

North Bay Watershed Association

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

Date: Friday, February 2nd, 2018 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson Street, Novato CA, 94945

Directors Present Included:

Board Member	Agency/Organization	Board Member	Agency/Organization
Diane Furst	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Leon Garcia	Napa Co. Flood Control & Water Cons. Dist.
Steve Hartwig	City of American Canyon		
Pam Drew	City of Novato	Rick Fraites	North Marin Water District
Paul Jensen	City of San Rafael	Brant Miller	Novato Sanitary District
Megan Clark	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Pamela Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District

Directors present represented 9 of the 18 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

Board Actions:

1. Call to Order – Jack Gibson, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.
2. Public Comment – The NBWA Board acknowledged and congratulated Chris DeGabriele on his new position as interim general manager of the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District.
3. Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved with one abstention.
4. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the previous Board meeting were approved with one abstention.
5. Treasurer’s Report – The NBWA is in excellent financial shape going into the 2018 conference.
6. Director’s Report – Judy Kelly, NBWA executive director presented the following information:
 - o The Restoration Authority met in December and will be making recommendations on the first round of money available through Measure AA on April 6th (the day of the NBWA Conference). Sam Schuchat (California Coastal Conservancy) will be able to discuss those decisions at the conference.
 - o Mark your calendar – April 6th, 2018 is the NBWA Conference. At the Board meeting following the conference on May 4th, 2018 we will have a special Board tour of restored wetland sites in conjunction with the Joint Venture. This tour will extent 30 minutes beyond the normal Board meeting time. More information will follow.
 - o Funding News: EPA SF Bay Water Quality Improvement fund provided monies for several North Bay projects including \$822K for restoration along the Napa River, \$19K for Sonoma County to do more accurate mapping of streams, and \$275 for the Coastal Conservancy for a sea level rise mapping in Humboldt County.
 - o Check out the latest editions of Bay Nature (baynature.org/) and Estuary News (www.sfestuary.org/estuary-news-/estuary-news-december-2017/).
7. 2018 NBWA Conference Preview – Judy Kelly updated the NBWA Board on the planning progress of the 2018 conference and provided a preview of the conference program, speakers, and location. Of particular note, Brad Sherwood (SCWA) will be leading a guided discussion and Q&A with Congressmen Jared Huffman and Mike Thompson at the conference. Board members and interested parties are requested to send questions they would like answered by the congressmen to NBWA@scwa.ca.gov. Please also note, we have a new funding structure for the NBWA conference where member agencies are not automatically asked to financially support the conference but all are most welcome to do so. Also a reminder that just as in past years, complimentary tickets are not automatically available for Board members and their agencies. If your agency is interested in sponsoring the conference and receiving sponsor benefits including complimentary tickets, please email Sophie.Porcelli@scwa.ca.gov for more information.

Q: Could we provide discounted tickets for those with disabilities? A: The planning committee will discuss.

For more information on the conference please visit: nbwatershed.org/conferences/.

8. Marin County's Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning – Chris Choo, planner, Marin County, provided an update on the latest reporting, adaptation planning, and funding that is available to address the oncoming threats of sea level rise to the communities, infrastructure, and environment in Marin County. Marin County has completed an extensive report, gathering data to assess the impacts of six possible levels of sea level rise and analyzing how those impacts will affect infrastructure, assets, communities, and environmental conditions. Now the County is working on policy guidance and adaptation strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of these conditions. This policy guidance is particularly focused on land use and capital project planning. The following funding mechanisms for sea level rise projects were discussed: Caltrans SB1 (rebuildingca.ca.gov/), Measure AA (currently 22 projects submitted including 10 in the North Bay), and funding through the Marin Community Foundation is becoming available for nature-based solutions to mitigate the effects of sea level rise.

Q: Are these grants looking at 'worst case' sea level rise scenarios? A: They are looking at incremental sea level rise scenarios. Q: When projects are proposed is there going to be any streamlined regulatory processes (particularly regarding CEQA)? A: The Regional Board is involved in this process, so regulatory streamlining may be possible. Q: Once adaptation projects are implemented, will information about these projects be available to the public? A: SFEI hopes to create a tool to make this information available, but there may not be a seamless information sharing process available. Very few projects have been completed, so regional collaboration and documentation is important. Q: In some places, levees are the only tool available to save communities from chronic flooding. If regulatory agencies won't permit levee construction, homes will be drowned. Will the regulatory process allow levees in these areas? A: Levee construction will be allowed, money (particularly in the environmental permitting process) will be the limiting factor. Q: Is urban retreat part of the adaptation discussion? Are planners also considering seismic risk of adaptation strategies? A: Retreat is part of the discussion, buyouts and other retreat strategies are being discussed, but there are greater implications of retreat for utilities and infrastructure, not just personal property that need to be considered.

Visit the County of Marin website for more information on these projects and reports:

www.marincounty.org/main/marin-sea-level-rise.

9. Overview and What's New at Novato Sanitary District – Sandeep Karkal, general manager of the Novato Sanitary District (NSD), provided an overview of the District and described some of their most current successes and challenges. The NSD is a special district which serves ~60K in the Novato area by providing wastewater collection and treatment, reclamation, recycled water, and solid waste collection and processing. Wastewater collected by the NSD is treated at the secondary level. During the summer all flows from the treatment plant are recycled and used beneficially on pasture and in wetlands. In a collaborative effort with the North Marin Water District the NSD also provides tertiary treated water for irrigation to local businesses including the Stonetree Golf Course, a cemetery, a fire station, and the Marin Country Club. Some of the key challenges the district faces relate to retirement and staffing, the regulatory climate (which can be burdensome), and the lack of state and federal funding. Q: Is there outreach to schools for people interested in entering the sanitation industry? A: Yes – there are regional efforts to get students interested in this industry through the Solano and Santa Rosa Junior Colleges, and NSD offers internships. For more information about the Novato Sanitary District please visit www.novatosan.com/.

10. Items of Interest

11. Items for the Next Agenda

- IRWMP North Bay Funding Recommendations – *Nahol Ghoghaie, Env. Justice Coalition for Water*
- Lagunitas: New Fish and Less Sediment – *Greg Andrew, Fisheries Program Manager*
- Reducing Non-point Source Pollutants in the North Bay: Agricultural, Vineyard Waivers and Expected Results – *Jim Ponton, Non-point Source Regional Coordinator, Regional Board (2)*

Next Meeting Information: March 2nd, 2018, Marin Municipal Water District, Board Room, 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925

SUBMITTED BY:
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