

North Bay Watershed Association

Draft Summary - the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) Board of Directors.

Date: Friday, April 5th, 2019 – 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Location: Marin Municipal Water Dist.

Directors or Representatives Present Included:

Board Member	Agency/Organization	Board Member	Agency/Organization
Michael Boorstein	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Leon Garcia Rick Thomasser	Napa Co. Flood Control & Water Cons. Dist.
Elizabeth Patterson	Solano County Water	Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District
Megan Clark	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Jean Mariani	Novato Sanitary District
Pamela Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District	Rick Fraites	North Marin Water District
Leon Garcia	City of American Canyon	Paul Jensen	City of San Rafael
Pam Drew	City of Novato	Damon Connolly	Marin County

1. Call to Order – Jack Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.
2. Public Comment - No public comment.
3. Approval of Agenda; acceptance of the Treasure’s Report.
4. **Update on JTC Activities. Chris Choo, Marin Co.** Chris stated that the JTC’s focus is on how to create and implement the One Water concept as part of the Strategic Plan. She reminded that Board that the JTC needs representation from the NBWA member agencies and noted that the JTC meetings for 2019 are set and can be found on the NBWA website.
5. **Board Information Exchange.** Jack reminded the group that this agenda item was suggested as part of our efforts to improve internal communications under the Strategic Plan. He started the round by relating that MMWD is doing a rate restructuring. The plan is to separate a capital maintenance fee on tax bills from regular monthly bills that will just cover cost of living increases for the District. Jack mentioned the issue of electric bikes in the watershed, which is becoming controversial and will need addressing. Jack also mentioned the release of the EIR on vegetation management for the watershed... Rick F. [NMWD] said Novato is going to district elections and are also looking at a rate increase of about 4% ... Pam Meigs [RVSD] passed out the new GM’s monthly report and mentioned commercials they are now running on issues like down-the-drain grease reduction. They are looking at scholarships and are using Nextdoor as a new communications tool... Leon [Napa

San] mention they also use Nextdoor and noted in the aftermath of Measure C the County is now working on an ordinance that covers the same issues such as the reduction of fuel load and preservation of the forest canopy... Jean noted that Novato is also looking at new elections and mentioned that during the November floods, the District pumps worked 24/7... Mike stated that the CMSA is using generated power to produce 99% of energy used on site use, will be adding a new generator, and will be selling energy back to Marin County. There will be a need for more feedstock for the digesters, which they are now testing... Paul mentioned the City of San Rafael already did district elections, going into affect 2020 and is also doing a new master plan. Their Fire department has created a fire reduction action plan and working with Marin Audubon to restore Tiscornia marsh. The property next to that marsh is owned by the City and will now be part of the effort... Elisabeth Patterson reported that the Sustainable Solano effort is being funded that includes things like rainwater capture. The Agency is also working on water transfer policies and will be watchful about the potential that water might go out of region. They are also looking at protecting water rights for folks recharging groundwater. She encourages the Board to take a look at the new California Water Plan, the summary is just 40 pages... Megan told the group they are going through a \$ 40 million update on the plant... Damon reported on a trip to DC. With the change in the House, we have an opportunity to press for watershed and sea level rise issues. He had a great discussion with Committee staff in charge of drafting a new WRDA. They are willingly to broaden the approach to better account for watershed issues. Damon is chairing a working group on ways to reframe the issue and will look to NBWA for comment... Pam D. talked about fire suppression management; she is worried they have not done enough to manage fire suppression work on city property. Leon commented that information sharing here today was excellent.

6. **Mark Millan, Data Instincts.** Data Instincts concentrates on water issues working with counties and public agencies with a special focus on recycling. Mark served on the City Council for Windsor and chaired the Russian River Watershed Association. Mark's work with NBWA will focus on helping to implement Strategic Direction 4, "Telling your Story". Mark reviewed the NBWA website and gave it a good grade. In the "announcements " section, we need to think about how much effort it should require with so many other competing services like Facebook and Nextdoor. He noted that we do have a newsletter that can focus on information which does not need to be timely, since every three months is not "newsy"" and suggested we could also include radio or news clips in the newsletter. He discussed the question of timeliness of various communications using the example of SB 322, now pending in Sacramento, which would affect all members. A response on something like the pending Bill can't wait a month or two for a response so a faster communication tool is needed.

Mark mentioned the other Strategic Plan idea for NBWA workshops, and noted we could do more of these that would benefit the region. We could look to partner with other regional agencies and focus these on SIGMA, recycling water issues, etc. Megan suggested we need to do a better idea of informing the public that our water has always been "recycled " and building understanding about that is key to future of one water. Paul suggested that each member be sure to link to NBWA website. Elisabeth suggested we also link to DWRs weekly newsletter. Chris suggested we have a workshop on how we can better change and adapt to changing circumstances and have more in-depth "Board based" workshops. Megan mentioned that LGVSD

has a limited physical space and so supports more in-depth, in-person meetings to sponsored by NBWA. Pam Meigs said she always comes back to the issue of health and the question of what we want to leave behind for people in the connection between health water and people. Mark will discuss ideas with Judy K about ways to improve communications and specific ideas will be brought back to the Board.

7. **February Floods, Rich Thomasser, Napa and Kevin Booker, Sonoma Water.** Rick talked about how well Napa did in this latest round of atmospheric rivers. We had two of these in February. The events triggered the flood operations mode for Napa, based on river gages [the gage estimated that the river would peak just below flood stage]. Rick talked about the dry bypass in Napa, which relieves flooding in the oxbow area of downtown. There was no flooding in Napa this year; it's designed to carry 50% of rivers volume in a 100-year flood. The bypass was in operation both times and worked as planned. This has been a \$400 million project pushed by the county ; the project originally passed by only 450 votes. This has been a great project, but there is much more to do. The rest of the project is now deemed "not in the federal interest" and there is a need for an additional \$90 million for more floodwalls. The County has paid the Corps to review plans and they agreed that indeed there is a federal interest; now waiting for official decision from Corps. Kevin reviewed Sonoma's ongoing stream maintenance program. There are 9 geographic zones in the maintenance program. Work includes sediment management, bank stabilization, vegetation management and this is a full time program. There is funding for 4 out of the 9 zones. Greater Santa Rosa is the biggest area they work on. Recently, they instituted a flood watch program where staff gets ready and estimates where the issues are likely to be found. During the February flood, the plant in Guerneville was isolated but kept working. The town of Venado experienced a 1,000 year event!. Sonoma Water will need to prepare for more of these events as the climate changes. How did the environmental restoration work below Lake Sonoma do? Kevin replied that it's been washed out twice but did not get very damaged this time. Elizabeth asked Rick about the development on the west side of Napa that seems clearly to be in a floodplain? Rick explained that with the project, the floodway has been narrowed and it's acceptable to build there, but at elevation.
8. **Leadership Action needed and Announcements.** Jack mentioned that Sonoma County Supervisor Susan Gorin would be the new designee from Sonoma County. He also reminded the Board that the NBWA foundational MOU calls for an annual election of a Chair and a Vice Chair. Jack is willing to continue and Damon has agreed to be considered for Vice Chair, but Jack emphasized that the process is an open one, so if any Board member would like to be considered for either position, or to nominate a member, please contact Jack. The Board will come back to this question next month.
9. Meeting adjourned at 11:25
10. Next Meeting Information: May 3rd, 2019, Novato Sanitary District, Novato CA