

# North Bay Watershed Association

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

Date: Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue, Novato, CA

## Directors Present Included:

| <b>Board Member</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                     | <b>Board Member</b> | <b>Organization</b>                   |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Michael Boorstein   | Central Marin Sanitation Agency                         | Megan Clark         | Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District |
| Pam Drew            | City of Novato  | Jack Gibson         | Marin Municipal Water District        |
| Mike Healy          | City of Petaluma  | Rick Frites         | North Marin Water 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   |                     |                                       |

Directors presents represented 12 of the 19 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

## Board Actions:

1. Call to Order – Jack Gibson, Chair, calls the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
2. Public Comment – No public comments
3. Approval of the Agenda – The agenda was unanimously approved.
4. Approval of Minutes – The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.
5. Treasurer’s Report – Judy Kelly, NBWA Executive Director, reported that the NBWA is in good financial standing.
6. Summer 2017 NBWA Newsletter – In place of this month’s Director’s Report, the NBWA’s quarterly newsletter was send out highlighting the current happenings at the NBWA, as well as a variety of member projects. To read the NBWA Summer 2017 Newsletter please visit: <http://nbwatershed.org/email-newsletter/>.
7. Re-Oaking the Valleys: new strategies for local biodiversity and resilience – Robin Grossinger, Senior Scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), along with Erica Spotswood, Applied Ecologist at SFEI, presented on research, findings, and identified opportunities outlined by their forthcoming report entitled ‘Re-Oaking Silicon Valley’ (link to be provided on the NBWA website shortly). Their research examines the historic role oak trees played in the regional landscape, and how these trees can be reintegrated into the developed California landscape to provide a range of ecosystem services. In particular, this research examined how ecological resilience can be built to prepare for anticipated climate change, and how this resilience can provide some of the historical ecological benefits that existed prior to large scale landscape development. Robin further explained that the project aimed to identify methods to boost ecosystem services in a manner that benefits both regional biodiversity as well as the people who live here.

Scientists from the San Francisco Estuary Institute are now eager to find regional partners throughout the Bay Area who can partner to collaboratively apply the findings from this study to develop regional strategies and implementation plans. In addition to identifying scientifically informed strategies for introducing resilient, native oak species that provide a wide array of ecosystem services, these

implementation plans can also include multi-disciplinary components that provide educational resources, community outreach, and mapping tools.

Q: How should Bay Trees, which compete with Oaks, be dealt with? Should they be removed? A: Bay trees should not be planted in areas well suited for Oaks in this region moving forward. Q: How should safety concerns about dead branches on Oak trees be dealt with? A: The dead components/branches of Oak trees are ecologically very valuable, but a systematic approach is needed to make sure the locations of aging trees do not pose a public safety risk. Additionally, there may be pruning practices which reduce the risk of falling limbs in heavily populated areas.

More information: <http://www.sfei.org/projects/re-oaking#sthash.WNN1LR1L.dpbs>.

8. Climate Change and the North Bay – Dr. Andrew Gunther, Ph.D., Executive Coordinator of the Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium, provided an overview of the science describing global climate change, and in particular, discussed some of the effects this phenomenon will have on the North Bay. Locally, climate change will significantly impact: the availability of water, the productivity of farms, forests, and fisheries, the concentrations of air pollutants, increase oppressive heat and humidity, alter the geography of disease, increase damage from storms, droughts, and wildfires, incur property loss as a result of sea level rise, and reduce the distribution and abundance of species, among other potential threats. However, of all the threats posed by climate change, Dr. Gunther stated one of the most impactful consequences of climate change will be the political cascade of events which could be initiated by the migration of people as they seek to escape the negative consequences of a changing climate.

Dr. Gunther concluded his presentation by highlighting the hope evident in the apparent global plateau of greenhouse gas emissions, and in the ability of existing technologies to replace carbon-producing energy sources. Furthermore, a relatively small financial investment now to mitigate the effects of climate change could prevent massive economic costs if the moderate to worst-case climate scenarios are allowed to play out.

Comment: Grant Davis of the Sonoma County Water Agency applauded Dr. Gunther's work to highlight the importance of addressing climate change, and called regional agencies to be leaders on climate action, stating that local leadership will make large-scale climate action possible.

For more information on Dr. Andrew Gunther, please visit: <http://andrewgunther.com/>.

9. Items of Interest
- Leigh Sharp of the Napa RCD thanked the NBWA for their support of the Napa Watershed Symposium which took place last month.
  - Jared Vollmer announced that the EPA is finishing up a Historical Hydrology Study of the Petaluma River Watershed in partnership with the San Francisco Estuary Institute and the Sonoma RCD. This project will be presented to the NBWA Board in September 2017.
10. Items for the Next Agenda
- Marin Stormwater Resource Plan – *Rob Carson, Marin County*
  - Central Marin Sanitation Agency Facilities Tour - *Jason Dow, General Manager, CMSA*

**Next meeting information:** July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Central Marin Sanitation Agency, 1301 Anderson Drive, San Rafael, CA - *Please note new meeting location*

SUBMITTED BY:  
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