North Bay Watershed Association

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

Date: Friday, December 1st, 2017
Location: Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson Street, Novato, CA

Director's Present Included:

Board Member	Organization	Board Member	Organization
Diane Furst	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Leon Garcia	Napa County Flood Cont. & Water Cons. Dist.
Mariam Aboudamous	City of American Canyon	Ryan Gregory	Napa Sanitation District
Pam Drew	City of Novato	Rick Fraites	North Marin Water District
Teresa Barrett	City of Petaluma	Brant Miller	Novato Sanitary District
Damon Connolly	County of Marin	Pamela Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District
Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District		

Directors present represent 11 of the 19 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

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 meeting were approved with one abstention.
5. Treasurer's Report – Judy Kelly, NBWA Executive Director, presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Cheryl Howlett, NBWA treasurer. The NBWA is in good financial standing heading into the 2018 Conference.
6. Director's Report – For updated news from the NBWA please read the winter 2017 newsletter at nbwatershed.org/email-newsletter/.

7. **North Bay Fires: Response and Recovery** – Christina Grosso, Scott Dusterhoff, and Meg Sedlak from the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) discussed the fires that swept the North Bay in October of 2017, water quality and sediment monitoring in the watersheds affected by the fires, and finally described current efforts to develop the Watershed Atlas, an online tool tracking fire response and recovery efforts.

   Directly following the fires a series of Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT) reports were released for each fire by a collaborative group involving Cal Fire, which described each fire event and the associated impacts. Included in these reports are debris flow and flash flooding hazard maps, and anticipated erosion rates for the next year. These reports indicate that a 10-fold increase in erosion is anticipated in the Nuns fire area, and a 22 fold increase in erosion is anticipated in the area of the Atlas fire.

   Typically water quality declines after fires, particularly when urban areas burn, which produces much more toxic waste than when wildlands burn. In particular, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, metals, sediment, phosphorus and nitrates are seen in higher concentrations following fire events. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), in partnership with a variety of other local and regional agencies, are monitoring a variety of potential water contaminants pre and post storms this winter to detect impacts to water quality. SFEI is beginning to conduct broader, non-targeted monitoring to determine if there are other toxins present in watersheds post-fire that need to be monitored for human

or environmental safety. Q: How does the RWQCB choose which toxins to monitor? A: They use a list of chemicals known to be harmful to humans or the environment. Q: What does SFEI expect to find with the non-targeted toxin study? How will this information be used? A: It is unclear what will be found, but any information will be reported out in presentation and a memorandum which will be available to interested parties. Protocols will be developed to monitor newly discovered toxins. It is possible that the study will discover that all toxins of concern are currently being monitored.

Q: How do we study the effectiveness of Best Management Practices (BMPs) which are used to slow erosion and prevent sediment and debris from entering water ways? Who is responsible for studying this question?

In order to monitor sediment following fires it is important to monitor hillslope, channel, and sediment transport changes. More sediment gages are needed throughout affected watersheds and could be used to help understand the effectiveness of BMPs.

The R3MP Watershed Atlas is being used to track post-fire activity and make data available in one map for regional agencies collaborating on the fire recovery effort. Summary layers are being developed which can present metrics for the completed recovery efforts. View the Watershed Atlas at: r3mp.ecoatlas.org/.

8. **Additional Fire Response Activities**
   Ken Schwarz Ph.D., of Horizon Water and Environment, and Judy Kelly, presented on the various fire response actions being taken regionally in the North Bay, both by NBWA member agencies as well as other regional entities. Ken noted that regional efforts to recover from the 2017 wildfires are extensive, but that there appeared to be significant collaboration between organizations taking recovery actions. Ongoing recovery will require continued communication and coordination between agencies and the NBWA aims to use their platform as a regional connection between agencies to foster that communication.

   Q: How long does the hydrophobic layer of soil (caused by high heat fire activity) persist? A: 2 – 3 years, however local scientists are finding that logs of wildland areas had low severity burn, so widespread hydrophobicity in the soil is limited.

   The list that Ken and Judy Kelly developed can be found on the NBWA website alongside the December 2017 Board Meeting presentations: nbwatershed.org/board_meeting/.

9. Items of Interest

10. Items for the Next Agenda
    - Climate Change Actions from Bonn to the North Bay – Ellie Cohen, Point Blue
    - Carbon Sequestration in Napa County – Leigh Sharp & Charles Schembre, Napa RCD

Next Meeting Information: January 5, 2017 – Petaluma Community Center, 320 N McDowell Blvd, Petaluma, CA

SUBMITTED BY:
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