was to coordinate the overall effort; MMWD is fiscal agent). Leigh provided an overview of Napa County adopted TMDLs and the sources of sediment and pathogens. She focused on Steelhead and Chinook and explained how sediment impairs aquatic habitat. Leigh presented the major tasks in the project: implement sediment TMDL (road improvements); implement Vineyard Waiver (control runoff and erosion); coordinate with partners; and conduct monitoring. She then summarized the results regarding road improvements (> 6,000 yd³ of sediment prevented) and stream improvements (remove barriers and sediment). Leigh then presented a number of visuals showing road and stream improvements. She also highlighted outreach efforts to date and the additional road assessments completed (10.8 miles assessed and an estimated 8,575 yd³ of future erosion that could be achieved with landowner funding). Leigh then summarized events regarding the Vineyard Waiver (withdrawn – may be replaced by general order) and Napa County outreach efforts. Leigh provided a visual showing the overall monitoring efforts and noted that QAPPS were approved for scour and gravel permeability. Leigh described the monitoring targets – reaches and constructed redds. Leigh ended with a summary of next steps and emphasized the Landsmart Program.

SSCRCD – Harry Seraydarian presented a PowerPoint developed by Kara Heckert, SSCRC, who was unavailable. Harry first presented a “Scope Overview” for the project which includes an implementation project, landowner assistance for Conditional Grazing and Vineyard Waivers, and regional capacity building. He then described in more detail the implementation project located in the lower watershed near Shellville and noted a request for bids was out and highlighted the project goals: improve water quality by reducing erosion, slow flows and increase infiltration, enhance riparian habitat, and demonstrate “Slow it. Spread it. Sink it.” practices in an agricultural setting. Harry then noted the low participation rate on the farm plans for the Grazing Waiver (36% at end of 2012) and highlighted the efforts to date on the Vineyard Waiver which includes development of the “LandSmart” program in collaboration with Napa RCD and other entities. He also highlighted ongoing regional capacity building and the development of a “Slow it. Spread it. Sink it” Implementation Program to promote stormwater management, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and sediment reduction. Harry ended by describing the next steps for all components of the TMDL project.

SEC – Mark Newhouser, Sonoma Ecology Center, presented the Sonoma Creek TMDL project. He focused on steelhead trout and noted that the upper Sonoma Creek watershed provides the best habitat, while also having significant erosion problems, and includes willing landowners. Mark provided a recap on site selection and prioritization and described the methods selected to address 18 sites on eight properties. Mark summarized the Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPS) approved by the EPA for Sediment/Turbidity, BMIs (Benthic Macro-Invertebrate Index), and Implementation Monitoring. He then described the permits required and the capacity building efforts with SCWA, Sonoma County Public Works, and City of Sonoma. Mark then displayed a number of visuals demonstrating restoration projects: detention basin and energy dissipater; native plant re-vegetation; vegetated swale, willow revetment; and several biotechnical bank repair examples. Mark ended with a table showing planting and buffer area measurements by project and estimates of sediment savings with a total annual savings estimated at 1,682, tons/year.

Marin County – Chris Choo presented the TMDL project for Richardson Bay. Chris first displayed maps illustrating how the main construction effort at the Boyle Park Project related to Richardson Bay. She explained how the project would reduce stormwater runoff and pathogens from Warner Creek through: increased infiltration (re-contour the incised channel to provide an active channel and floodplain), riparian habitat restoration (remove invasive species and

replace with native species and fencing), and increasing community awareness. Chris provided a graphic showing project features and described outreach which includes site specific efforts (STRAW restoration days, signage, stenciling, and waste bag dispenser for dog walkers) and general stormwater efforts for specific sources (pets, boats and marinas, nurseries, and BMPs for restaurants). Chris provided a visual showing monitoring (rain gauge locations) and ended with an optimistic schedule indicating construction in fall 2013 and re-vegetation in early 2014.

III. Stream Restoration Design Curves.

Roger Leventhal, Marin County Public Works, presented a PowerPoint entitled – Regional Curves of Hydraulic Geometry for Wadeable Streams in Marin and Sonoma Counties. Roger provided some background on the project (EPA funding for ~\$30k) and highlighted the Goals – Update “Leopold Curve” for the San Francisco Bay Area to evaluate certain factors impacting stream channels. Roger then explained the concepts behind the “Leopold Curves” and emphasized the estimate of bankfull or effective flow that leads to equilibrium. Roger presented a 1978 graphic in log form that showed drainage area against cross sectional area, width, and depth for four regions of the US including San Francisco Bay. Roger explained the difference between textbook and actual field measurement of bankfull flow and provided a graphic to illustrate how streams can change over time. He then presented maps of the Marin and Sonoma field sites and provided an example of graphing multiple field parameters and profile surveys. Roger then walked through some examples of graphic results for his study (slope, drainage, dominant geomorphic setting, etc.). He then showed his results against original Leopold Curves for the Bay Area and some additional graphs for items such as floodprone width, degree of channelization, and mean velocity. Roger identified some limitations and controversies such as applicability to arid and semi arid regions. Roger then illustrated how the tool was used to aid design of the Boyle Park restoration by indicating appropriate depth, width, and cross sectional area and also described how curves could be used for LID design. He also described an SFEI statewide, web-based, “Riparian Buffer Width Tool” that is under development and will use recently completed curves for the Bay Area. Roger ended with a summary of next steps that would require “Phase II” funding.

IV. Integrated Projects.

* The Group had a short dialogue on integrated projects with the emphasis on habitat restoration.

V. 2014 Conference Input.

Harry presented input from the recent Joint Technical Committee meeting:

Theme – Water Resources

- Topics:
- Water Bond
 - Benefits of Integrated Projects
 - Drinking Water Quality – Trust the Tap
 - Urban Water Cycle

Input – Group was most interested in “Benefits of Integrated Projects” followed by Water Bond

Suggestions on “Benefits of Integrated Projects” topic

– Presentations on Roads and Restoration, LID, Prioritization of Large versus Small Scale Projects

VI. Wrap Up.

* Will hold another Watershed Council Meeting in the Fall of 2013

Possible Topics:

- BAIRWMP – Round 3 Funding
- Sea Level Rise II – Richardson Bay

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Participants:

Betsy Bikle, Mill Valley Stream Keepers
Laura Chariton, MVSK
Chris Choo, Marin County, Dept. of Public Works
Mike Di Giorgio, Novato San.
Sandy Goldman, FOCMC
Daria Isupov, RRWA
Roger Leventhal, Marin County, Dept. of Public Works

Liz Lewis, Marin County, Dept. of Public Works
Mark Newhouser, SEC
Judy Schriebman, LGVSD
Leigh Sharp, Napa RCD
Susan Stompe, Marin Conservation League
Harry Seraydarian, NBWA Executive Director