

North Bay Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

October 4 2024 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Mare Island Brewing Co.
850 Nimitz Ave, Vallejo, CA 94592

Zoom was available for those to attend virtually
www.nbwatershed.org

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

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Leon Garcia – City of American Canyon	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
John Shribbs – City of Petaluma	Jenna Gelso – West Yost
Ron Wellander – City of Sonoma	Chelsea Thompson – City of Petaluma
Crystal Martinez – County of Marin	Tracy Clay – Marin DPW
Susan Gorin – County of Sonoma	Anne Miller – Guest Presenter
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Kent Fortner – Guest Presenter
Larry Russel – Marin Municipal Water District	Chris Delaney – Guest Presenter
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Karen Kovolo – Public
Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District	Bob Bundy – Public
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	Sandeep Karkal – Novato Sanitary District
Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency	Kate Powers – Public
	Stephen Keese – Public
	Sonya Bennett-Brandt – Public/KneeDeep Times

Twelve 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 remotely via Zoom.

1. **Welcome and Call to Order – Roll Call and Introductions** – Chair Mariani called the meeting to order at 9:34 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. None opposed—Unanimously approved.

Chair Mariani asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes for the August 30 Board meeting. No comments. None opposed—Unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report

No comments on the July 1 to September 30, 2024 Treasurer’s Reports. Director Garcia moved to approve the June Treasurer’s Report; Director Patterson moved. Director Clark seconded—Unanimously accepted.

4. **Guest Presentation – The incredible (and incredibly colorful) history of Mare Island**

Kent Fortner, President of the Board of Directors of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation and Founder of Mare Island Brewing Co.

Kent provided a rapid-fire slideshow of the incredible (and incredibly colorful and impactful) history of Mare Island, starting with the planting of a flagpole in 1954, its strategic location for shipbuilding, and its deep-water channel that allowed the construction and deployment of ships. He shared stories about the USS Saginaw, the first ship built on the island, and its shipwreck. Kent also recounted an encounter with William Halford's descendant and the naming of their first beer, Saginaw Gold Nail. He highlighted the island's features, including refurbished coal sheds, dry docks, and ammunition bunkers, and mentioned its role in aircraft carrier development and submarine construction during World War II. Kent shared his personal experience of restoring a 1916 officers' quarters house on the island and his involvement with the local historic foundation.

Kent discussed the historical significance of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, particularly its role in World War II and the construction of the atomic bomb. He shared the tragic story of the USS Indianapolis, which delivered the bomb's parts and was stationed on the island, and the subsequent survival of 800 sailors. Kent also mentioned the restoration of the island's flagpole and the National Park Service's plans to bring historic ships to the island.

The full presentation is unavailable in PDF format.

5. **Guest Presentation – Mare Island Infrastructure Assessment (MIIA) Project Overview**

Anne Girtz, PE, Senior Engineer, West Yost

Anne presented assessment highlights from the Mare Island infrastructure assessment project which covered the water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage and flood control, roads, and dry utility systems on Mare Island.

Anne discussed a project assessing the infrastructure systems on Mare Island, focusing on water, sewer, and storm systems. The project, initiated in November 2022, involved various desktop and field evaluations, with results presented to the client team. A public open house was held in September, and preliminary results and a report are currently being presented to the city and board. The project is grant-funded, with additional work identified, leading to a request for an extension. The project involved multiple stakeholders, including the City of Vallejo, City of Vallejo Water Department, City of Vallejo Public Works Department, Vallejo Flood & Wastewater District, and Mare Island Company. The project's scope included assessing the condition of the existing infrastructure and determining necessary improvements to serve current and future needs. Anne also discussed the condition and seismic assessment of water tanks and pipelines on the islands, the testing of critical pipelines, and the flow monitoring and analysis of the sanitary sewer system. She highlighted the need for improving the pipelines to reduce inflow and infiltration. Anne also discussed the assessments conducted on the storm drainage and sea level rise, the need for improvements such as storm drains or sea walls to accommodate this rise, and the seawalls that run from the finger piers in the south to the causeway in the north. The City is seeking an extension for additional funding for the seawall and sewer system work, and Mare Island Company will use the information for their planning work and infrastructure planning.

Anne presented the project's findings and recommendations, emphasizing the need for additional assessments and future funding.

The full presentations in PDF format and can be found at <https://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-22>

6. Guest Presentation – Overview of Russian River Watershed Pilot Project

Chris Delaney, Principal Engineer, Sonoma Water

Chris Delaney gave a brief talk on the Russian River Watershed Resilience Project. This past July, Sonoma Water received a 2-million-dollar grant award from the California Department of Water Resources to develop a climate resilience plan for the Russian River Watershed by April 2026. Chris's talk covered the major project tasks and the anticipated outcomes.

Chris discussed the Watershed Resilience Pilot Project, a DWR program focused on climate change resilience planning at the watershed scale for the Russian River region. The project involves setting the stage, exploring climate hazards, assessing vulnerabilities and risks, developing adaptation strategies, and implementation and monitoring, with a strong emphasis on equity and inclusivity. Chris provided details on the pilot project's approach and next steps.

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7. Executive Director Report

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Andy provided updates and solicited board input on activities since the August 30 Board meeting, including association administration updates, and other activities, programs, and communications.

High level updates Andy provided are:

Updates since last meeting

- Held NBWA Board meeting at Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility – August 30
- Attend BAIRWM coordinating committee meeting September 23
- Attend CASQA legislation committee meeting September 25

Administrative Activities

- Calendar scheduling
- Coordinate with Board Chair and Treasurer
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants
- Updated website and meeting packet information
- Bel Marin Keys potentially pausing membership

Communications

- Coordinate Mare Island tour & presentations
- Draft quarterly newsletter content
- Prepare content/oversee delivery of NBWA social media program
- Draft candidate options for NBWA logo refresh
- Met with Sonoma State to develop ideas for resiliency workforce development initiative

Committees

- Poll for participation on Resiliency Workforce Development committee
- Schedule Small Grants and Scholarship Subcommittee meeting

Water Workforce Resiliency Program Development

- NBWA staff and member agencies are collaborating in a north bay region focused meeting series led by BAYWORK.
- This forum has been meeting since the NBWA April 19 conference.

NBWA Administering Agency Transition

- NBWA ratified a Treasury Services contract with CMSA at July 17 Special Board meeting
- CMSA is currently preparing FY24/25 Member Invoices for mailing.
- NBWA Administrative Agency Meeting Scheduled for October 18
- We plan to bring a draft resolution to November 8 NBWA Board meeting appreciating MMWD for providing the north bay region with 24 years of in-kind treasurer services and support.

Small Grants and Scholarship Programs

- First subcommittee meeting complete!
 - Refined purpose and goals for the Subcommittee
 - Discussed draft scope of the Small Grants and Scholarship Program
- Board provided input at the August 30 meeting
- Second subcommittee meeting scheduled Friday, October 18
 - Discussing the identified potential partners who already have Small Grants and Scholarship Program
 - Reviewing draft materials for in-house Small Grants and Scholarship Program

25-Year Celebration

Andy reminded the Board that the NBWA MOU was signed in 2000 and suggested planning a celebration in 2025. More details will follow.

Sponsorship - 2024 Napa County Watershed Symposium

Event taking place on December 5, 2024 at the Culinary Institute of America at Copia. Event tickets will be available for purchase in September. As a sponsor, NBWA has Four (4) tickets available. Interested members do not register via Eventbrite, email northbaywa@gmail.com

Other Items of Interest: Andy shared two Baywork events that are coming up www.baywork.org/upcoming-events and a Proposition 4 reminder. The Prop would authorize \$10 billion in debt to spend on environmental and climate projects, with the biggest chunk, \$1.9 billion, for drinking water improvements.

The bond prioritizes lower-income communities, and those most vulnerable to climate change, and requires annual audits.

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FY 2024-25 Board Meetings

First Friday of every month - Except of course for holidays!

- November 8
- December 6
- January 3 (skip?)
- February 7
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6

8. Board Information Exchange and Updates

Director Meigs: The smart meters are working.

Director Fraites: Headquarters is in the final stages.

Director Patterson: She attended the Bay-Delta Science conference. Many great presentations were provided and she can send links if anyone is interested.

Director Meigs: There has been an update to FOG (Fat, oils, and grease). There's now a new one called FOGG—the extra G is for gloves. They are finding a lot of gloves in the lines and she and her team are promoting proper disposal of gloves.

9. Announcements/Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am

Next Board Meeting: November 8 at Ross Valley Sanitary District

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA