

# Notice of Meeting of North Bay Watershed Association

A meeting of the North Bay Watershed Association will be held as follows:

Date: Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Ave, Novato, CA 94945

## **AGENDA Item and Recommendation**

**9:30**

1. Call to Order (Jack Gibson, Chair)
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Agenda (1 min.) *Approve*
4. Approval of Minutes (5 min.) *Approve*
5. Treasurer's Report *handout* (1 min.) *Accept*
6. Director's Report *information/questions*

## **7. Groundwater Management/SGMA in the North Bay**

**9:45**

Marcus Trotta, Hydrogeologist – Sonoma County Water Agency

Marcus will discuss groundwater management efforts in the North Bay and the role of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act locally.

## **8. Climate Ready North Bay – Phase II**

**10:15**

Caitlin Cornwall – Sonoma Ecology Center

Caitlin will summarize for the Board the conclusions and recommended next steps for this NBWA-funded project to provide data-driven climate adaption tools to resource managers in the North Bay.

## **9. Climate Adaption – Sonoma County Water Agency**

**10:45**

Cordel Stillman (Deputy Chief Engineer – SCWA) and Laura Harnish (CH2M) will discuss the planning being done by the Sonoma County Water Agency to prepare and adapt to the pressures of climate change.

## **10. Items of Interest**

**11:10**

## **11. Items for next agenda**

**11:20**

- Opportunity to state support for healthy Bay freshwater flows in SWRCB process.
- Roger Leventhal (Marin County) will give a final report on the Bothin Marsh NBWA funded project.
- Preliminary discussion on the 2018 conference.

**Next Meeting Information:** March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 – Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949

# North Bay Watershed Association

Summary of the meeting of the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) Board of Directors

Date: Friday, January 6, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson St, Novato CA, 94945

## Directors Present Included:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Pam Drew	City of Novato	Jack Baker	North Marin Water District
Mike Healy	City of Petaluma	Sandeep Karkal	Novato Sanitary District
Paul Jensen	City of San Rafael	Brant Miller	Novato Sanitary District
Madolyn Agrimonti	City of Sonoma & Sonoma Valley County Sanitary District	Pamela Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District
Damon Connolly	County of Marin	Brad Sherwood	Sonoma County Water Agency
Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District		

Directors present represented 11 of the 18 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

## Board Actions:

1. Call to Order – Jack Gibson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
2. Public Comment – no public comments.
3. Approval of the Agenda – The Board unanimously approved the agenda.
4. Approval of Previous Minutes – The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting with two board members abstaining from the vote.
5. Treasurer’s Report – The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as presented by Judy Kelly, NBWA Executive Director.
6. Director’s Report
7. Harmful Algal Blooms in our North Bay Waters – Naomi Feger, of the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board presented on the presence of harmful algal blooms (HAB) in local water bodies, which can pose significant water quality issues. The presence of HABs is increasing in California and the Bay Area, and is widely attributed to increasing water temperatures, high nutrient concentrations, and drought, which results in less water and lower flows. The most prevalent HAB in freshwater are cyanobacteria (blue green algae). Some of these cyanobacteria can produce toxins which can negatively affect the skin, liver, and nerves of humans and wildlife. Cyanobacteria can negatively affect a variety of beneficial uses of local water supplies including: impacting fish, harming swimmers, leaving visual scum on water surfaces, killing or harming wildlife and pets, and impacting irrigation. The state is currently implementing a statewide strategy to manage the effects of HABs. The California Cyanobacteria and HAB Network (CCHAB) promotes the partnership of state, federal, local agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations to mitigate these effects. The state provides decision tree and narrative guides for posting health advisories near water bodies affected by HABs. Currently the Regional Board is utilizing satellites to detect HABs, however current satellite programs can only detect blooms in large bodies of water and has a significant margin of error. The Regional Board also requests that water managers report HABs in their water bodies to (<https://drinc.ca.gov/cyanohab/>). Remediation methods for the removal of cyanobacteria include the application of cyanobacteria specific algacide, the reduction of nutrients, the destratification of the water column, and reduction of water residence time in a water body. For more information, please visit ([www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/index.html](http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/index.html)).

8. Friends of the Petaluma River Education Project – Stephanie Bastianon, from the Friends of the Petaluma River (FOPR), updated the NBWA Board on a completed project, partially funded by a grant from the NBWA of \$20,000. The Friends of the Petaluma River seeks to celebrate the River by promoting and providing river access, watershed conservation, and environmental education programming. The NBWA grant was provided to directly support the Watershed Classroom program, and to expand several components of its educational programming services. FOPR supports local environmental education efforts providing interested teachers with a \$500 stipend to support their development of relevant curriculum, providing resources to teachers through their website (<http://www.watershedclassroom.org/>), and through the development of the Watershed Atlas (<http://www.watershedclassroom.org/watershed-atlas/>) which organizes watershed data and information geographically. The NBWA Grant provided funds to compile data for new atlas layers, add additional layers to the atlas, purchase and maintain water testing kits for students, and perform a replicability study to examine the local environmental education needs. All four of these components were successfully completed. Q: Pam Meigs asked what water quality parameters are being tested by students and why. A: Temperature, phosphates, nitrates, salinity, etc. are being tested to show students how testing works, and what creates conditions that determine these factors. More importantly, students learn about how these factors are indicators of overall watershed health. Q: Where do teachers get information about watershed programming? A: Many online sources (EPA, NOAA, etc.). However, no one website or portal compiles all of these regional information in one place.
9. Cleaner Waters: Sonoma County's Safe Medicine Disposal Program – Susan Keach (Sonoma County Water Agency) and Jay Macedo (Sonoma County) briefly presented on the Safe Medicine Disposal Program in Sonoma County and the corresponding Ordinance being proposed to the County Board of Supervisors. This program aims to protect environmental quality as well as public health by providing a safe and free method for residents to dispose of unwanted medications. In particular, Sonoma County is currently developing an Extended Producer Responsibility Ordinance (EPR) which would require the pharmaceutical companies that produce medications to pay for the medicine disposal program in Sonoma County. Due to the high level of board interest, a more detailed presentation and discussion will be arranged at a future NBWA Board Meeting. For more information please visit ([www.safemedicinedisposal.org/](http://www.safemedicinedisposal.org/)). Q: Brant Miller asked what generates the cost of the Safe Medicine Disposal Program. A: Disposal bins, outreach, hauling and disposal, administrative costs, etc.
10. NBWA Proposed Communication Plan for 2017 – Brad Sherwood (Sonoma County Water Agency) briefly described the five goals outlined by the NBWA Communications Plan which was collaboratively developed by the NBWA Communication Committee. The Communications Plan is a living document which outlines strategic communications goals and strategies to further the mission and efforts of the NBWA. Judy Kelly recommended that the Board approve \$7000 of funds to be spent on a communication consultant to help prioritize these goals and make preliminary recommendations about how to effectively implement these goals. The plan can be found at ([nbwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/minutes-agendas-newsletters/Agenda\\_2017-01-08.pdf](http://nbwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/minutes-agendas-newsletters/Agenda_2017-01-08.pdf)) *The NBWA Board unanimously approved \$7000 be allocated for a communication consultant.*
11. Items of Interest
12. Items for the next agenda
  - Groundwater Issues in the North Bay – Jay Jasperse, Sonoma County Water Agency
  - Next steps for North Bay climate work – Caitlin Cornwall, Sonoma Ecology Center

**Next Meeting Information:** February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 Novato City Hall

901 Sherman Ave, Novato, CA 94945 **PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING SITE**

SUBMITTED BY:

Sophie Hallam-Eames

SCWA Programs Specialist | NBWA Staff

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**Northbay Watershed Association  
Treasurer's Report  
January 1 - January 31, 2017**

**Revenues:**

Billings-Stewardship - General Benefits - 2017	185,867.99
NBWA 2016 Conference Revenue	1,500.00
Misc Revenue	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>187,367.99</u></b>

**Expenses:**

Executive Director Professional Services:	65,800.00
<u>Admin Professional Fees &amp; Expenses:</u>	
Administrative Support - SCWA	
Operating Expense - General Benefit - website, etc..	1,938.40
NCRCD - LandSmart for Kid, Point Blue STRAW Program	1,864.07
Sonoma Ecology Ctr - Climate Readiness	29,951.55
Marin County Flood Control - Bothin/Coyote Creek	
Friends of Petaluma River - Watershed Classroom	
EOA - BASMAA Trash Project	19,351.06
2nd Nature - Rural Road Ram Project	20,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>138,905.08</u></b>
Change this period	48,462.91
Fund Balance as of July 1, 2016	<u>\$ 171,644.95</u>
Fund Balance as of January 31, 2017	<u><u>\$ 220,107.86</u></u>

## February 2017 - Director's Report

### NBWA Business

- I am happy to report that last month, on behalf of the NBWA, I was appointed to the Advisory Committee of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. Other regional folks I know who have also been appointed include SCWA's Grant Davis and Marin County's Roger Leventhal. A full list of the Appointees will be available on the RA website shortly. The first of this year's quarterly Advisory Committee meetings will be held in Oakland in late February.
- On January 25<sup>th</sup> the **NBWA Joint Technical Committee** met at Novato Sanitary District. The agenda centered on two main topics: ideas about how to find help with the implementation tasks of the new NBWA Communication Plan [local NGOs were largely the focus], and the Committee had a presentation by Beth Huning from the San Francisco Joint Venture about the data the JV holds on the status of restoration projects around the region. For details please read the meeting summary at [nbwatershed.org/meetinginformation/](http://nbwatershed.org/meetinginformation/).
- Progress continues on our currently funded NBWA **projects**: Our NBWA project with Marin County on a sediment reuse study for Bothin Marsh has concluded and the County will deliver a final presentation to the Board in March. The Final Report will be posted to the NBWA website in the next few weeks. A regional workshop is being planned for March to introduce the regional working group to the concepts and methods developed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature for the Rural Road Assessment project.
- Advance planning: In **March** along with the Bothin Marsh report, the Board will have its first discussion on desired topics and a suggested location for the 2018 NBWA Conference and a discussion about possible NBWA comment on the State Board's proposed actions regarding flows on the San Joaquin River.

### Funding News

**FROZEN: EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund.** As you have already heard through the news, the Administration has frozen all NEW grants and contracts at the US EPA and several other Federal agencies. While the situation is uncertain, EPA staff expects to continue to work on, and issue, the 2017 RFP for this fund and will work toward a selection and allocation process to conclude this summer - provided the freeze is lifted.

**Integrated Regional Water Management Plan [IRWMP]** Several weeks ago the region resubmitted the Nov. 30 proposal with additional information requested by DWR. On January 30<sup>th</sup> DWR requested that the budget be presented differently; work that is now underway. This region is only the second funding area to submit a proposal. The other is the North Coast, and they have a signed agreement already.

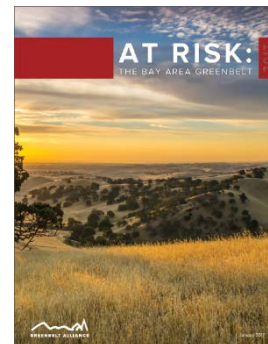
Once there is a signed agreement, the lead group for this regional effort, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water [EJCW] will contact those who proposed to assist with outreach to put a full working team together. The Draft Proposal was submitted to DWR on behalf of the Bay Area Region in late October for \$6.5 million. See <http://www.bairwmp.org> for news and update on this funding.

### Website of the Month



The **Greenbelt Alliance** is focused on promoting the preservation and protection of the region's open space.

They have just completed a new assessment of the vulnerability of our remaining open spaces concluding – *“Today, 293,100 acres of the region's farmland and natural areas are threatened with development within the next 30 years. This is an area of 458 square miles, almost 10 times the size of San Francisco, that could be paved over in a generation. Of that land, 63,500 acres are at high risk, meaning they face development within the next 10 years. These areas are under extreme market pressure; the bright red areas on the At Risk Map reflect dozens of proposals that threaten the Bay Area's ranchland, farms, wildlife habitat, and wetlands.* See the full report at [www.greenbelt.org/at-risk-2017/](http://www.greenbelt.org/at-risk-2017/).



### Other News and Notes

**California groundwater recharge study.** DWR has released a new draft report that describes the expected challenges of moving California water into over-drafted groundwater basins. The *Water Available for Replenishment Report* divides the state into looks at 10 regional and at the opportunities and challenges of securing the needed amounts of water to meet the requirements of the state's new groundwater legislation. A link to the full report is available here on DWR's news release. Public comment on the Draft will be accepted until March 17<sup>th</sup>. [www.water.ca.gov/news/newsreleases/2017/011217water\\_news.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/news/newsreleases/2017/011217water_news.pdf).

### Upcoming Conference. 2017 Annual IEP Workshop

The Interagency Ecological Program will be holding the 2017 Annual IEP Workshop on March 1 – 3, 2017 at the Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom, CA. This technical workshop will highlight recent work on Delta Smelt, salmon, aquatic weeds and data management. For registration and additional information on this workshop please visit [www.cvent.com/events/2017-iep-annual-workshop/event-summary-bf8b34d482ae423493b075c5a92de492.aspx](http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-iep-annual-workshop/event-summary-bf8b34d482ae423493b075c5a92de492.aspx).