

NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION MINUTES

January 8, 2010

MEETING MINUTES NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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

9:30 a.m.
Marin Community Foundation
5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200
Novato, CA 94949

Directors present included:

Judy Arnold, County of Marin
Jack Baker, North Marin Water District
Megan Clark, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District
John Dupar, Central Marin Sanitation Agency
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District
Diane Lesko, Sonoma County and Sonoma County Water Agency
Madeline Thomas, Bel Marin Keys Community Services District
Jeff Tucker, Napa Sanitation District

Directors present represented 9 out of the 15 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

Board Actions

1. Call to Order. Jack Gibson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Introductions followed.
2. Public Comment. There was no public comment.
3. Approval of the Agenda. (See Handout) The Board unanimously approved the agenda with one abstention by Jeff Tucker from Napa Sanitation District.
4. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting held December 4, 2009. (See Handout) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on December 4, 2009 were unanimously approved with one abstention by Jeff Tucker from Napa Sanitation District.
5. Treasurer's Report. (See Handout) The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Harry Seraydarian.
6. Napa Watersheds Update. Leigh Sharp, District Manager, Napa Resource Conservation District and Patrick Lowe, Deputy Planning Director, Napa County Conservation, Development and Planning Department presented a PowerPoint entitled, "A whirlwind tour of activity in the watersheds of Napa County." Patrick explained the history and background of WICC (Watershed Information Center and Conservancy) www.napawatersheds.org whose mission it is to guide and support community efforts to maintain and improve the health of Napa County's watershed lands. The concept came from a Napa River Watershed Taskforce Report (2000). The 17 member WICC Board was appointed in 2002 and consists of elected officials from each municipality and diverse community members, including vintners and environmental groups, supported by a Technical Advisory Committee and County staff. The initial direction was to monitor TMDLs, support resource protection and restoration, and facilitate a long term resource management program. Patrick then reviewed the goals, priorities and actions of the WICC. Leigh then described the role of the Napa RCD: promoting responsible watershed management through voluntary community stewardship and technical assistance. Leigh described the history of RCDs in the nation and California. Napa RCD, formed in 1945, is guided by a 7 member Board of Directors with 10 Associate Directors from the community and a technical and educational staff of 8 that work in close partnership with

the federal NRCS. Leigh and Patrick highlighted current efforts which include: partnerships (conservation and research organizations, community and interest groups, individual landowners and managers, private industry and government agencies); engaging youth in watershed stewardship (classroom visits, restoration projects, site tours, storm drain stenciling, creek cleanup, internships and scholarships); natural resource awareness (workshops, forums, film nights, etc.); and building knowledge of watershed conditions (baseline data report, watershed monitoring strategy, monitoring instream flows and stream conditions, identifying fish barriers, and monitoring fish populations). Patrick and Leigh also noted specific efforts such as a historic ecology project with SFEI and obtaining a rotary screw trap purchased for \$25k last year to better evaluate the health of fisheries (steelhead spawning for example). Leigh then summarized efforts in restoration and enhancement which started in 2009. This included decommissioning stream crossings, addressing rolling dips and out sloping, removing unwanted stock ponds, and removing barriers to fish migration. The NBWA Board had several questions on this topic. Who paid for restoration? (Cost-sharing with landowners.) How much does a typical project cost? (\$100k – planning and permitting often costs more than construction.) What happened to sediment? (Excess sediment was moved off site.) Patrick then highlighted the Rutherford Reach Restoration Project in the middle of the Napa River as a major success. Progressive property owners began the project with a self-assessment that was used to fund the development of a conceptual plan, which was brought to the WICC Board and County. County and Coastal Conservancy funds were used for the design phase, with the RCD as contractor, to facilitate planning, permitting, and monitoring. The first of 4 reaches was completed this past summer and the 2nd reach will start next summer. The NBWA Board had several questions on this topic. Who administered the construction contract? (Flood District.) Who does maintenance? (Flood District or property owner can do in-kind maintenance.) How does RWQCB handle lack of authority for stream habitat in TMDL? (TMDL includes a “habitat enhancement plan” and RWQCB encourages implementation and uses a waiver of waste discharge requirements as an incentive.) Leigh noted that the funding paradigm is changing and it is a challenge to maintain momentum. Patrick added that they are now looking at additional issues such as climate change (sea level rise effects on marshland), ground water monitoring, oak woodlands protection, and the importance of temperature and shading in addition to sediment.

7. 2010 Conference Update. Harry Seraydarian presented a PowerPoint update and reviewed the Conference – Date: April, 9, Location: Sheraton Petaluma, and Theme: Greening our Water Infrastructure. Harry summarized the program and speaker topics. Program is available on the NBWA website: <http://nbwatershed.org/pages/2010conf.php> and noted the Wine Tasting hosted by the Benziger Family Winery. Harry summarized the costs for the Conference and provided a summary of sponsor contributions to date. Madeline Thomas offered to become a sponsor of the Conference at the \$1,000 level on behalf of BMKCSD. The next Conference Committee meeting is scheduled for January 20 at MMWD at 10:00 am.

8. Bay Area IRWMP Update. Harry Seraydarian presented a PowerPoint overview of the Bay Area Coordinating Committee efforts in 2009. Harry noted that Paul Helliker has been the Chair of the Bay Area Coordinating Committee for the past two years and keeps the momentum going having held 8 meetings in 2009. Harry also highlighted two Sub-Committees in which he actively participated: the Planning and Process Subcommittee (PnP) and the Project Screening Subcommittee. Harry listed the major topics addressed in 2009: Regional Acceptance Process (RAP), Local Project Selection Process, Sub-Regional Funding, Project Screening/“regional projects”, Regional versus Sub-Regional Projects, Grant Administration, and Funding – Contractor and Prop 50. Harry then summarized a possible funding opportunity. DWR announced in November, 2009 that \$7.4 million total statewide leftover Prop 50 funds were available only to underfunded prior applicants requiring a 10% match. BACWA would be the applicant for the Bay Area and they are willing to pursue this funding for a maximum possible award of \$3.4 million. The PSSC Subcommittee will meet on January 12 to review possible projects. The next Coordinating Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 25.

9. Items of Interest.

* Judy Schriebman, LGVSD, Wed. January 20, 7 pm, a film on The Bay Institute’s STRAW Program (Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed) will be shown at the Marin Civic Center’s Showcase Theatre, Tickets \$10

<http://www.lgvsd.org/docs/ASQ%20movieFLYER%2012%207.pdf>

* Terri Fashing, MCSTOPPP, Marin County Bio-Assessment Report to include current data, as well as all data since 1999, and the Regional Board’s data to be released in February for public comment

* Terri Fashing, MCSTOPPP May 15 – Eco-Friendly Garden Tour – MCSTOPPP/MMWD – looking for gardens

10. Items for Next Agenda.

* SPAWN (Salmon Protection and Watershed Network) Presentation on Rainwater Harvesting by Paola Bouley

* Update on efforts to develop NBWA Fact Sheet by Sonoma Ecology Center and The Bay Institute

Jack Gibson, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Submitted By: Elizabeth O. Preim-Rohtla

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

February 5 – Petaluma (Lucchesi) Community Ctr., 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954—Club Room

March 5 – Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949

April 9, 2010 – NBWA Conference at the Sheraton Petaluma, 745 Baywood Drive, Petaluma, CA

May 7 – Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949

June 4 – Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson Street, Novato, CA 94945

July 9 – Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949

No August

September 10 – Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949

October 1 – Petaluma (Lucchesi) Community Ctr., 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954—Conf. Rm. 2

November 5 – Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949

December 3 – Petaluma (Lucchesi) Community Ctr., 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954—Conf. Rm. 2