

North Bay Watershed Association

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

Date: Friday, May 5th, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Petaluma Community Center, 320 N McDowell Blvd, Petaluma, CA

Directors Present Included:

Board Member	Organization	Board Member	Organization
Michael Boorstein	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Megan Clark	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District
Mariam Aboudamous	City of American Canyon	Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District
Pam Drew	City of Novato	Rick Fraites	North Marin Water District
Mike Healy	City of Petaluma	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	Grant Davis	Sonoma County Water Agency

Directors present represented 13 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 – Chris Choo, announced that the County of Marin released a Draft Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and is accepting public comments until May 29th, 2017. The document can be found by visiting <https://www.marincounty.org/main/marin-sea-level-rise>.
3. Approval of Agenda (see materials) – The agenda was unanimously approved.
4. Approval of Minutes (see materials) – The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.
5. Treasurer’s Report (see materials) – Judy Kelly, executive director, on behalf of Cheryl Howlett, treasure, reported that the NBWA is in good financial standing.
6. Director’s Report (see materials) – Judy Kelly presented the Director’s Report, reminding member agency’s that in June the NBWA will release its second quarterly e-newsletter. Member agencies are encouraged to contact Sophie Hallam-Eames (Sophie.HallamEames@scwa.ca.gov) with content to highlight their agency’s current projects and accomplishments.
7. Drought & Floods: Current status of our North Bay Fisheries – Three fishery professionals provided updates on the status of fisheries in the major watersheds of Sonoma, Marin, and Napa counties. All three agencies have supported extensive habitat restoration efforts in their respective watersheds, and employ a variety of fish monitoring techniques (including some combination of fish traps, pit tags, spawner surveys, snorkel surveys, electro-fishing, population modeling, and video monitoring) to track fish populations, particularly of threatened and endangered species. In all three watersheds fish are challenged to adapt to surrounding land uses, dams and other river modifications, and a highly variable climate that can cause both severe flooding as well as severe droughts.

Marin – Gregory Andrews, Fishery Program Manager at the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) provided information about protecting Coho salmon in the Lagunitas Creek Watershed and what activities MMWD is doing to protect and enhance that fishery.

Napa – Jonathan Koehler, Senior Biologist for the Napa Resource Conservation District (RCD) described the fishery conservation efforts taking place in the Napa River Watershed.

Sonoma – David Manning, Environmental Resources Manager at the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) examined how salmon and steelhead are doing in the Russian River Watershed.

To learn more about the current fish populations in these watersheds, please view the presentations posted on the NBWA website (http://nbwatershed.org/board_meeting/).

Q: It looks like fish populations do not always follow the river flows. Why? A: High flows do not always necessarily equate to good habitat for fish. The type of fish and the time of year means a fish might need pools, some low velocity places to rest, and woody debris for cover. Q: What is the estimated timeframe for recovery of threatened and endangered fish species in these watersheds? A: NOAA develops ~100 year timelines for recovery of endangered fish populations, but we are already seeing positive signs that steps are being taken towards recovery. However, factors exist within the fish's habitat which are difficult to control by local agencies and may pose an unknown ongoing threat to the recovery of these species. These factors primarily include local ocean conditions and the effects of climate change.

Q: What is the effect of recreational and commercial fishing on local fish populations? A: In the Russian River, Chinook are the only commercially fished species. It is difficult to estimate how many Russian River fish are caught, but probably around 10% of the total population. Historically, Russian River Coho were heavily fished, which undoubtedly significantly affected the fish population.

8. Marin RCD's Permit Coordination Program Proposed Funding Request

The Marin Resource Conservation District (RCD) offers a variety of programs to facilitate the construction of conservation projects, particularly by providing land owners with resources to support conservation on private lands. While restoration projects on private property should be able to happen quickly, permitting can often significantly delay this process. The Marin RCD has previously implemented a program which allows them to drastically reduce permitting time by getting preapproved for certain restoration practices in a defined geographic area, which streamlines the CEQA process. In April of 2017 the NBWA Board heard a presentation from the Marin RCD about how they are currently working to get this permit coordination program renewed, in addition to efforts to expand both the number of approved practices under this process and to expand the geographic where these practices can be implemented. The Marin RCD is currently seeking funding to finalize the proposal to renew their permit coordination program and have requested \$25,906 from the NBWA to finalize the analytical work necessary for this proposal and expedite their ability to provide residents in Marin the necessary resources to implement conservation efforts on private properties. The NBWA's Joint Technical Committee reviewed this proposal, and after recommending the funding request be increased to include outreach efforts, recommend the Board approves this funding request.

The funding request for \$25,906 was unanimously approved by the NBWA Board.

9. Items of Interest

10. Items for the next agenda

- Dr. Andrew Gunther, Climate Change and the North Bay
- Robin Grossinger, San Francisco Estuary Institute – Re-oaking the Valleys: new strategies for enhancing local biodiversity and resilience

Next meeting information: June 2nd, 2017 – Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Ave, Novato, CA

SUBMITTED BY:
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