

**NBWA**  
**NBWA Watershed Council Meeting Summary**  
**April 27, 2011 – 4:00-6:00 pm**  
**Novato Sanitary District**  
**500 Davidson Street, Novato, CA 94945**

**I. Introduction/Announcements.**

- SCWA has started a new effort-Sonoma Valley Stormwater Management/Groundwater Recharge Scoping Study - (workshop April 21 with PWA-ESA) and Petaluma (workshop scheduled April 28 with RMC).
- Tiburon Salmon Institute had a release Saturday, April 30 at Blackie's Pasture – 3,000 tagged Chinook.
- Entire North Bay is considered historic Coho habitat according to the CA F&G.
- Napa County RCD continues rotary screw trap fish sampling of the Napa River – 117 steelhead smolt (12% sampling rate) and 1,933 Chinook smolt (17% sampling rate), CA F&G has provided a grant to start genetic sampling.
- SWRCB has issued a new draft regulation for septic tanks and a scoping meeting is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Sacramento.
- SB 34 (water infrastructure financing), which will assess fees for all groundwater use (Ag and urban), has passed the Senate.
- Petaluma Event on Climate Protection – “Everyone Profits” – May 26, 2011.

**II. Marin County Watershed Program Update.**

Liz Lewis provided an introduction and highlighted some milestones for the last year. In June 2010 the State Supreme Court validated the process Marin County followed for assessing fees. In addition, the Marin Watershed Program is now fully staffed with the addition of a new Associate Civil Engineer (Roger Leventhal) who was hired to support the preparation of technical studies in watersheds outside of Ross Valley.

Chris Choo used PowerPoint to update the group and noted the original purpose of the Watershed Program was to provide a framework to integrate flood protection, creek and wetland restoration, fish passage, and water quality improvements with public and private partners to protect and enhance Marin's watersheds. Chris referred to the website and the intent to replace a paper plan. She highlighted the information available on the website including: description of each watershed and available data; a county wide science section; planning tools (soon to have a permitting slide show); flood and stormwater protection; and a library (including landowner resources).

Chris described the stakeholder process in place, the objectives for the program and the next steps including updating the website, watershed planning, and looking for funds. Chris then described the 2009 Fish and Game assessments and noted that reports are just out and this information will be converted to a GIS tool. Chris provided a visual example of storm drainage from a Mill Valley parking lot. Chris also described the “Hydrology and Hydraulics” effort and how data being collected now will be put into a model to evaluate projects.

Chris then provided an update on specific efforts in Mill Valley (Master Plan to prioritize projects), Ross Valley (draft of feasibility study completed and Prop 1-E proposal submitted for Phoenix Lake), Novato Creek, San Geronimo Creek (landowner assistance program and two fish design projects underway), Miller and Gallinas Creeks (focus on McInnis Park), and Stinson Beach (Hydrology and Hydraulics Study on Easkoot Creek).

The Watershed Council members had a number of questions. After addressing the legal challenge is anyone else pursuing new fees for same purpose? (Not sure.) Is San Pablo Project still active? (Yes, USACE recently briefed NBWA Board; have \$500k in this year's budget; will finish plan and do preliminary planning on two projects.) Is Marin doing anything in inter-jurisdictional areas such as San Antonio and lower Petaluma? (Mostly SCWA and SSCRCDC efforts, not Marin flood efforts.) Will you include a GIS layer on invasive vegetation? (Can add data if available.) How do your efforts relate to MMWD efforts? (Phoenix Lake 1-E application is a joint effort; an opportunity exists to address utility crossings as fish barriers in other streams.) What is timing of studies on Novato Creek? (County just received habitat report from CA F & G).

**III. NBWA Project Update.**

Harry used PowerPoint to provide an update on NBWA funded projects. He reviewed 2007-2009 projects including: Watershed Signs (\$16k); Salmonid Monitoring (\$34k); Laterals (~\$140k Marin WWT) (NBWA - \$12.5k); STRAW (\$15k); Perf. Measures/Indicators (\$43k); Water Conservation-SCWA (\$25k); Fact Sheet (\$12.5k); Workshop - SW & WWT (\$1.8k); and Climate Change/Watersheds (\$50k).

Harry then presented the status on 2010 projects including: SSCRCDC (\$25k) Slow it, Spread it, Sink it; City of Sonoma (\$5k) Rain garden; FOCMS (\$5k) Multimedia; Education/Restoration – Marin-STRAW (\$15k), Napa-SLEW (\$15k), Sonoma-SEC-ELI (\$15k) and BAIRWMP (\$10k) planning match. Harry then presented projects proposed so far in 2011: (1) Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop (\$2k); (2) Sea Level Rise-Pilot (\$44k) (WQTC lead); (3) STRAW – 3 counties (\$35k); (4) SSCRCDC, MCSTOPPP, Napa RCD: (~ \$43k) for follow up on Slow it, Spread it, Sink it; (5) Repeat Education/Restoration (\$45k) Marin, Napa, Sonoma; (6) Storm water (WQTC lead) – Early Monitoring Plan for all three counties to meet Phase II Permit (\$30k minimum) (WQTC lead) or LID workshops in each county possibly using Bay Friendly, or Green Gardener workshops (in Spanish); (7) KRCB Watershed Videos (\$12k) NBWA, (\$24k) SCWA. Harry noted that he was taking projects 1 and 7 for NBWA Board approval on May 6 based on timing, cost, and match.

#### IV. **BAIRWMP Update.**

Harry used a PowerPoint presentation to update the Council on Bay Area efforts. Harry first highlighted the Bay Area Planning proposal for \$842,556 which DWR approved in an April 12 letter. Harry indicated the Implementation Proposal for over \$30 million should be acted on by DWR in mid-May. Harry described the 14 projects added to the Bay Area Plan in March as possible 1-E Stormwater Flood Management projects and then noted the five actually submitted to DWR as of April 15 that included a Marin County FC & WCD Phoenix Lake Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Retrofit that includes MMWD as a partner. Harry then provided more detail on the components of the BAIRWMP plan update. He highlighted the SCWA Salt and Nutrient Management Plan; the Project Review Process; Stakeholder Involvement; and Climate Change. Harry emphasized the sub-regional approach described in the workplan and how the North Bay process would work for the plan update. Harry ended with a reference to the possibility of a Prop 84 Round 2 of implementation funding in late 2011. Watershed Council members had a few questions. How can we get more involved when BAIRWMP CC meetings are hard to attend given location and timing?

(BAIRWMP Plan update will include outreach and BAFPA and BAWN are planning a joint meeting on June 16 in Oakland). Can Public agencies help non profits with Cost-Benefit Analysis? (Possibly, though it may be better to convince DWR to change Cost benefit requirements for Bay Area and two other planning areas coterminous with funding areas.)

#### V. **North Bay Climate Adaptation Initiative.**

Lisa Micheli and Caitlin Cornwall used PowerPoint to update the Council. They provided background on NBCAI. The goal of NBCAI is to foster an open conversation between technical experts, land managers and policymakers in support of effective local scale climate adaptation strategies that preserve natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. The purpose is to implement effective climate adaptation strategies that sustain ecological and human communities of North San Francisco Bay watershed. The vision is that the San Francisco North Bay has resilient, biologically diverse natural systems that provide lasting ecosystem functions and services. The kickoff was in 2009 and there are three subgroups: Stewardship (Caitlin); Science (Lisa), and Policy (Richard Dale, SEC). They also clarified the difference between mitigation (reduce GHG) and adaptation.

Caitlin and Lisa posed a question to the group: How has "climate change" changed what you do at work? SSCRC – consultants look at sea level rise for all new modeling. Construction industry – clarifying who pays for adaptation. Mill Valley Streamkeepers – bring up at City Council meetings. SEC – changed locations in restoration planting.

Lisa and Caitlin then presented a slide on the Adaptation Framework and emphasized the importance of monitoring and the need to build on NBWA Indicators project. They presented their website: <http://www.nbcai.com/> and described their charter and the need to get more Marin and Napa people involved. They emphasized that human infrastructure adaptation and ecosystem adaptation need to be done together. Lisa presented some results from the NBWA study on Climate Change and Watersheds and then noted the Science group is developing an integrated monitoring program, Stewardship is looking at mapping, and the Policy group is focused on getting counties to include adaptation in County plans. Lisa and Caitlin ended by noting an upcoming Summit on November 3 (Science) and November 4 (Adaptation Strategies) at Pepperwood Preserve in Sonoma (River Road Exit – just north of Windsor).

#### VI. **2012 Conference Input.**

Harry presented the theme for 2012: **Climate Adaptation**, and then asked for input on topics or speakers.

- Suggestions
- \* Tidal Marsh Adaptation (and Sediment)
  - \* Cities – how will they adapt?
  - \* What happens to Agriculture? – Can we feed ourselves?
  - \* Fire Management and post fire actions

**Action – Watershed Council Members and attendees can send any additional ideas to Harry.**

#### VII. **Wrap Up.**

Next Meeting? September 2011

Possible Topics

- \* BAIRWMP Planning Process – Subregion
- \* 2012 Conference Update

#### **Participants:**

Betsy Bikle – Mill Valley Streamkeepers & Marin Conservation League  
Chris Choo – Marin County Public Works Dept.  
Caitlin Cornwall – Sonoma Ecology Center  
Paul Curfman – Environmental Science Associates  
Emily Dean – CSW/St2 Engineering Group  
Chris DeGabriele – North Marin Water District  
Dale Hopkins – CA Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Sue Lattanzio – Friends of Novato Creek  
Liz Lewis – Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program

Lisa Micheli – Pepperwood Foundation  
Tito Sasaki – North Bay Agricultural Alliance  
Bill Scott – Marin Building & Construction Trades Council  
Leigh Sharp – Napa County Resource Conservation District  
Leandra Swent – South Sonoma County Resource Conservation District  
David Yearsley – Friends of the Petaluma River  
Harry Seraydarian, NBWA Executive Director  
Elizabeth Preim-Rohtla, NBWA Staff Assistant