

# North Bay Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

May 3, 2024 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

City of Petaluma: Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility  
3890 Cypress Dr, Petaluma, CA 94954

Zoom was available for those to attend virtually  
[www.nbwatershed.org](http://www.nbwatershed.org)

## 1. **Welcome and Call to Order—Directors, Member Representatives Present Included:**

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Brad Sherwood – Sonoma Water
Jason Dow – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
John Shribbs – City of Petaluma	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Leon Garcia – City of American Canyon	Jena Gelso – NBWA
Pat Eklund – City of Novato	Dana Brechwald – Guest Speaker
Kate Hagemann – City of San Rafael	Oriana Hart – Public
Ron Wellander – City of Sonoma	Neil Hancock – Public
Susan Gorin – County of Sonoma	Stephen Keese – Public
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Sachi Itagaki – Public (Kennedy Jenks)
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Bob Bundy – Public
Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District	Poyom Riles – Public
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	Sandi Potter – Public
Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency	Julia Reinhard – Public

Thirteen NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 26-member agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public. Meeting participants attended in-person and remote via Zoom.

1. **Welcome and Call to Order – Roll Call and Introductions** – Chair Mariani called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and took roll call.
2. **General Public Comment** – None
3. **Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes Review**– Chair Mariani asked for any Board members to speak up if there were requested changes to the agenda. No comments. Director Boorstein moved to approve the agenda. Director Patterson seconded; None opposed—Unanimously approved.  
Chair Mariani asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes for March. No comments. Director Boorstein moved to approve the minutes. Director Patterson seconded; None opposed—Unanimously approved.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

No comments on the March and April Treasurer’s Reports. Director Garcia moved to approve the March and April Treasurer’s Report; Director Shribbs seconded—Unanimously accepted.

#### 4. **Guest Presentation: BCDC'S Regional Shoreline Adaption Plan**

*Dana Brechwald, Assistant Planning Director for Climate Adaption, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)*

BCDC's Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan is currently developing guidelines that local jurisdictions will use as they develop subregional adaptation required by SB 272, passed last October. The guidelines will shape what elements those plans should contain and how they should be developed.

Andy invited Dana to present on the regional shoreline adaptation plan. The plan aims to guide local governments in creating adaptation plans by 2034, prioritizing resources to frontline communities and ensuring the long-term health of the region's wetlands. Dana also discussed the potential for regional coordination, the importance of innovative planning, and the role of local governments in adaptation planning. The team discussed potential concerns, including the need for sea walls, the impact on wetlands, and forecasted costs, with Dana providing clarifications and suggesting tools for projections. Dana also encouraged collaboration on workshops and the potential for improved coordination between various agencies.

There was discussion regarding the planning for the 2034 deadline, focusing on the SB1 Grant program and the importance of applying for it. Dana clarified that if a grant is not received, the project would need to rely on their own resources, emphasizing the need for a 5-year update cycle for the plans. The group highlighted the challenges of the permitting process and called for streamlining it. Andy suggested considering the BCDC's role in the context of climate change and proposed a presentation explaining their purpose and projects, while Katherine indicated that infrastructure vulnerability to sea level rise would be a focus for the coming months.

The full presentation is in PDF format and can be found at [www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-19](http://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-19)

Link to the Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Investment Framework Final Report was provided in the chat: [https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2023-07/SLR\\_Framework\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2023-07/SLR_Framework_Final_Report.pdf)

#### Questions/Comments:

Director Schribbs: How far up the Petaluma slush is going to be part of this regional plan? Are the numbers you mentioned earlier, are those based on a 3-level C level rise by 2100 or what is the actual base data?

Brechwald: only the cities and counties that are required to participate in this plan are those that have BCDC jurisdiction. They are encouraging cities and counties out of their jurisdiction to participate as well.

The 110 billion dollars is based on 4.9 feet, which is 1.7 feet of sea level rise plus a storm surge. That's a 2050 number that we're using.

They will be putting out recommended standards for sea level rise projections or minimum standards for sea level rise projections based on the new Ocean Protection Council guidelines soon.

Director Eklund: [She would like to work with BCDC to schedule more workshops in Marin Sonoma and some of the counties in the North Bay.] [Dana and her will be in touch.]

Bundy (Public): [Representing Corte Madera Flood Board] They just completed their Stormwater Master Plan and flood risk; there are 2 areas of concern related to BCDC. What is going to be involved in working with BCDC on regulations to allow for flood protection to prevent homes from flooding.

Brechwald: If it's in BCC's jurisdiction, it would require a permit through BCDC. The plan that I that I just described is not a regulatory plan. Each individual shoreline project would need its own permit. They are working to better align the plan with the permitting process.

*In response to some questions, Dana shared a link to the Bay Shoreline Flood Explorer: <https://explorer.adaptingtorisingtides.org/home>. The Adapting to Rising Tides program has developed this website to help Bay Area communities prepare for the impacts of current and future flooding due to sea level rise and storm surges by learning about causes of flooding, exploring maps of flood risk along our shoreline, and downloading the data for further analysis. These maps increase understanding of what could be at risk without future planning and adaptation, helping Bay communities, governments, and businesses to drive action.*

Director Patterson: Solano is split between jurisdictions with a Delta Protection Commission, the Delta Stewardship Council and other agencies. To what extent are you working, or should be working, or what can we do to do a better coordination with that scenario. The second part is that if there is a regional plan adopted, why can't there be a master plan that you could tear off to streamline your potential NEPA and CEQA process?

Brechwald: We do work with the Delta Stewardship Council fairly closely, and they've been go doing their own vulnerability, assessment, and adaptation, planning.

We have an ongoing communication with the Delta Stewardship Council. They're supportive of the guidelines. They'll be reviewing the guidelines. Hopefully there won't be anything in that's in conflict that would preempt cities in the Delta from participating in this plan.

We don't have the capacity to get into the level of detail that would be necessary for local adaptation planning. We are also not going through environmental review for our plan. We're encouraging the county take the lead on that on the planning, and that local governments tear off a county plan similar to the way that local hazard mitigation planning is done in many places around the region. But we're not a Bay Area plan. Bay area does go through environmental review process. It's really important that the decisions about adaptation happen at the local level with local buy in.

Director Clark: If you don't get a grant, then you have to rely on RSAP and your own resources?

Brechwald: The SB1 Grant program is a noncompetitive grant program that has around 57 million dollars in that grant program at the moment. We are encouraging people to go to that source first. There are other planning grants that are available and should be applied for starting now. BCDC is

not providing funding. Having an adopted plan that aligns with 272 does open some more doors when it comes to being eligible for grants.

## 5. **Wrap-up: April 19 NBWA Biennial Conference**

Andy provided overview of the successful first in-person & live streamed conference since 2018, including the 15 speakers across four different sessions. Cities represented were vast, including Washington DC and Santiago, Chile.

<u>Total participants</u>	\$36,000 in sponsorships
○ In Person	\$8,685 gross ticket sales
– 126 registered	
– 116 attended	
○ Virtual	After taxes and fees from ticket sales,
– 20 attended	total income to the NBWA is \$42,929.39.

Andy expressed his pride in the committee's efforts and the successful execution of the conference, highlighting the strong participation from various regions and the significant sponsorship and ticket sales revenue. He also noted the creation of a new social media presence for the organization, with the help of an outreach consultant, which will allow for targeted promotion of future events and initiatives. The conference's success was attributed to the contributions of the committee, sponsors, exhibitors, and volunteers.

- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/nbwatershed](http://www.instagram.com/nbwatershed)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nbwatershed>
- LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/nbwatershed](http://www.linkedin.com/company/nbwatershed)

Post-event survey results (18 respondents (16% of total attendees)) was shared, along with additional feedback and suggestions. A majority expressed satisfaction and indicated a desire for more intermingling of events post-Covid. The feedback also revealed an interest from students and highlighted the value they added to the event. Andy acknowledged some technical issues and emphasized the importance of in-person presentations, criticizing remote ones as less engaging.

These details can be found by viewing NBWA's full presentation is in PDF format and can be found at [www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-19](http://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-19)

Thank you, Conference Committee.

Access PDF copies of conference presentations and resources are linked at [www.nbwatershed.org/event/conf2024](http://www.nbwatershed.org/event/conf2024)

## 6. **Executive Director Report**

*Andy Rodgers, Executive Director*

Andy provided updates and solicited board input on activities since the February 2 Board meeting, including association administration updates, and other activities, programs and communications.

### Updates since last meeting

- Held NBWA Biennial Conference on April 19!
- Attended CASQA Legislation subcommittee meetings on March 27 and April 24

- Attended North Bay Baylands Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) community meeting on April 26

### **Administrative Activities**

- Finalized NBWA FY2024-25 workplan
- Coordinated with Board Chair, Finance Manager
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants
- Updated website and meeting packet information

### **Communications**

- Distributed Quarterly newsletter Spring 2022
- Board members and member agency staff
- Regional partners
- Subject matter experts and speakers

### **Committees**

- Met numerous times with Conference Subcommittee, sponsors, speakers, session panelists, staff, SSU, vendors, partners, exhibitors, inquires numerous times!

Quarterly Newsletter – Spring 2024. Andy suggested that the Board help expand distribution by forwarding to partner agency contacts, funding agency staff, other department staff, information officers/communications, and resharing on social media!

Forward newsworthy items to NBWA staff ([northbaywa@gmail.com](mailto:northbaywa@gmail.com)) for the next issue. All previous newsletters can be found at [www.nbwatershed.org/email-newsletter](http://www.nbwatershed.org/email-newsletter)

Andy provided insight into the FY 2024/25 NBWA Work Plan, including the Small Grants and Scholarship Programs, Resiliency Workforce Development, and put out a request to all member agencies to consider transition in the NBWA Administering Agency. Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) has served as NBWA fiscal agent since association inception

### **FY 2024-25 Board Meetings**

- |                    |                     |           |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| • July 12          | • November 1        | • April 4 |
| • August 2 (skip?) | • December 6        | • May 2   |
| • September 6      | • January 3 (skip?) | • June 6  |
| • October 4        | • February 7        |           |
|                    | • March 7           |           |

## **7. Board Information Exchange**

Director Boorstein: CSMA is beginning to study nutrient removal in anticipation of it becoming a requirement.

Director Schibbs: At last Monday's Petaluma City Council meeting we were presented with the General Plan frameworks policy statements, all 14 sections, which included flood management and water management. There is a huge push on climate change actions by the city. It's very comprehensive and he encourages others to look at it and see if other cities might like to join [Petaluma] in in this leadership role of what they're doing.

Director Patterson: The update on the Benecia waterline—it failed not in this last atmospheric river deluge, but the prior one—FEMA had agreed after several months to pay for that

failure. There was a temporary fix, and contracts were to begin to realign the pipeline underground, but the slope failed again. The city continues to live off of four smaller pipes that are serving the city.

California Forever did succeed in getting an initiative on the ballot in November. The project will inevitably change the drainage significantly affecting the Jepson prairie area. Staff was not at the NBWA conference because they were testifying in Sacramento regarding Delta issues/changes by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Director Meigs: RVSD is celebrating 125 years— I believe we're the only one in state that's been alive that long. Celebration anticipated to take place on May 28.

Director Clark: Ron Ford excused himself from the LGVSD Board and they found a replacement, Barry Nitzberg, that they are excited about.

Director Eklund: At the last BCDC meeting, we received a briefing on the Santa Rafael Richmond Bridge public pathway pilot project and I wanted to welcome any input from any of the organizations here, as you know, ABAG, which I serve on representing Marin County cities, approved the pathway as part of the bay trail. Send comments to her if you have any.

She also recommends a presentation from Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (“OneShoreline”). They recently presented to BCDC about the impact on sea level rise and zoning that this group may find value in.

Director Hageman: This summer the City of San Rafael going to be looking at the vulnerability of critical facilities, including water wastewater infrastructure. For those that are in our area, they would love to partner. For those outside the area, if you have templates or past reports where you've looked at the asset level— looking at specific elevations, specific flood depths—that’s the kind of work they will be doing; please share resources if you have can.

Director Garcia: American Canyon is moving forward to get the recycled water to all the older parks in the city. There is a new housing area, Watson Ranch, that will have energy and water saving elements in the build. Vine trail is now progressing. Fundraising for the ecology center is gaining momentum.

## 8. **Announcements/Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 am

Next Board Meeting: June 7

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA