

NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Friday, February 5, 2010

MEETING MINUTES NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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

Friday, February 5, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Petaluma (Lucchesi) Community Center
320 N. McDowell Boulevard
Petaluma, CA 94954

Directors present included:

Judy Arnold, County of Marin
Jack Baker, North Marin Water District
Steve Barbose, City of Sonoma and Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District
Megan Clark, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District
John Dupar, Central Marin Sanitation Agency
Ernie Ganas, Bel Marin Keys Community Services District
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District
Tim Healy, Napa Sanitation District
Shirlee Zane, Sonoma County and Sonoma County Water Agency

Directors present represented 11 out of the 15 agencies signatory to the Association MOU and Peter Vorster represented The Bay Institute, an Associate Member.

Board Actions

1. Call to Order. Jack Gibson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. Introductions followed. Shirlee Zane was introduced as a new Board Member representing Sonoma County and the Sonoma County Water Agency.
2. Public Comment. There was no public comment.
3. Approval of the Agenda. (See Handout) The Board unanimously approved the agenda.
4. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting held January 8, 2010. (See Handout) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on January 8, 2010 were unanimously approved.
5. Treasurer's Report. (See Handout) The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Harry Seraydarian noting 2010 Conference Sponsorship and Registration income.
6. NBWA Fact Sheet. (See Handout) Guest Speakers Caitlin Cornwall, Sonoma Ecology Center and Peter Vorster, The Bay Institute, provided a handout of the draft NBWA brochure that has evolved from the original "Fact Sheet" concept proposed by Andy Rodgers (Petaluma Chamber of Commerce) of the Watershed Council. Peter explained the emphasis on water supply and the difficulty providing detail on land use given the scale. Caitlin noted that the final printing would have the desired blue and green color scheme and the main topics

covered are those about the North Bay watershed and facts about NBWA. She then asked for input on wording and suggestions for additions and/or deletions, bearing in mind the diverse audience of existing NBWA Board Member agencies, potential member agencies, potential Watershed Council members, and the general public. The Board Members initial response was that the format of the brochure was a good idea and that they liked the visuals. The Board then provided specific feedback on wording (strike “annual” for conference and replace “opportunities” with a phrase related to high quality). The Board provided general feedback on readability and had a number of questions on water supply and recycling. The Board also questioned whether the public would understand “TMDLs” and alternate phrasing was suggested of federally listed impaired water bodies with mandated action plans. The Board also suggested a footnote on the map indicating that Tomales Bay is an Associate Member. The Board agreed to email any additional comments to Harry by February 12.

7. Rainwater Harvesting, Watersheds, and Salmon Recovery. Paola Bouley – Conservation Director, SPAWN (Salmon Protection and Watershed Network), handed out two of SPAWN’s newsletters and presented a PowerPoint focused on Marin’s 10,000 Rain Gardens Project and explaining the SPAWN Program. Paola first described the SPAWN Program which focuses on: Education with naturalist training and creek walks and a partnership with NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training for the Summer Salmon Institute (July 12-16, 2010); Restoration & Habitat Protection with Prop 50 and ARRA funding; and Research and Monitoring on salmon spawning, smolt outmigration, water quality monitoring, and land-use and practices. Paola then addressed the question: “Why Salmon?” Paola explained that salmon are aquatic indicator species and their numbers are a reflection of the condition of our watershed. SPAWN’s main focus is on the Lagunitas Creek Watershed in the San Geronimo Valley, the keystone area for recovering salmon. She noted that 75% of the Southern Marin water supply comes directly from the Lagunitas Watershed. Jack Gibson, Board Representative for MMWD provided some background information on MMWD efforts to help the salmon and the 10-year program on monitoring and habitat restoration that still continues. Paola noted the reduced numbers since 2008 and contributing factors such as poor ocean conditions. She mentioned refuge from winter flows as the largest limiting factor in the Watershed. Paola noted that the historic approach to development of “Pave it, Pipe it, Pollute it” led to increased erosion, increased flooding, and loss of groundwater and emphasized that natural habitat versus channels is not just a fish issue. Paola then provided background on SPAWN’s Water Harvesting Program. In 2006 SPAWN received a grant for monitoring and measuring pathogens and a small amount was for community involvement. SPAWN implemented a rainwater harvesting project at Lagunitas School, where the stormwater runoff drains into Larson Creek. This “salmon-creek friendly” project diverts 30,000 gallons into an above ground cistern and uses the water for summer irrigation with the excess going to infiltration. Due to the success of that project, SPAWN launched a Rainwater Harvesting Incentives Program in partnership with the Marin Community Foundation which includes: landowner outreach and education, site visits, bulk deliveries of cisterns, community participation, workshops, tours and much more. Paola responded to several Board questions. What is average cost? (~\$1/gallon). Will there be enough flow in the creeks for fish? (only small portion of flows could be captured). Paola then described the 10,000 Rain Gardens Project in partnership with MMWD. SPAWN consults with landowners, provides technical resources, demonstration projects, strategic signage, traveling exhibits, workshops, tours, green jobs, strategic partnerships, and has started a rainwater harvesting project registry. The 2010 Water Project is led by Sustainable Fairfax for the town of Fairfax that already conserves. Paola then described the Sustainable Fairfax 2010 Water Project which increases the focus on watershed and conservation awareness and its Sustainability Center holds demonstrations, workshops, training sessions, business, school and residential outreach, and distributes a newsletter, printed materials, and maintains a website. Paola ended with “Lessons Learned” from public outreach: communities want more conservation, community-based efforts make projects more affordable, incentives are critical (funding is needed), rain barrels are cool to start, but larger storage is more efficient, and 100% offset of irrigation is not achievable but water saving results are positive (If everyone saved 10-20% we’d be moving in the right direction, changes in behavior need to be accounted for, and graywater will fill a critical gap). Go to: www.SpawnUSA.org and www.SustainableFairfax.org for more information.

8. Items of Interest.

* Peter Vorster – The Bay Institute and the new Aquarium of the Bay, along with the Nature Conservancy and working with Salmon Aid, created a Central California Salmon Viewing Map and one for the San Francisco Bay Area. Go to www.bay.org/news.htm or www.salmonaid.org

* Shirlee Zane, Sonoma County Supervisor, noted efforts underway to lobby for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act and asked for a letter of support from NBWA. After discussion, the Board approved providing a letter of support subject to additional input from Judy Arnold, Marin County Supervisor. Jack Baker abstained from the vote because he wanted to know more about the bill and lobbying efforts.

* Liz Lewis, Marin County Public Works Dept. – Tues, Feb. 9, 1:30 p.m. discussing final draft of San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan at the Marin County Board of Supervisor’s Meeting. Public comments are included on the plan – www.marinwatersheds.org

9. Items for Next Agenda.

* Update on Marin Watershed Program, Liz Lewis and Chris Choo, Marin County Public Works Department.

* Budget Options for next Fiscal Year (2010-2011)

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

Submitted By: Elizabeth O. Preim-Rohtla

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

March 5 – Change of Location – Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson Street, Novato, CA 94945

April 9 – 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