

North Bay Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

June 7, 2024 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Virtual meeting

Zoom was available
www.nbwatershed.org

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

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District
Leon Garcia – City of American Canyon	Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District
John Shribbs – City of Petaluma	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Cory Bytof – City of San Rafael	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Ron Wellander – City of Sonoma	Ranjiv Khush – Marin Municipal Water District
Susan Gorin – County of Sonoma	Tasha Newman – Guest Speaker
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Jack Gibson – Public
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Crystal Martinez – Representative of Director Sackett
Ryan Gregory – Napa Sanitation District	John Hart – Public
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Stephen Keese – Public

Twelve NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 20-member agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public. Meeting participants attended remotely via Zoom.

1. **Welcome and Call to Order – Roll Call and Introductions** – Chair Mariani called the meeting to order at 9:32 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 Schribbs moved to approve the agenda. Director Gorin seconded; None opposed—Unanimously approved.

Chair Mariani asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes for May. No comments. Director Gorin moved to approve the minutes. Director Boorstein seconded; None opposed—Unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report

No comments on the May Treasurer’s Reports. Director Garcia moved to approve the May Treasurer’s Report; Director Boorstein moved. Director Garcia seconded—Unanimously accepted.

4. Guest Presentation: Climate Bond Update

Tasha Newman, Principal, Co-Founder, Pacific Policy Group

Tasha informed the board about the status of the Climate Resilience Bond and provided insights regarding support and recommend advocacy that is needed for resiliency funding.

Tasha provided updates on the ongoing budget and bond processes in the state, highlighting the approaching decision-making period in the legislatures. She explained that the legislature needs to provide a budget agreement to the Governor by June 15, which may include general fund cuts due to the current budget deficit. The Governor then has the power to veto line items. The legislature also needs to present a bond package by the same deadline for the Governor's approval, to be included on the November ballot. Tasha reported that the state has been working on two climate resilience bonds since 2018, with negotiations ongoing this year to reduce the bond amounts by about half. The bonds in discussion for the November ballot are an education bond and a climate bond, with the administration prepared to take on an additional \$15 to \$20 billion in bond indebtedness. The climate bond is expected to be around \$8 to \$9 billion, though the education bond's potential funding is uncertain and could affect the total amount. Negotiations are ongoing.

Outreach, Bonds, and Sea Level Rise Funding

Tasha emphasized the importance of outreach to legislators and lead staffers and asked the group for updates on their efforts. The group discussed the current status of the bonds, with Tasha highlighting the need for a focus on priorities such as integrated regional water management, flood protection, and watershed resilience in the upcoming bond package for water resource projects.

Director Clark inquired about funding for outreach and education, and Tasha explained that while bonds usually cover capital projects, grants could provide funding for outreach as a small portion. Tasha also clarified to Director Bytof that while there is funding for sea level rise, it might not be as much as he anticipates, and that the Coastal Conservancy prioritizes green infrastructure over gray infrastructure for sea level rise projects.

- Assembly Speakers Office – Robert Rivas
 - Keith Cialino Policy Consultant , Water, Parks & Wildlife keith.cialino@asm.ca.gov
- Senate Pro Tem's Office – Mike McGuire
 - James Barba Consultant , Environmental Quality/Natural Resources & Water/Transportation james.barba@sen.ca.gov
 - Kip Lipper Chief Advisor , Energy & Environmental kip.lipper@sen.ca.gov
- Senator Allen: Tina Andolina – tina.andolina@sen.ca.gov
- Assemblymember Garcia: Jesus Gonzalez – jesus.gonzalez@asm.ca.gov

The full presentation is in PDF format and can be found at <https://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-31/>

Questions/Comments:

ED Rodgers: During these negotiations, are there actions this Board and their agencies can do?

Newman: Reaching out to representatives reiterating the priorities [of the agencies]. This funding is critical to our region because of [explain] and then say why those funding programs are so important.

5. **Executive Director Report**

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

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

Work Plan Approval, Quarterly Newsletter Review, and Social Media

Andy discussed several key points during the meeting. He announced the approval of the work plan and an upcoming administrative agency transition. He also presented the 2024 Quarterly Newsletter and sought suggestions for future editions.

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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/nbwatershed

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nbwatershed

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/nbwatershed

Additionally, he shared about NBWA's successful social media strategy, developed with Data Instincts, which will continue within the current budget. He highlighted opportunities to promote member agency events, milestones, and projects, with a focus on career opportunities in water, events, and conservation. He summarized benefits to NBWA members from a recent initiative by the Russian River Watershed Association—a forum for wastewater treatment plant operators.

Subcommittee Creation and Fiscal Agency Shift

Andy proposed the creation of a subcommittee for a new grant and scholarship program and for workforce development, with an included emphasis of bilingual and non-English speaking individuals, set to launch in FY24/25. The subcommittee will evaluate needs/opportunities and recommend direction of regional resources and will build on collaborations with BAYWORK and others.

The grant and scholarship program subcommittee, ideally consisting of five member representatives, will assist in creating the framework for the program and will make recommendations for funding levels, with final approval from the board. The first scholarship applications are expected to be due in late January or early February, with evaluation and recommendations from the subcommittee by March or April.

He also announced a shift in the fiscal agency role from MMWD to another member starting next fiscal year. A proposal from the Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA) to manage the North Bay Watershed Association was discussed and is scheduled to be considered for approval at the upcoming commissioner's meeting.

Chair Mariani asked the directors to formally provide direction to Andy regarding the CMSA proposal. Director Bytof moved to approve Andy moving forward with the CMSA proposal and to negotiate a contract, if appropriate. Director Patterson seconded; None opposed—Unanimously approved.

The full presentation is in PDF format and can be found at <https://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-31/>

FY 2024-25 Board Meetings

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

6. Board Information Exchange

Director Gorin: She participated in the Highway 37 policy committee discussion yesterday and the information presented on the Wetlands restoration around the North Bay would make a great presentation for NBWA.

Director Clark: In LGSD's next newsletter they will highlight a recent student tour, the new workforce to come on board, and the careers in wastewater.

Director Garcia: He agrees with Director Gorin regarding importance of wetland restoration and the recent presentation, highlighting the progress made in the American Canyon ecology center and the potential for more educational opportunities.

Director Boorstein: This Tuesday, the CMSA Board will be considering taking over managing the NBWA. They signed a contract to start researching, planning, and budgeting for nutrient removal.

Director Bytof: [question to the Board] Are many of you having to comply with the advanced clean fleets regulation? He suggests this topic be an agenda item at a future meeting.

Chair Mariani: They are discussing this at Novato San. She agrees this will be a great topic for a future meeting.

Director Khush: MMWD is passing a new feasibility study for recreation management on the watershed. Their main focus is improving the resilience of Marin's water supply. They are starting to narrow down possibilities for improved conveyance from the North Bay as well as improved storage.

Director Gregory: They just received a presentation on direct potable reuse; their 1st deep dive into how it could happen and what it would cost. This would be a good topic for a future NBWA presentation.

7. Announcements/Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am

Next Board Meeting: July 12