

NBWA Joint Technical Committee Meeting Summary  
August 7th, 2018

Attendees:

Jack Gibson, Chair NBWA  
Judy Kelly, Ex. Director NBWA  
Keith Abeles , Sonoma RCD  
Frances Knapczyk, Napa RCD  
Chris Choo, Marin County, Chair, JTC  
Sandra Guldman. Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed  
Brian Bordona, Napa County  
Judy Shreibman, Las Gallinas Valley SD  
Caitlin Cornwall, Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC)  
Rob Carson, Marin County

Judy opened the meeting by reviewing the May meeting conversations about potential project ideas for NBWA support. First, Sandra asked if there were more details about toxics post fire and if there is a concern about water supply relative to the fire. Caitlin responded that the expectation is we will see exacerbated erosion in the first year or two after the fire. The Santa Rosa fire chief recently gave report about an area in Santa Rosa that continues to have water quality problems due to overheating of pipes and related leaching issues.

Frances, Napa Co. RCD, talked about the NBWA proposal she has been working on with the Sonoma RCD and SFEI and developed since the last JTC meeting. She said that Post fire, the RCDs have been overwhelmed with public response to planting acorns. The Sonoma RCD has long been working with schools to do re-oaking and has looked at a possible major expansion of this effort. All agreed that there was a need for a strategic plan on the re-oaking. Also been a good deal of historical ecology that's been done in the region on the re-oaking. Plan could be a tool to generate excitement throughout the county. Both RCDs have plans to work with the Laguna Foundation to do replanting in the fall. The outcome of the May discussion was the proposal today with a budget of \$55k.

Re-oaking proposal details. Napa RCD

SFEI would produce a short overarching planning document to be visually compelling. Chris asked how much work/cost would be needed to add Marin? Frances responded that she would like to pilot first and then add in the other two counties. Marin has come up in discussions but the county was not impacted the same way as Napa and Sonoma. Frances noted that Napa is further along with their Acorns to Oaks project and this NBWA project would help bring Sonoma up to speed. Chris said Marin County is working to redo county plans, which will include more detailed vegetation maps but that this data won't be ready for

publication until a year or more. Sandra mentioned that the oaks are dying prematurely in the Corte Madera Valley. Judy asked if work was underway to look at climate-adapted genotypes, and it was noted that John Brody (STRAW) and David Ackerly are working on new species/variety genotype needed for the future. Pope Valley would be good to look as it is more like a blue oak dominated eastern valley.

Judy raised the question about current proposal costs for a 4-5 page SFEI document and asked what that would include in terms of data gathering and management. Caitlin mentioned the conservations lands network could be a model for data management and noted that the EcoAtlas feels like a good snap shot of what is there now. The question was raised about where a new oak strategy might permanently live. Frances noted that there will not be a focus of work on private lands and the group asked how can improvements on private land be incentivized or recouped? Pay into a maintenance fund? This needs further discussion.

On survival of the plantings, Napa RCD has historically seen about a 20% survival rate from acorn planting, which is considered good return. Sonoma is more interested in seedlings and Napa more interest in acorns, but that will depend on the site. Easy access to water? Maybe seedlings. More remote site? Just acorns perhaps. The Laguna Foundation recently propagated 1000 oak seedlings which will be ready in a year to plant out. Caitlin noted that the SEC also has a nursery, but more focused on landscape level restoration.

Rob mentioned that he knows that SFEI and others do a good job of short visuals, but we also need to be sure we have access to the underpinnings of all the work along with important details cited. For example, restoration work needs to recognize that acorns propagate when they are within 500 feet of each other. He noted that the workplan and scope need to be clear that any new data generated is available and be clear about where it resides and how people can access.

Chris suggested that the work also identifies where the storage, staging and different pieces of oak reseedling go together within the broader partnership and simple information about who has what materials available.

Landscaping for fire and water for the north bay. SEC

Caitlin explained the immediate opportunity to talk to people about re-landscaping to be fire smart and water wise. People who are rebuilding are getting lots of advice on things but not so much about smarter landscapes. Results of a fire smart and water wise outlook could be a lot of water saving. She noted that while there are Lots of materials out there, the focus of the SEC work would be to bring information out in a more digestible way, and for people to understand the multi-benefits of this approach.

Caitlin noted that there are landscape handouts that were done by SCWA that are good models, and the SEC would want to get those out to the public along with other technical assistance that is currently available. SEC just got approval for \$15k from a foundation for some of this fire smart/water wise work. She noted that the effort was originally developed thinking about the areas that burned, but they are now beginning to think about areas and audience more broadly. In May we talked about how best to work with people who are in fire recovery and that SCWA and Daily Acts held 2 or 3 workshops on the new landscaping templates. A lot more people need to have that information.

Frances asked for more information about the outreach piece, which would be complementary to the current landscape templates. Caitlin replied that the new piece defines “water smart, wildlife friendly” and has pictures and conveys the idea that these concepts can work together. The California Native plant society also has good templates. The Committee suggested that the SEC loop in the master gardeners and the extension service. Chris asked what the recently-received foundation funds were for and what SEC needs in addition and asked if there are ways to broaden the outreach.

#### Follow up actions

NRCD will talk to partners about data ownership and flesh out how this project can naturally expand over time in geography and over time with partners. If there is time, they will send a new version to Judy for potential action by the NBWA Board in September. [Judy noted that we can consider doing a fast turn around to the Board on the proposal as the Committee is supportive and just asked for further details to be included in the Final proposal.

The SEC will rethink budget and potential expansions of partners for further JTC discussion