

NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Summary of the meeting of the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) Board of Directors

Date: September 9, 2016
 Time: 9:30 a.m.
 Location: Novato Sanitary District
 500 Davidson St.
 Novato, CA 94945

Directors Present Included:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>
Diane Furst	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Julianna Inman	Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Pan Drew	City of Novato	Keith Caldwell	Napa Sanitation District
Madolyn Agrimonti	City of Sonoma	Jack Baker	North Marin Water District
Brad Sherwood	Sonoma County and Sonoma County Water Agency	Pam Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District
Judy Schriebman	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Chris Choo	Marin County
Bob Bundy	Corte Madera Flood Board	Jason Holley	City of American Canyon
Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District		

Directors present represented 13 out of the 18 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

Board Actions:

1. **Call to Order** Jack Gibson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Approval of the Agenda** (See handout) The board unanimously approved the agenda.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting held July 8th, 2016** (See handout) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held July 8th, 2016 were unanimously approved.
5. **Treasurer’s Report** (See handout) The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as presented by Judy Kelly.
6. **Director’s Report** (See handout) Judy Kelly, Executive Director of the NBWA, presented the Director’s report for August 2016. The board extends a particular welcome to their newest member, Jason Holley, who will represent the City of American Canyon.
7. **The 2015 State of the Estuary Report** Letitia Grenier, of the San Francisco Estuary Institute, gave a presentation overviewing the goals, data, findings, and recommendations of the 2015 State of the Estuary Report. The State of the Estuary Report’s (SotER) goal is to systematically assess ecosystem health as it relates to five major components: habitat, wildlife, processes, people, and water. Each component is then examined through a variety of scientific indicators, relevant data of each indicator is given poor, fair, or good thresholds with regard to larger ecosystem health, and trends are noted. Although Letitia lamented the fact that consistent data sets pertaining to each indicator rarely exist throughout the larger Bay and Delta, estuary health tends to be higher towards the ocean where the system is more dependent on salt water, and poorer towards the delta where the ecosystem is more dependent on freshwater. Furthermore, generally bay estuary health is improving, while delta estuary health is declining. Letitia expressed considerable concern that significant efforts must be taken to maintain estuary health as habitats migrate due to rising sea levels and changing water lines. Improvements tend to be greatest in areas where humans have

worked the longest and put the most funding in – like improvements to water quality over the past 30 years.

The SotER also outlines causes of estuarine ecosystem decline, particularly noting loss of wetlands and beneficial [non-destructive] flooding; changes to sediment movement particularly due to the withholding of sediment behind dams; the loss of processes that create and maintain habitats; human-made water infrastructure limitation of inflow, particularly during times of drought; and long-term artificial creation of drought-conditions for the estuary due to the high demand and use of freshwater.

Q: How long did ecosystem decline take? Varied timeline, dependent on location and time wetland ponds were diked. Q: Can dredged sediments be placed to be beneficially used naturally by estuarine ecosystems? There are ponds where it could be placed to be used beneficially by ecosystems, but may kill macroinvertebrates underneath sites. There may also be permitting challenges. Normally dredged sediments are placed near Alcatraz to be swept out through the Golden Gate. Q: How will the Twin Tunnel project affect the estuary? This report was without analyzing the specifics of the project, but could be devastating if the tunnels result in more water being taken in the future than is already taken now. Q: How does federal funding of the estuary play in? About \$5 million is available annually, however insignificant compared to other large estuaries nationally. Measure AA will provide great match for this \$5 million and hopefully additional Federal funds.

Letitia's takeaway: Conceptualization of estuary as a complex system involving many small-scale watersheds is important and local control of responsible estuary management is vital. In the future the ocean could play an increasingly significant role in the Bay ecosystem due to sea level rise. For more information please visit <http://www.sfestuary.org/about-the-estuary/soter/>.

8. **North Bay Watershed Association Board Survey Follow Up** (Agenda items 7 and 8 conducted in reverse order) During the Board Survey a recommendation arose from Brad Sherwood (SCWA) to develop a strategic communication plan for the NBWA. In order to form this plan Brad recommended that a small ad hoc committee be formed to assess the current communication needs of the NBWA and its members. Jack Gibson asked who should make up the committee, and Brad replied that the committee could be made up of a combination of board members, their employees, and the JTC. Madolyn Agrimonti expressed interest in joining the Communication Plan Committee, and Judy Kelly asks that anyone else interested in joining the committee should contact her or Sophie Hallam-Eames. |
9. **2016 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Update (CCMP)** Caitlin Sweeney, Director of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) reported on the overhaul being performed on the comprehensive management plan for the estuary, which was originally mandated by the EPA. The goal of the SFEP and the CCMP is to examine how the San Francisco estuary should look in 2050, and the CCMP identifies actions that need to be taken in the next five years to get there. The CCMP utilizes the findings of the State of the Estuary Report, and identifies a plan for the implementation of estuary ecosystem improvements. The CCMP is divided into 32 specific actions which include necessary steps, owners, outline relevant partnerships, and describe how each action relates to watershed goals. Most actions aim to address concerns in the following areas:

- Understand watersheds, make connections between habitats
- Optimize regions investment in wetland habitats, develop a variety of habitats
- Control stresses on habitats
- Bolster the 'system' in 'ecosystem'
- Support natural solutions to protect our shores
- Plan for long-term droughts (especially including recycled water)
- Reduce pollutants
- Account for sea level rise and marsh migration, increase resiliency of land use planning

The SFEP will track management plan progress tasks and milestones and their environmental outcomes (including State of the Estuary indicators). A website will be available for additional and real time information, including funding analysis. Once the new CCMP gets its final approvals, copies will be make available to the NBWA Board.

Q: Which actions could be relevant to the NBWA? Answer: Sewer lateral ordinances, actions on recycled water, agricultural use efficiency, off-stream storage. Q: Do some actions overlap with Measure AA? Yes.

10. Items of Interest

11. Items for Next Agenda

- Project Funding Request: North Bay Shoreline Access Maps
- Leigh Sharp, Napa RCD, Landsmart and STRAW presentation
- Going to the Dogs: Demo of how trained dogs are helping keep lakes safe

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

SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL

Submitted By: Sophie Hallam-Eames

Water Agency Programs Specialist SCWA and NBWA Staff

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

October 7, 2016 – Petaluma (Lucchesi) Community Center, 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954
– Conference room 2