

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).

8. Friends of the Petaluma River Education Project – Stephanie Bastianon, form 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 programing 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 programing? 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) with 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/).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) *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 3rd, 2017 Novato City Hall

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

SUBMITTED BY:

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