

NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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

Date: January 8, 2015
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing,
Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949

Directors Present: Directors present included:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Jack Baker	North Marin Water District	Susannah Clark	County of Marin
Keith Caldwell	Napa Sanitation District	Madolyn Agrimonti	City of Sonoma
Judy Schriebman	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Paul Jensen	City of San Rafael
Brad Sherwood	Sonoma County Water Agency	Eric Lucan	City of Novato
Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District	Pam Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District
Mike Healy	City of Petaluma	Sandeep Karkal	Novato Sanitary District

Directors present represented 12 out of the 18 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

Board Actions:

1. **Call to Order.** Jack Gibson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** None.
3. **Approval of the Agenda.** (See Handout) The Board unanimously approved the agenda.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting held December 4, 2015.** (See Handout) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on December 4, 2015 were unanimously approved.
5. **Treasurer's Report.** (See Handout) The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Judy Kelly.
6. **Introduction of New Executive Director and 2016 Preview.** Judy Kelly, the new NBWA Executive Director, provided a PowerPoint and began with an overview of her education and work experience. She highlighted the fact that she has degrees pertaining to resource planning and water policy along with 30 plus years working in the fields of water resource planning and management at the national, state and regional levels. She then presented a short summary of what is planned for NBWA for the next few months and suggested that she and the Board engage in a series of conversations to set a course for the coming year with perhaps some new tools and products for NBWA.
7. **The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Update.** Amy Hutzler, Deputy Executive Director of the California State Coastal Conservancy, provided an overview of the status of the Restoration Authority and the ballot measure they are likely to bring to the ballot in 9 Bay Area counties this spring. She stated that the Authority was established in 2008 by state legislation and is guided by a 7-member board and a 30 member advisory committee. On January 13th, the Authority Board will decide if they will place a measure on the ballot for a \$12 parcel tax expected to raise \$25 million per year for 20 years. The money will be used to fund projects to restore the San Francisco Baylands, for flood protection, and to increase public access. The work would be accomplished by others; the Board staff would make grants to carry out the purposes of the Authority. Amy discussed a list of examples of projects anticipated to be eligible for Authority funding. The list was created by getting information about potential fundable projects from organizations and agencies around the region. Amy's handouts included a copy of a summary brochure about the Authority; an article from Bay Nature Magazine covering the Authority and its mission; a memo from FM3, a local polling firm, showing findings from a recent poll that seem to support a potential ballot measure; the example project list and copies of the pending resolutions for action by the Authority. All materials are on the Authority website. Amy mentioned that an outside committee has been formed to help fund the cost of a ballot campaign in support of the measure. Ballot costs are expected to come to nearly \$2 million that the Authority is obtaining through funding partners. She could not provide details on the committee since, by law, it is completely separate from the work of the Authority. NBWA Board Members had a number of questions. Would the Authority provide full funding or require match? (no set requirement now.) Will all parts of the region get the same amount of funding? (50% will be allocated to the sub-regions of the bay by population, the other 50% allocated without regard for geography) What is the relationship of these funds to other state water bonds? (Complementary and could be used as

match to state or federal funds) Is there support in D.C. for this? (Yes, both Senators support). Can funds be used for preservation and or maintenance of existing restored wetlands? (Yes)

8. **Baylands Habitat Goals Update.** Dr. Letitia Grenier, San Francisco Estuary Institute, presented a PowerPoint to update the Board on the 2015 Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update. The update reflects the work of over 100 scientists around the region who were tasked to look at how the baylands are expected to be impacted by climate change and to determine the best strategies for coping with the expected changes. Dr. Grenier reminded the Board about the many values of our baylands; they filter pollutants, provide natural flood protection, are critical habitat for a number of key species and are part of our valued landscapes. Our bay marshes and mudflats can be sustained but will need a bold approach to restoring their natural processes. Rising seas will cause the baylands to shrink if we do not act. We will need new policies for the bay and much will depend on getting sediment to the baylands as the sea rises so that the baylands can keep up. The report suggests 3 key strategies: restore complete bayland systems with their many interconnected habitat types, along with the physical processes that sustain them and reconnect the baylands to nearby upland to provide wildlife refuge areas during high-water events; Accelerate restoration of complete baylands systems by 2030; plan ahead for a dynamic future for these baylands and increase regional coordination. Detailed information and the full report are available at Baylandsgoals.org. Questions from the Board followed. How can we better manage local sediment supply while protecting stream water quality? (One way might be, according to new research, to allow pulses of water that create a small flood - that lets the sediment move and settle). Should we be filling the bay now? (Possible fill for wetland creation is starting to be discussed now at a few of the regional agencies).

9. **Friends of the Petaluma River Project Proposal.** Judy Kelly presented to the Board a request for funding from the Friends of the Petaluma River for \$20,000 to support their Watershed Classroom Program. This Program works with teachers and students in the Petaluma area to support hands-on learning experiences centered on the river ecosystem. Funds would support 3-4 new data layers for the Petaluma River Watershed Atlas and update the Atlas, the purchase of 14 Water Quality Monitoring kits for loan throughout watershed; and a report on ways to replicate the program in other local watersheds. The Joint Technical Committee of the NBWA recommended approval at their December meeting. Board members wondered how the Atlas will be used and what happens to the water monitoring kits when the project is completed? (the Atlas is used by teachers, students and the public to learn more about the Petaluma River Watershed and will be expanded in Google maps- funds for the kits will be used to replenish contents and continue to be used in future projects). The NBWA Board unanimously approved the recommendation.

10. **Items for Next Agenda.**

* Game of Floods, led by Chris Choo, County of Marin; Chair, NBWA Joint Technical Committee

Jack Gibson, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL
Submitted By: Judy Kelly,
Executive Director

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION:

February 5 – Petaluma (Lucchesi) Community Ctr., 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954-Conf. Rm. 2