

North Bay Watershed Association

Joint (H/FP, IWR, WQ) Technical Committee

January 25, 2017

Meeting Summary

I. Introductions

II. Review: Communications Plan Support – Judy Kelly, NBWA Executive Director

- The NBWA Board previously requested that a Communication Plan be developed to strategically prioritize communications goals.
- A draft Plan outlining 5 broad goals has been drafted by the NBWA Communications Committee, led by Brad Sherwood (SCWA).
 - These goals include growing the NBWA's public and media outreach and to increase outreach to K – 12 youth through the promotion of relevant environmental and water educational resources.
- Judy requested that the JTC help to identify organizations (prioritizing member organizations and partners) who the NBWA could approach to do research on current relevant public water education programs and materials (including K – 12) in the North Bay, and to make recommendations about implementation methods for the Communication Plan. Although a consultant could complete this work, Judy would prefer to use a regional entity or member agency. Participants suggested a number of North Bay entities that might be able to contribute to this work.
- The goal of this work is to allow member agencies to better collaborate on outreach and educational efforts, and to create a streamlined resource for environmental outreach and water education materials.

III. North Bay Restoration Sites for the Restoration Authority

- Judy noted that she has been appointed to the Advisory Committee for the Restoration Authority.
 - 25 members, meets quarterly. Other known NB appointees include Grant Davis, SCWA and Roger Leventhal, Marin Co.
- The North Bay has a significant amount of restorable wetlands, and is therefore eligible for Restoration Authority funds to complete projects.
- Understanding the regional priorities of the North Bay projects is key so that Advisory Board members can best represent the interests of the NBWA and other regional entities.
- Beth Huning, of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV), discussed the data sets on restoration projects held by the JV [available on the Joint Venture website: www.sfbayjv.org/projects.php] and she described the prioritization used by the JV to help determine which projects are most ready to go, have the most benefits, etc. She also noted it was important to think about how to stage projects over time with anticipated funding needs in the next 20 years of the Measure AA Program.
- Chris commented that while the JV list of projects is very comprehensive, there will be other projects to add to the potential funding list and that current listed projects will need to be carefully vetted regarding readiness, state of permitting, community support, actual budget needs, etc.



- The discussion on this topic established the following goal for the NBWA: for North Bay members of the Advisory Committee to talk together (the full Committee roster should be announced before February 2017) to understand current projects, and to develop NBWA priorities with respect to restoration projects in the North Bay.

IV. Other Business

- Erica Yelensky (EPA) briefly discussed the perceived effects of the current federal limitations of EPA activities as they pertain to local EPA grant-funded projects. She encouraged grant recipients to keep working on their current projects, and stated that the EPA will continue to work on the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) RFP that will open in late February/early March for a 45 day period, with the intent of awarding funds in the summer of 2017. The SFBWQIF priorities are to improve water quality and restore wetlands in San Francisco Bay and its watersheds. EPA is also encouraging projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. For more info go to www.epa.gov/sfbay-delta/sf-bay-water-quality-improvement-fund-request-proposals
- Rob Carson (Marin County) announced that there will be a road manager training at the end of February on Rural Road Ram.

V. Wrap Up

Participants

Judy Kelly – NBWA Executive Director
Caitlin Cornwall – Sonoma Ecology Center
Chris Choo – Marin DPW
Sandy Goldman – Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed
Beth Huning – San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Rob Carson – Marin County
Judy Schribman – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District
Erica Yelensky – Environmental Protection Agency
Pam Drew – City of Novato
Isaiah Thalmayer – Point Blue Conservation Science
Valerie Minton – Sonoma RCD
Sophie Hallam-Eames – SCWA & NBWA

