



North Bay Watershed Association

Board Meeting Notice

May 5th, 2017

9:30 am – 11:30 am
Petaluma Community Center
320 N McDowell Blvd
Petaluma, CA 94954

Next Meeting

June 2nd, 2017
9:30 am – 11:30 am
Novato City Hall
901 Sherman Ave
Novato, CA 94945

Board Meeting Agenda

- 1. Call to Order** 9:30 am
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** 1 min
Accept
- 6. Director's Report**
Information and questions
- 7. Drought & Floods:** 9:45 am
Current status of our North Bay Fisheries
 - Gregory Andrews, Fishery Program Manager, Marin Municipal Water District
 - Jonothan Koehler, Senior Biologist, Napa Resource Conservation District
 - David Manning, Environmental Resources Manager, Sonoma County Water Agency
- 8. Marin RCD's Permit Coordination Program Proposed Funding Request** 11:00 am
Judy Kelly, Executive Director, NBWA
Action Item
- 9. Items of Interest** 11:20 am
- 10. Items for next agenda** 11:25 am
 - Dr. Andrew Gunther, Climate Change and the North Bay
 - Dr. Robin Grossinger, San Francisco Estuary Institute
– Re-oaking the Valleys: new strategies for enhancing local biodiversity and resilience

North Bay Watershed Association

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

Date: Friday, April 7th, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson Street, Novato, CA

Directors Present Included:

Board Member	Organization	Board Member	Organization
Michael Boorstein	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Ryan Gregory	Napa Sanitation District
Steve Hartwig	City of American Canyon	Rick Freitas	North Marin Water District
Paul Jensen	City of San Rafael	Brant Miller	Novato Sanitary District
Megan Clark	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitation District	Pamela Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District
Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District	Grant Davis	Sonoma County Water Agency
Juliana Inman	Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District		

Directors present represented 11 of the 19 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 Agenda – The agenda was unanimously approved.
4. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the previous Board meeting were approved with one abstention.
5. Treasurer’s Report – The treasurer’s report was presented by Judy Kelly, NBWA executive director, on behalf of Cheryl Howlett, NBWA treasurer.
6. Director’s Report – Judy Kelly presented the director’s report, specifically noting: (1) there is an upcoming JTC meeting scheduled for April 26th at MMWD, see <http://nbwatershed.org/meetinginformation/> for more information, (2) the NBWA has hired an intern to begin to implement certain NBWA Communication Plan components by providing data research services to survey member agency educational resources, (3) Chris Choo and the MMWD recently released a Sea Level Rise Planning Draft and would appreciate review of this document, which can be found by visiting <https://www.marincounty.org/main/marin-sea-level-rise>.
7. Napa River Flood Project Operations - Winter 2016/2017 – Rick Thomasser, Watershed & Flood Control Operations Manager for Napa County presented on the operations of the Napa River Flood Project during the last winter, which brought historic precipitation and flooding to the North Bay. One characteristic that made this project unique and highly effective is that planners gained community consensus during early planning phases to make community tradeoffs, sacrificing a number of mobile homes, residences, and older commercial buildings to build this project, which has enabled the protection of 3,000 properties from the 100-year flood event. This flood project involved improvements to 7 miles of the Napa River, included the creation of over 900 acres of seasonal wetlands and restored habitat, along with the replacement of 9 bridges. A key feature of this project is a dry bypass which enables flood waters to safely pass around a problematic oxbow in downtown Napa via a normally dry channel, which serves as a city park during dry times. In its first winter with significant precipitation this flood protection facility functioned exactly as planned, with less sediment [requiring less clean up] than expected. The completion of the project marks one of the first and largest successful implementations of a comprehensive approach to managing and improving both the habitat and flood-risk conditions of a flash-flood prone river in a developed urban area. Much has been written over the years about this innovative project

and more information about the Napa Flood Control Project – the county website write-up can be found here <http://www.countyofnapa.org/NapaFloodControlProject>. Q: How long did the design and construction process last on this project? A: Many years – 17 and counting.

8. Marin RCD's Permit Coordination Program: speeding conservation efforts – Elise Suronen, of Marin Resource Conservation District (RCD), described the streamlined environmental review process currently employed by the RCD, which is up for renewal this year. The Marin RCD works to address conservation needs and incentivize restoration, and is primarily funded through grants. The permit coordination program allows the RCD to simplify and expedite the environmental permitting process for property owners interested in conservation efforts resulting in a shortened average permit time from 3 years to 1 year. During the 2017 Permit Coordination Program renewal the Marin RCD hopes to expand the program life to 10 years, add three new watersheds in Marin County, add additional covered conservation practices to their services, and serve new programs area -- including carbon farming and urban streams.

Q: Where does most grant money come from? A: Mostly from the State Water Board, EPA, IRWMP, and Marin County (8%). Q: When will the extension, which incorporates the Marin Watershed, be in place? A: Hopefully 2018, but working to find the remaining ~\$35,000 to fund. Q: There are already other organizations working on flood control in certain creeks, how does the Marin RCD fit in? A: The RCD helps with simple fixes, but more importantly, it can connect landowners to other resources. Q: What is the process if a rancher wants to work with the RCD? A: The RCD could inspect the whole property, or address certain concerns, depending on the rancher's desire. The RCD will work to determine how needs fit within grant funding. Grant Davis of the Sonoma County Water Agency notes that RCDs serve a vital and unique role to promote conservation on private property, and asked NBWA member agencies to consider how they might support the work being done by local RCDs.

9. NBWA 2017/2018 Budget – Judy Kelly presented a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and offered the chance for the Board to approve it immediately, but reminded the Board that they could wait to vote on the budget if they had outstanding questions. The draft budget and Judy's presentation can be found at http://nbwatershed.org/board_meeting/. The proposed budget is very similar to previous budgets. One particular area of difference can be noted in the funding for the NBWA conference. The Conference Planning Committee decided to fund future conferences going forward out of annual budgets, rather than asking for additional sponsorships from member agencies; this effectively reduces overall NBWA contributions from members. Comment (Chris DeGabriel) – Commended Judy Kelly on maintaining budget baseline, and noted that Marin entities provide about 100k of funding, Sonoma entities provide 75k, while Napa provides 12K. Chris asked if conversations could be held with Napa agencies to consider more funding support, especially at the county level. Q: Are there significant efforts to increase membership? A: (Jack Gibson) Primary focus of the NBWA is to increase inter-agency communication. Funding watershed grants is a secondary goal of the NBWA.

Jack Gibson, Chair, moved to approve the budget. Pam Meigs seconded. The NBWA Board unanimously approved the 2017-2018 Budget.

10. Items of Interest

11. Items for the Next Agenda

- Status of North Bay fish – Gregory Andrews (MMWD), Jon Kohler (Napa RCD), & David Manning (SCWA)
- Update on NBWA-supported project: stormwater permit readiness

Next meeting information: May 5th, 2017 – Petaluma Community Center, 320 McDowell Blvd, Petaluma, CA

SUBMITTED BY:
Sophie Hallam-Eames
SCWA Programs Specialist | NBWA Staff
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NBWA

May 2017 - Director's Report

NBWA Business

- The next meeting of the **Advisory Committee** of the **San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority** will be held in San Francisco on May 12th. I will report back on activities next month but remind this Board that an opportunity to meet and greet the Restoration Authority Board in the North Bay will happen **June 9, 2017**: Marin County Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 329, San Rafael, CA. The meeting will run from 1:00 pm till 3:00 pm. Info about past Board meetings and agendas can be found at <http://www.sfbayrestore.org/sf-bay-restoration-authority-meetings.php>.
- The most recent **meeting of the NBWA Joint Technical Committee** was held in Marin Municipal Water District's Board Room on Wednesday April 26th from 10:00 am to noon. Committee members provided excellent feedback on the North Bay portion of ABAG/ San Francisco Estuary Partnership's shoreline mapping project. Ben Bodkin of ABAG has taken our comments and will re-present new materials at the next JTC meeting. The Committee also heard from Marin RCD about their permit streamline work and supported a recommendation for funding by the Board. The **next meeting of the NBWA Joint Technical Committee will be June 7th at Novato Sanitation District, 500 Davidson, Novato**. The summary of the previous meeting can be found at: http://nbwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/minutes-agendas-newsletters/Minutes_2017-04-26.pdf.
- Progress continues on our NBWA **Communication Plan**: Our intern has been busy surveying all the outreach materials on the web or otherwise available at our member agencies. She has put this information into a spreadsheet and is now working to verify information and fill gaps. Once completed, the Communication Committee will be asked to review and provide feedback on the spreadsheet and on a set of summary recommendations I am working on about how best to serve our members and partners with this collected information – possibly with a new section of the NBWA website where all this great effort can be easily accessed and shared.
- Advance planning: In **June** the Board will hear from two noted researchers and excellent speakers – Dr. Robin Grossinger will discuss recent work on oak habitat restoration and Dr. Andrew Gunther will talk about the latest in climate work here in the North Bay. In **July** the NBWA Board Meeting will be hosted at the Central Marin Sanitary District for a tour of the energy and wastewater facilities, and be sure to mark your calendars for **October** when the NBWA Board will have a field trip to see the Russian River Fish Ladder and Viewing Gallery run by Sonoma County Water Agency.

Funding News

- **EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund CLOSING SOON.** The 2017 RFP for this fund is now available and the deadline for submittal is May 10th, 2017. As with the current IRWMP round of funding, the focus will be on disadvantaged communities. The RFP is soliciting proposals that will improve water quality and restore wetlands in San Francisco Bay and its watersheds. The RFP expects to make available approximately \$4 million to support projects in the range of \$500,000 to \$2,000,000. Applicants must provide a minimum 50% non-federal match and projects must be within the nine Bay Area counties that drain to San Francisco Bay. **Proposals must be submitted through Grants.gov** on or before the proposal submission deadline of **May 10, 2017 at 9:00pm Pacific Time.** <https://www.epa.gov/sfbay-delta/sf-bay-water-quality-improvement-fund-request-proposals>
- **Integrated Regional Water Management Plan [IRWMP]** The Coordinating Committee for the SF Bay region met on April 24th. The contract with DWR is nearly completed and once signed, 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 as many of the details are yet to be determined for this round. I was added to the watershed subcommittee of this group to represent the NBWA and the North Bay in general. See <http://www.bairwmp.org> for news and update on this funding. Several North Bay DAC outreach projects are on the "first tier" of projects to be further pursued.

News and Notes

- **Several webinars being sponsored by the SF Restoration Authority.** Please save the dates for the first two webinars, each of which will consist of a 30-minute presentation and 30 minutes of Q&A.
 - May 10, 2017, 11 am – 12 pm
San Francisco Bay Water Quality and Wetlands
Phil Trowbridge, San Francisco Estuary Institute
 - May 16, 2017, 1-2 pm
Turning the Tide: Restoring the Wetlands of San Francisco Bay
Beth Huning, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
- Agendas and registration instructions will be posted to the RA website and distributed via the public email list at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.
- **REMINDER: member items for June e-newsletter.** Sophie and I will be working on content for the June e-newsletter in the next few weeks. This is a great way to publicize your agency success stories, projects and events. PLEASE send items to Sophie or me by May 19th.
- **Great write-up in SF Chronicle about Napa's Living River.** Just a few weeks after our terrific briefing on this project by Napa's Rick Thomasser, the Chronicle ran a front-page story about the success and history of Napa's living river. Good write up and great graphics – see it by visiting <http://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Living-river-rejuvenates-Napa-brings-11109403.php>

- **REMINDER Upcoming Conference Napa County Watershed Symposium**
May 24th, Napa. Link here for details <http://www.napawatersheds.org>. We *still have one ticket available* as the NBWA is sponsoring the conference so let me know if you are interested.



SAVE *the*
DATE

5 · 24 · 2017

WATERSHED MOMENTS: NATURE'S VALUE
– What is, what was, what can be

**NAPA COUNTY
WATERSHED SYMPOSIUM**
Wednesday, May 24, 2017, 8AM - 3PM
Blue Note, 1030 Main St., Napa, CA 94559

