

NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Friday, March 5, 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.
Novato Sanitary District
500 Davidson Street
Novato, CA 94945

Directors Present: Directors present included:

Jack Baker, North Marin Water District
Steve Barbose, City of Sonoma and Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District
John Dupar, Central Marin Sanitation Agency
Ernie Ganas, Bel Marin Keys Community Services District
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District
Sandeep Karkal, Novato Sanitary District
Diane Lesko, Sonoma County and Sonoma County Water Agency
Mark Luce, Napa Sanitation District

Directors present represented 10 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 9:36 a.m.
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 February 5, 2010. (See Handout) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on February 5, 2010 were unanimously approved.
5. Treasurer's Report. (See Handout) The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Harry Seraydarian noting that the proposed 2010-2011 Budget Item would be discussed later on in the meeting.
6. Marin Watershed Program Update. Chris Choo, Marin County Department of Public Works demonstrated the "Marin County Watershed Stewardship Program" website: <http://www.marinwatersheds.org/index.html>. Chris first provided some background on progress since the Marin Board of Supervisors approved the watershed approach 2½ years ago. The original intent was to develop a paper plan and a website but it became obvious that the traditional large printed document would not be effective and a decision was made to focus on the website. The website is designed for the general public and to help agencies and emphasizes watersheds. The web site includes a watershed explorer that presents similar information for each watershed, including maps, overviews, history, habitat, and land use information. Chris used the information on the website to explain the structure (program participants) and then used examples in specific watersheds to illustrate the type of information included. In response to a question, Chris noted that a DWR Cal/Fed grant (\$170,000) paid for

most of the cost to get the website up and running. Chris highlighted some of the planning tools and noted the emphasis on “multi-benefit” project planning and permitting. Chris also presented some examples under Flood and Stormwater Protection and described the types of information that would be included in the Library. Board Members were impressed with the website and had a number of questions. Who maintains and updates the maps? (Support provided by MMWD and County GIS Staff). Does the site include a search tool? (Yes, and the website will be revised with a Google search tool). How many people are accessing the site? (Don’t have a counter but getting quite a lot of emails with feedback.) What are other counties doing – how cutting edge is this website? (Napa through WICC has a lot of similar information, Marin trying to make this site visually exciting). Do Town Managers know about this site? (Yes, through MCSTOPPP). Are you still doing work on Ross Valley with lawsuit? (Yes, still working on erosion control with Urban Creeks Council).

7. Budget Options 2010-2011. Harry Seraydarian presented budget options using PowerPoint slides. Harry first provided background on the baseline budget and project funding. This included a review of all historic NBWA budgets and project funding. Harry referred to a 2008 Strategy Session which included an evaluation of projects by the Technical Committee Chairs (on NBWA web site: www.nbwatershed.org/pages/library/prez08.php). Harry reviewed the options considered for the 2009-2010 Budget and the decisions made last year. Harry then outlined the options for the 2010-2011 budget (see handout), which included: (1) Allocate entire carryover to “projects” (TBD); (2) Allocate all carryover to baseline budget (reduce membership costs by ~50%); (3) Split carryover between baseline budget and “projects” (reduce members costs by ~25% and allocate ~\$40k to projects; (4) Prior year decision (a) Go up to 95% this coming year (5% reduction), and provide ~ \$75k for projects (recommended option). Harry noted that all options included using carryover to cover the costs of Petaluma’s membership. Harry then asked for input on the options (reduce, modify or add options). Diane Lesko and Mark Luce expressed a preference for the recommended Option (5% reduction). Steve Barbose, representing the City of Sonoma’s perspective expressed a preference for Option 2 – (50% reduction, no projects) and indicated he would have to check with the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District for their preference. John Dupar also expressed a preference for Option 2 and holding off on funding any new projects. Audience members suggested that a policy should be developed to address Petaluma’s membership and that an option that selectively allows the 50% reduction should be considered.

8. Lateral Legislation. (See Handout) Harry Seraydarian summarized proposed legislation – Jared Huffman’s Assembly Bill #2182, that would allow public agencies and special districts to offer loans for sewer lateral improvements on private property, when those improvements will result in public benefits to water quality. Loan payments would be attached to the property tax bill. Harry explained that Huffman’s staff had asked whether NBWA could sponsor or support the bill. Harry also noted that Jason Dow, CMSA, representing Marin Wastewater Managers, supports the bill. After some dialogue on the options the Board unanimously approved sponsoring the bill.

9. Items of Interest.

* On February 5, 2010, the NBWA Board approved providing a letter of support for the proposed San Francisco Bay Restoration Act subject to Marin County input. Harry followed up with proponents who suggested waiting until legislation is introduced.

10. Items for Next Agenda.

- * STRAW Documentary – A Simple Question – video screening
- * 2010-2011 Budget Decision

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

Submitted By: Elizabeth O. Preim-Rohtla

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

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 Meeting

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