

## North Bay Watershed Association

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

Date: Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 9:30 a.m.

Location: Petaluma Community Center, 320 N McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA94945, Conference Rm. 2

Directors Present Included:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Michael Boorstein	Central Marin San. Agency & Ross Valley San. Dist.	Keith Caldwell	Napa Sanitation District
Pam Drew	City of Novato	Jack Baker	North Marin Water District
Mike Healy	City of Petaluma	Brant Miller	Novato Sanitary District
Judy Schriebman	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Grant Davis	Sonoma County Water Agency
Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water 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 9:40 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 on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 were unanimously approved by the Board.
5. Treasurer's Report – (see handout) The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Judy Kelly, Executive Director.
6. Director's Report – (see handout) Judy Kelly, Executive Director for the NBWA, presented the Director's Report for December 2016. Of note, Judy reported that the dates and locations for the 2017 NBWA Board Meetings have been established. Although many are scheduled at the Novato Sanitary District, some of those meetings will actually be held at the Marin Community Foundation, which only accepts reservations 30 days in advance. Judy also reminded the Board that she expects another round of EPA San Francisco Bay Funds for water quality and restoration efforts soon, and will update the Board when an RFP becomes available.
7. Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products: How RMP Science informs policy – Meg Sedlak of the San Francisco Estuary Institute, presented on the work the Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) for Water Quality in the SF Bay is doing to understand how pharmaceuticals and personal care products are affecting the Bay (and its inhabitants), and how this research affects public policy. The RMP seeks to understand Bay health by status and trend monitoring of a variety of different indicators which play key roles in the Bay ecosystem. Regional data is collected to measure various compound levels, which are then compared with data from other locations and leading literature on the compound. Compound levels can then be categorized on the severity of their implications. Categorization helps inform the prioritization of public policy and environmental remediation efforts. The RMP is especially concerned with Chemicals of Emerging Concern (CECs) which were not historically regulated under the Clean Water Act. *Example of Compound:* fipronil (the insecticide in pet flea medication) is found in Bay Area effluent. This compound can kill the lower levels of the food web. Solution: oral pet medication, rather than topical medication,

results in less fipronil entering the water system. *Pharmaceuticals*: As life expectancy increases, more medication is prescribed and consumed. Many pharmaceuticals are endocrine disrupters which can have a strong environmental impacts. These medications enter the water system through human excretion and the disposal of unused medications in the toilet. These findings help drive safe medicine take-back programs, such as the one being considered in Sonoma County. *Personal Care Products Example*:

*Microplastics* – In the Bay, plastic trash can break down into microplastics, which can be ingested by small organisms causing lacerations or obstructions. Microplastic pollution is higher in the San Francisco Bay than other comparable locations (ex. Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes). RMP is about to embark on a large study on microbeads in the SF Bay. Q: Grant Davis commented that this local high concentration of microplastics could be used to seek more federal and state funding to address local water issues.

Q: Brant Miller asked is data is available to the public. A: Yes, visit [cd3.sfei.org](http://cd3.sfei.org).

[www.sfei.org/rmp](http://www.sfei.org/rmp)

8. North Bay Trash Amendments/Stormwater Planning Project Update – Rob Carson, Coordinator for the Marin County Stormwater Program, provided an update on the NBWA-supported project readying the region for the statewide trash amendments [April 2015]. Trash reduction plans for North Bay entities will be required by mid- 2018. Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies (BASMAA) is leading the effort to create these plans, assisted by consultant (EOA). NBWA has contributed \$30,293, but this is a large project with significant other funding sources. There are two main planning options to reduce stormwater trash. The first option is to attempt full trash capture by installing equipment in storm drains, pipes, catch basins, or outlets of the stormwater system which would prevent trash from entering waterways. This option may be highly expensive, would involve ongoing maintenance costs, and may not be possible in areas where the stormwater system is comprised of ditches or less developed stormwater infrastructure (ex. rural North Bay areas). The second option is to prevent an equivalent amount of trash from entering the stormwater system through a series of “equivalent” actions which might involve street sweeping, increased availability of trash cans, policy, or public education. Advantages of this option include increased street cleanliness, and a potential reduction in trash produced.

In addition to creating a Stormwater Trash Plan, this project includes an effort to increase the accuracy of trash generation maps through visual on-land trash assessment.

The next steps of this project include receiving approval from the Water Board of the “equivalency” approach, continuing to refine baseline trash maps, and developing Trash Control Implementation Plans. Q: Brant Miller asked for a cost estimate of the future plan’s implementation? A: Estimates vary by orders of magnitude. Q: Mike Healy asked once costs are established, who will costs be attributed to? A: Mostly general fund, not completely determined.

9. Game of Floods Redesign Project - Judy Kelly presented a proposal for the NBWA to provide \$7K for the highly successful *Game of Floods* to be made more dynamic, simplified, and fabricated as a box game to expose more people to sea level rise planning in the North Bay. The NBWA financial contribution would allow for improved design and printing of the game, and would be supplemented by staff hours provided by Marin County. Redesigned boxed games would be provided to North Bay county staff, and Marin County in partnership with NBWA would host a 2017 workshop to roll out the new game. All JTC requests pertaining to this project will be met. If approved, there will be \$20K left in the 2016-2017 NBWA Budget for Specific Benefit Projects. Judy recommended that this project receive Board approval. Q: Judy Schriebman asked is this game will be sold. A: Not currently planned and currently available for free, but consultant has sold games in the past, and this game could be produced to sell to cover printing fees.

*The Board unanimously approved this funding request.*

10. NBWA Communication Plan Update – Judy Kelly updated the Board on the status of the NBWA Communication Plan, which was created by an ad hoc committee comprised of several NBWA Board

Members and Judy Kelly. The plan outlines five strategic communication goals, and then describes strategies, specific actions, associated budget requirements, and a timeline for achieving each goal. The Communication Committee asks that Board members read through the Draft Communication Plan and provide comments to Judy ([Judy.NBWA@gmail.com](mailto:Judy.NBWA@gmail.com)) or Brad Sherwood ([Brad.Sherwood@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:Brad.Sherwood@scwa.ca.gov)) by December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, so that they can be incorporated into the plan to be presented for Board discussion in January 2017.

11. Items of Interest – Keith Caldwell, of Napa Sanitation District, attended his last meeting as a NBWA Board Member. The NBWA greatly appreciates his contributions to the Board, and wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.

Chris Choo reminded the Board that the San Francisco Restoration Authority is seeking a new advisory committee, which among other things will help inform grants for Measure AA. The application can be found at [sfbayrestore.org](http://sfbayrestore.org) and the application deadline is December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

12. Items for Next Agenda

- Harmful algae blooms in North Bay waters
- Accomplishments under the Friends of the Petaluma River Grant
- Review and support of the 2017 NBWA Communications Plan

**Next Meeting Information:** January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson St., Novato, CA 94945

SUBMITTED BY:  
Sophie Hallam-Eames  
SCWA Programs Specialist | NBWA Staff  
[Sophie.HallamEames@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:Sophie.HallamEames@scwa.ca.gov)