

## North Bay Watershed Association

### Meeting Summary

JTC meeting: January 28th, 2019, Marin County Administration Building

#### Attendees:

Judy Schriebman, Las Gallinas Valley Water District

Andrew Damron, Napa San

Minona Heaviland, Sonoma Ecology Center

Isaiah Thalmayer, Point Blue

Kelly White, GHD

Kate Powers, MCL

Sandy Guldman, Friends of Corte Madera Creek

Jeff Schreiber Sonoma RCD

Judy Kelly, NBWA

Chris Choo, Marin County

Rob Carson, MCSTOPP

Will Stockard, MCSTOPP

Lucas Patzek, Napa RCD

This meeting was focused on briefing the JTC on the development of the new NBWA Strategic Plan. For the benefit of new members, Chris reminded the group that this Technical Committee was created to advise the Board on technical issues, and originally, the Committee was made out of staff from the member agencies. Over time, NGOs joined the Committee.

Chris led with introductions handed out the Draft Strategic Plan write ups of the 4 new Strategic Directions, and walked the group through the first two Strategic Directions- beginning with a discussion about a One Water planning approach for the North Bay. Rob reminded the group that Santa Clara Valley Water District, a big proponent of the One Water approach, is also responding to new stormwater permits but that the approach is becoming more prevalent as individual agencies recognize the interconnected water systems. It was noted that there is a need for more information about stormwater infiltration and a suggestion that funding the gathering of that information should be part of building this approach. Sandy reminded the group that Steve Moore, the new GM of Ross Valley Sanitary District is very interested in a coordinated approach for water reuse and drinking water supply. Kate pointed out that the North Bay has many agencies and districts, which makes coordination more challenging. Minona wondered if funds for modeling could become available as the group is working toward defining a One Water approach. Lucas mentioned that several of the north bay/coast RCDs are considering developing a Joint Powers Agreement in their effort to become more regional in approach.

Chris then covered the second Strategic Direction, which is to develop good regional projects. This refocus our approach to grant funds from a mostly reactive response to forward looking planning and will require more time and work in the

early development of good regional or sub-regional projects that build off One Water approach. Judy S. liked the Santa Clara approach to One Water, which does an evaluation of issues on watershed by watershed basis, and then will look at project ideas that will address multiple watersheds and issues. Sandy suggested that we be sure to look at groundwater overdraft that affects streamflows in the North Bay as part of our efforts. Minona mentioned the Nature Conservancy has done some of this work on groundwater-streamflow interactions. The group discussed ways of building a watershed information base; Lucas stated that with Napa's small population, it's easier to get everyone together once a quarter - all the water suppliers, conservation folks etc. - to have these kinds of information gathering meetings and he suggested that each of the 4 NBWA counties might begin by having a similar county-wide meeting of water and restoration interests. Lucas mentioned that one option is share staff expertise to integrate water resource issues. Kate thought funding and resources were needed to improve watersheds like Mahon Creek in San Rafael.

Kate noted that the NBWA has often supported small projects and hopes that we don't lose sight of small projects as we also work to define larger, regional opportunities.

Judy K. then described the outlines of the last two Strategic Directions: finding funding for the regional projects that are expected to come out of this new effort, and increasing the NBWA communication work with special attention to creating ways of increasing the relevance and speed of information sharing. The 2020 conference may be an opportunity to integrate our work and share the progress with the conference attendees.

Isaiah stated that the Strategic Directions look good, and discussion then centered around how to practically gather the information we need and how best to build new relationships to move us toward a One Water approach regionally. Successful development of good projects and stronger partnerships could also help us get these ideas into discussions around new funding sources, like state bonds. Chris suggested that this Committee as a whole needs more integration with the NBWA member agency staff and better understanding of their priorities as we develop regional goals and specific project ideas.

Committee members supported meeting every two months. Chris will look for a standard day and time and location as the group decided to simplify planning by no longer rotating the meeting place.

Action Items:

- Chris will send out dates, times and place for remaining 2019 meetings.
- Chris and Judy K. will send out electronic copies of the 4 Strategic Directions along with the full Draft Plan with a reminder that the Board has been asked to provide comments by February 15<sup>th</sup> and a plan to have final approval at the March 1<sup>st</sup> NBWA Board meeting.