

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:
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