

North Bay Watershed Association

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

Date: Friday, November 3rd, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue, Novato, CA

Directors Present Included:

Board Member	Organization	Board Member	Organization
Pam Drew	City of Novato	Ryan Gregory	Napa Sanitation District
Mike Healy	City of Petaluma	Jack Baker/Larry Russell	North Marin Water District
Paul Jensen	City of San Rafael	Brant Miller	Novato Sanitary District
Megan Clark/ Judy Schriebman	Lass Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Michael Boorstein/ Pamela Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District
Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District	Brad Sherwood	Sonoma County Water Agency

Directors present represented 10 of the 19 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

1. Call to Order – Jack Gibson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
2. Public Comment – No public comments.
3. Approval of Agenda – The agenda was unanimously approved.
4. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the previous two meetings were unanimously approved.
5. Treasurer’s Report – The treasurer’s report was presented by Judy Kelly, NBWA Executive Director, on behalf of Cheryl Howlett, NBWA treasurer.
6. **Sonoma County Water Agency Fire Update** – Sophie Hallam-Eames (Sonoma County Water Agency) provided an update on how the Water Agency fared during the recent Northern California wildfires, and identified some of the Water Agency’s ongoing concerns during the fire recovery process. The water agency has maintained its wholesale water distribution throughout this disaster, and successfully increased their water production to meet increased water demand for the firefighting effort. Although communication to some booster stations which pump wastewater up to treatment plants was lost, Water Agency water and wastewater treatment infrastructure is fully functional. Drinking water is safe, and is being continually monitored.
In Sonoma County there are 617 streams in areas affected by the fire. In these watersheds there is an elevated risk of flooding, debris flows, and landslides. Furthermore, ash, debris, and pollutants left by the fire may cause harmful effects to the watershed if they are able to enter the streams. The Water Agency along with a variety of regional partners are working to identify ongoing risks from the fires, and mitigate the effects of these risks.
For updated information on the fire response and recovery visit www.sonomacountyrecovers.org/.

7. Discussion on Fire Recovery – NBWA Board Members

Brad Sherwood (Sonoma County Water Agency) described his personal experience losing his home in the fire, and some of the difficulties facing fire survivors in the rebuilding process. Specifically he cited the high cost of rebuilding homes, and called on the NBWA and its partners to work to provide resources for those attempting to rebuild. Example: consider buying water efficient fixtures in bulk for new homes.

Ryan Gregory (Supervisor, Napa County/Napa Sanitation District) reminded the Board that Napa and Sonoma are experiencing many of the same ongoing watershed risks as a result of the wildfires, and called

for the NBWA to serve as a means of communication between the counties' watershed recovery efforts, and to identify areas where regional collaboration between the two counties can streamline the recovery process.

8. New Technology in Preparation for the Next Big Storm – Jennifer Krebs (Morrison & Associates)

Funded by a \$19.84 million dollar grant, the Sonoma County Water Agency, along with a group of regional partners including the Department of Water Resources and NOAA, are working to develop and install an Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) system. This system will provide more precise rainfall forecasting for atmospheric rivers by installing five new X-band radar units throughout the Bay Area. It is estimated that over the last few decades more than 50 percent of major flooding in the Bay Area, and closer to 70 percent in the North Bay, has come from atmospheric rivers that often are not detected with conventional, high-aiming S-band, or NEXRAD, radar units that were originally designed for thunderstorms in the Midwest. The new radar system also will give flood control managers, emergency responders, transportation officials and media outlets more precise information on just where, when and the intensity of expected rainfall.

Installation of an X-band radar at Mt. Sonoma is being rushed to be completed in January to assist with storm predictions in fire areas.

Q [Jack Gibson]: The partnership is surprisingly limited, why are only water stakeholders involved? A: This project is being funded by DWR, so main focus is established through funding source but reaching out to partners will be a key task going forward to enhance the final utility of the information from the new installations .

Q: How long in advance will AQPI be able to detect weather patterns? A: Depends upon how fast the storm is moving, but probably hourly.

For more information please visit www.sonomacountywater.org/aqpi/.

9. Improving Shoreline Access Information in the North Bay – Ben Bodkin (ABAG) and James Muller (San Francisco Estuary Partnership)

This fall a set of five maps of the San Francisco Bay Estuary were released to the public which provide access information and educational resources for boaters using small, non-motorized boats along the shoreline of San Francisco Bay. Funded in part by the NBWA, the creation of these maps had three main goals: to provide small craft boaters with information about access to boating sites and resources throughout the Bay Area, to ensure boater safety, and to protect natural resources by giving boaters information about how to enjoy the Bay responsibly. Maps are being distributed to locations where boaters may access them (ex. Boating shops).

Q: Where is tidal information for boaters available? A: Tidal information is available on the Bay Area Water Trail website.

For more information please visit sfbaywatertrail.org/.

10. Items of Interest

Proposed dates for the 2018 NBWA Board Meetings can be found in the meeting materials. NBWA staff request that Board members identify any significant conflicts that may exist with these tentative dates and email Sophie.HallamEames@scwa.ca.gov with that information.

11. Items for the Next Agenda

Next Meeting Information: December 1st, 2017 – Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson Street, Novato, CA

SUBMITTED BY:
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