

NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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

Date: September 11, 2015  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Location: Novato Sanitary District  
500 Davidson Street  
Novato, CA 94945

Directors Present: Directors present included:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Madolyn Agrimonti	City of Sonoma and Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District	Paul Jensen	City of San Rafael
Jack Baker	North Marin Water District	Liz Lewis	County of Marin
Keith Caldwell	Napa Sanitation District	Eric Lucan	City of Novato
Megan Clark	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Pamela Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District
Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District	Brant Miller	Novato Sanitary District
Kathy Hartzell	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Brad Sherwood	Sonoma County and Sonoma County Water Agency

Directors present represented 14 out of the 16 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

Board Actions:

1. **Call to Order.** Jack Gibson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:39 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 July 10, 2015.** (See Handout) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on July 10, 2015 were unanimously approved.
5. **Treasurer's Report.** (See Handout) The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Harry Seraydarian.
6. **The Hamilton Field Levee FEMA Accreditation.** Tony Williams, City of Novato, provided a PowerPoint entitled "Hamilton Field Levee System FEMA Accreditation Process" and began with an overview of the levee system. Using a 1950's aerial and graphics, Tony highlighted the system components – levee embankment, flood (splash) wall, seepage collection system, and interior drainage (pump stations and drainage). He then provided a long list of Geotechnical studies completed for Hamilton before quoting FEMA requirements for mapping and levee systems which link to FEMA criteria for "level of protection" (1% annual chance of flooding). Tony then walked through FEMA design criteria which included freeboard, closure, embankment protection, embankment and foundation stability, settlement analysis and interior drainage analysis. Tony presented some USACE technical resources but noted there is no "national standard" and suggested DWR materials as reference especially for seismic concerns. Tony then described the original O&M Plan for Hamilton which was only 8 pages and compared that to the new Plan which is several hundred pages. The Operations Plan includes: a flood warning system, plan of operations, closures, and interior drainage, in addition to the maintenance plan and inspection program. Tony displayed a visual showing the Hamilton submittal and emphasized the owner/operator first certifies the plan and then FEMA provides accreditation. Tony identified some additional resources and then presented the time and cost to develop and submit the plan to FEMA. Tony concluded with a quote emphasizing that levees reduce risk, they do not eliminate it. The NBWA Board Members had a number of questions. What is the city process to assign maintenance? (Community Facilities District [CFD] staff assumes day to day responsibility.) Are maintenance tasks tracked on a computer system? (In development now.) What area does CFD cover? (The CFD boundary matches the land area protected by the levee.) Who protects the downstream neighbors? (No one agency, all levees around the city levee are USACE levees.) Does anyone monitor wildlife in restored areas? (Yes.) Why should the city get accreditation? (541 protected buildings not required to buy insurance.) Will sea level rise require any changes? (Already have sea level rise in the manual – the flood wall provides additional protection.)
7. **Implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in Sonoma County.** Jay Jasperse, SCWA, provided a PowerPoint and began with a map showing the four largest groundwater basins in Sonoma County and highlighted the two in the NBWA area: Sonoma Valley (groundwater management plan since 2007) and Petaluma (study initiated in 2014). He noted that SCWA would like to recharge groundwater basins in wet years and use groundwater in dry years. Jay explained the existing groundwater plans are voluntary, qualitative and provide a good foundation for the

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). He emphasized how this will change under SGMA: no longer voluntary; must include measurable objectives; new authorities to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs); state review of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs); and state intervention if necessary. Jay then described where SGMA applies – medium priority basins or higher as designated by DWR which include Santa Rosa, Sonoma Valley and Petaluma. Jay indicated he expects clarification to SGMA though three main steps should remain: (1) form GSA by 6/30/17, (2) complete GSP by 1/31/2022, and (3) achieve sustainability 20 years after plan adopted. He then explained what local agencies could be a GSA and described the public process requirements to include all interests. Jay presented a visual defining sustainable groundwater management as preventing undesirable results such as lowering of groundwater levels, depletion of surface water, etc. He also highlighted the components of GSPs and new management authorities under SGMA. Jay also noted that “water rights” should be preserved “to the greatest extent possible consistent with the sustainable management of groundwater”. Jay then explained the relationship with land use agencies and the opportunities for integration. He also explained the state role: DWR reviews plans; SWRCB is the enforcer and can take over a basin. Jay identified issues that would need to be addressed in moving from existing plans to SGMA compliance and also summarized efforts of workgroups to date and outreach plans. He identified GSA eligible agencies in each basin and presented governance options being considered (separate GSAs for each basin, centralized, hybrid) and the general principles that would be applied. Jay ended with a summary of current and near term activities for GSA formation. The NBWA Board Members had a number of questions. Can you monitor wells? (Mandatory in priority basins.) Will resource agencies have input on minimum stream flows? (First form GSA, then look at interface of ground and surface waters and consult with resource agencies.) How is the Sonoma process going? (Some agriculture concerns, too early to tell.) Can you control water taken out of tributaries? (Outside SGMA, County controls.) How do you prioritize uses? (Not done now, GSA will have to resolve; focus on projects first then regulatory cutback if needed.) Do you have maps of recharge areas? (Yes, but projects require verification.) Do you have water rights issues? (Yes.)

8. **Items of Interest.** None,

9. **Items for Next Agenda.**

- \* Petaluma – Watershed Classroom, Stephanie Bastianon, Friends of Petaluma River
- \* CDFW Programs and Grants – Matt Erickson, CDFW
- \* 2016 Conference Update

Jack Gibson, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Submitted By: Elizabeth O. Preim-Rohtla  
Assistant to the Executive Director

**NEXT MEETING INFORMATION:**

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

November 6 – Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson Street, Novato, CA 94945

December 4 – Petaluma (Lucchesi) Community Ctr., 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954-Conf. Rm. 2