

## North Bay Watershed Association

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

Date: Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Petaluma Community Center, 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954, Conference Rm. 2

### Directors Present Included:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Adrien Cormier	Bel Marin Keys CSD	Judy Schriebman	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District
Jason Dow	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District
Pam Drew	City of Novato	Larry Russell	Marin Municipal Water District
Mike Healy	City of Petaluma	Keith Caldwell	Napa Sanitation District
Paul Jenson	City of San Rafael	Jack Baker	North Marin Water District
Madolyn Agrimonti	City of Sonoma/Sonoma Valley Co. SD	Brant Miller	Novato Sanitary District
Damon Connolly	County of Marin	Pamela Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District
Megan Clark	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Brad Sherwood	Sonoma County Water Agency

Directors present represented 15 of the 18 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

### Board Actions:

1. **Call to Order** – Jack Gibson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.
2. **Public Comment** – no public comments.
3. **Approval of the Agenda** – (See handout) The board unanimously approved the agenda.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – (See handout) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 were unanimously approved.
5. **Treasurer’s Report** – (See handout) The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as presented by Judy Kelly
6. **Director’s Report** – (See handout) Judy Kelly, Executive Director of the NBWA, presented the Director’s report for September, 2016. Of note, Judy reported that the NBWA Communication Plan Committee held its first meeting on 10/6/16, and that the Sonoma County Water Agency wants to provide in-kind support to produce a broad communication plan outlining key organizational goals, which will be provided to the Board in November. SCWA will also assist with the implementation of the plan in 2017.
7. **Final Report on NBWA LandSmart/STRAW Project** – Gina Graziano (Point Blue Conservation Science) and Eric McKee (Napa County RCD) presented on their collaborative work in conservation education that was enabled due to a previous grant provided by the NBWA. Their goal, outlined by the NBWA’s grant, was to utilize funding to collaborate on educational best practices and optimize education programs in their respective conservation education programs (STRAW & LandSmart). In order to achieve this goal both programs shared classroom educational materials, attended each

other's field lessons, and provided constructive feedback and recommendations to the other educators. As a result of their collaboration both groups were able to receive a variety of program benefits. These benefits include the ability to host Watershed Week, the expansion of the Climate-smart restoration tool (promoting the development of ecosystems which contain a variety of native plant species, yet are also resilient to a changing climate), improved understanding of teacher support and training, restoration site selections, implanting career development in conservation education, and even worked to overcome logistical challenges such as how to remove students from classrooms with minimal impacts to their other academic pursuits.

Q: (Judy Schriebman) What other funding does LandSmart receive? A: Other local sources of funding, Napa County, JPA, grants from the EPA. Q: (Brant Miller) How are you doing integrating back into classes that are teaching fundamental subjects? A: Through collaboration, STRAW was able to show LandSmart how to develop curriculum which meets new science curriculum standards so that it can be used to compliment regular classes.

8. **Proposal for Funding: North Bay Shoreline Access Maps** – Judy Kelly presented on the proposal for funding of a project seeking to create maps which will provide information about North Bay boating access, trails, parks, public lands, facility, environmental and habitat information. Currently no such information is concisely available to the public. This project will include a variety of partners: state and federal agencies, local governments, environmental and recreational groups, and potentially the NBWA. The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) have volunteered to provide staff. Beyond the staffing costs, the project is seeking \$45K, and is asking for \$10K from NBWA to be used for design, printing and distribution. The project will include the production of hard copy maps, downloadable maps, and an interactive app. The final maps are expected to be completed in March 2017, with distribution beginning in May 2017. Distribution will be enabled through partners, vendors, outfitters, marinas, and schools. NBWA's JTC reviewed this project, and agreed to recommend moving forward if the project met the following conditions: maps covered entire NBWA area, two rounds of review for the JTC, and maps will include species and habitat information. All conditions are being met by this project. If approved, NBWA will have approximately \$27K left in 2016 – 2017 budget.
- Q: Does any posted information already exist at boat access points? A: There are already signs, but this project may be able to add additional information. Q: If we approve project, can NBWA logo be added to maps? A: Yes. Q: Where will the map be downloadable? A: On the new website, as well as on app being developed. Q: Are there other projects needing funding upcoming for NBWA? A: Nothing so far besides the new communication plan. Q: Who is the receiving agency? A: ABAG Q: Will maps be distributed to towns and city's tourism departments? A: ABAG will add those departments.

**Motion to Approve:** This proposal was approved unanimously by the Board.

9. **Protecting Lake Sonoma from Invasive Species – Mussel Dogs** – Debi Deshon, of Mussel Dogs presented on how her company uses canines in the detection of Quagga and Zebra Mussels. These two invasive species of mussels have slowly been moving west, and threaten to cause serious damage to pipelines and other infrastructure if they enter a water system. In 2007 these mussels entered Lake Mead, and now exist locally in Lake Piru, a local golf course, and one other small local reservoir which has since been closed. There is currently no method of eradication of these mussels should they enter our water system. Although there is no legislation requiring prevention of the spread of these mussels, grants are available for agencies to put forward preventative measures.

Mussel Dogs prevents the spread of these species through canine inspection of boats, and associated public education programs. The Sonoma County Water Agency currently employs Mussel Dogs to inspect boats at Lake Sonoma. Debi described that the use of canine's to detect these species is extremely beneficial as it reduces inspection time, improves inspection efficiency, is much more effective than human inspection, and encourages public interest in the work to identify the existence of these species. Debi then escorted the Board members to the parking lot where the technique was demonstrated with Jake the dog taking only seconds to locate a planted set of [dead] mussels on the wheel well of a car.

10. Q: Do these mussels live in salt water? A: No, only freshwater. **Items of Interest**
11. **Items for Next Agenda** – Bruce Wolfe, Executive Officer, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL  
Submitted By: Sophie Hallam-Eames  
Water Agency Programs Specialist (SCWA) and NBWA Staff

**Next Meeting Information**

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson St. Novato, CA 94945