

NBWA  
NBWA Watershed Council Meeting Summary  
February 23, 2010

4:00-6:00 pm  
Novato Sanitary District  
500 Davidson Street, Novato, CA 94945

I. Introduction/Announcements.

\* Network and Council Member News – No Announcements

II. Marin Watershed Stewardship Program Update. Chris Choo used a PowerPoint Presentation to provide an update and focused on the new website [www.marinwatersheds.org](http://www.marinwatersheds.org). Chris provided some background on the start of the watershed program in May of 2007 and the original intent to develop a paper document. This evolved into an interactive website where users can read watershed descriptions, and learn about science, planning tools, and flood and stormwater protection. The website will serve the Public Works Department as well as reaching out to the public. Chris also highlighted some new projects underway on Warner Creek, Novato Creek, Stinson Beach and San Geronimo. In response to a question about Vintage Oaks and whether there were plans for more projects, Liz Lewis noted that the partners will look at the entire creek, including dredging, which is now done every 4 years. In response to a question about tracking website users, Chris indicated that they are focused on content now and there is no counter in place yet. Chris also noted in response to a question on whether level of detail could be searched by parcel, that the maps will show special areas and overall assessments at the project level.

III. Results, Conclusions and Lessons Learned from a Decade of Bioassessment in Marin County. Terri Fashing, MCSTOPPP and Chris Sommers, EOA, used a PowerPoint Presentation to explain the results of a recent report on Bioassessment. Terri introduced the concept of Ecological Integrity as being composed of 3 parts: Chemical, Physical and Biological. She then spoke about why bioassessments were done and how they interpret the effects of physical habitat and water quality. Terri also described the Benthic Macro-Invertebrates Index (BMI) and how it uses the measurement of sensitive and tolerant species. Terri provided background on the sampling program that MCSTOPPP began in 1999 and the original focused questions that they were trying to answer. Terri walked the group through a table of sampling history and a map showing sampling sites by watershed. Most monitoring took place in the spring rather than fall because other comparison data used a spring sampling period protocol and for Marin County with its Mediterranean climate, the best sampling occurs during the spring. Chris Sommers then informed the group about the “Methods History” and the three major changes in protocols over time. He reported on the North Coast Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity B-IBI, the scoring system, and use of reference sites. Chris detailed the 77 metrics, disturbance variables that were screened and narrowed down to 8 metrics. He presented results and some statistics on variability. Chris explained seasonal variations and compared fall vs. spring sampling scores and ocean vs. bayside orientation. Chris then reported some conclusions regarding factors such as natural variation (bay versus ocean, elevation, flow regime) and land use. Chris ended with a set of recommendations, including examples of management questions. The PowerPoint is on the NBWA website: [http://www.nbwatershed.org/pages/library\\_prez10.php](http://www.nbwatershed.org/pages/library_prez10.php)

IV. BAIRWMP Update. Harry Seraydarian used a PowerPoint Presentation and noted the website – [www.bairwmp.org](http://www.bairwmp.org) is informative with useful information included in meeting summaries. Harry provided background on how the Bay Area was divided into four sub-regions and noted that NBWA will coordinate the North Bay sub-regional process and include Solano County. Harry highlighted the efforts of the Bay Area Coordinating Committee in the last year and the recent dialogue on regional vs. sub-regional projects and the decision to focus on regional projects for the next round of Prop 84 funds. Harry then presented DWR’s recent announcement of left-over Prop 50 funds – about \$7.4 million total statewide. Only 11 regions (out of 46 approved) that were underfunded in first funding round will qualify for this new funding. The maximum award per region is \$3.7 million and only requires a 10% match. BACWA is the coordinating agency for the Bay Area

and will pursue a grant if there is agreement on projects. DWR Guidelines come out March 1 and the next meeting of joint subcommittees is March 11. On March 22 there will be a full Coordinating Committee Meeting and discussion about which projects to propose.

V. Projects Update. Harry Seraydarian continued his PowerPoint Presentation providing an update on the NBWA project submitted to SFEP and EPA – “Implementing Sediment and Pathogen TMDLs in the North Bay”. On November 13, 2009 SFEP received an official approval letter including ~ \$1.5 million for the NBWA project. EPA funded three proposals for a total of about \$10 million. (1) \$5 million went to BASSMA – for PCBs and Mercury – focusing on urbanized Phase 1 areas; (2) SFEP received \$3.3 million – NBWA projects received almost half of this funding for TMDLs programs in Marin, Sonoma and Napa; and (3) San Francisco received about \$1.2 million for LID on Cesar Chavez. Harry provided a summary of the projects included in the NBWA proposal: Marin County – Richardson Bay \$369,542; Napa RCD – Napa River \$367,500; SEC – Sonoma Creek \$363,800; and SSCRCD – Sonoma Creek \$318,300. For the Richardson Bay TMDL, the County of Marin and City of Mill Valley will implement a restoration project and conduct outreach to improve water quality in a tributary of Warner Creek by fencing off a stretch of riparian corridor and infiltrating/treating the storm water. In addition the county will assist the Richardson Bay Agency in developing a program for maintenance and monitoring of houseboats. For the Napa River TMDL, Napa Resource Conservation District will work with agricultural and rural residential landowners along Heath Creek to repair and upgrade eroding rural roads at critical erosion sites. Napa County RCD will work with the Napa County Livestock Council to implement stormwater management measures to reduce pathogen and sediment delivery to the Napa River. Fish Friendly Farming also received funds for the Napa River. For the Sonoma Creek TMDL, SEC and SSCRCD will work with agricultural and rural residential landowners to develop plans for erosion control, build detention structures to reduce sediment loading and restore vegetation along the Creek. Evaluation and monitoring will be included in all the projects. Harry also described the NBWA and MMWD role in the overall effort. Harry then provided a status report on recent NBWA projects. The “Indicators and Performance Measures for North Bay Watersheds” project is complete and Friends of Corte Madera Creek has already referenced this report to apply for a grant. Almost completed projects are: CEMAR Fish Monitoring Project, Fact Sheet (now evolved into a brochure and will be printed in time for the April Conference), and the Laterals Project. NBWA had to drop the High School Pollution Prevention Program because key staff left and there is no lead for this project. Ongoing NBWA Projects are: Watershed Conservation – “off the grid” – SCWA, and “Adapting to Climate Change: “State of the Science” for North Bay Watersheds – Pepperwood Foundation, USGS, Bay Area Open Space Council and California Academy of Sciences (the report will look at both climate change scenarios – hydrology and ecology, including runoff and recharge and bring it down to the scale of what is actually happening in the watersheds).

VI. NBWA 2010 Conference Update. Harry Seraydarian updated the group about the NBWA Conference. Date: April 9, 2010, Location: Sheraton Petaluma, Theme: “Greening our Water Infrastructure”, Keynote Speakers: Jared Huffman, CA State Assembly Member and Chair of the Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife and Frances Spivy-Weber, Vice Chair, State Water Resources Control Board. Harry also identified the speakers for the three panels and suggested visiting the NBWA website for more information. Harry reminded the Watershed Council that as members they could receive a discounted rate of \$40 for registration.

VII. Wrap Up.

\* Next meeting?

– Likely June 2010

– RWQCB interested in presenting information on both the Grazing Waiver for Marin, Napa, and Sonoma and the Vineyard Waiver for Napa and Sonoma

Participants:

Chris Choo, Marin County Public Works Department

Maeve Daugharty, Winzler & Kelly

Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District

Terri Fashing, Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program  
Shari Gardner, Friends of the Napa River  
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District  
Dale Hopkins, CA Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Marla Lafer, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Sue Lattanzio, Friends of Novato Creek  
David Lewis, UC Davis, Cooperative Extension  
Liz Lewis, County of Marin, Department of Public Works  
Don McEnhill, League of Women Voters of Marin County  
Andy Rodgers, Petaluma Chamber of Commerce  
Tito Sasaki, North Bay Agricultural Alliance  
Bill Scott, Marin Building & Construction Trades Council  
Chris Sommers, EOA, Inc.  
Tony Williams, Winzler & Kelly  
Harry Seraydarian, Executive Director  
Elizabeth O. Preim-Rohtla, NBWA Assistant