

North Bay Watershed Association

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

Date: Friday, May 3rd, 2019 – 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Location: Novato Sanitary District

Directors or Representatives Present Included:

Board Member	Agency/Organization	Board Member	Agency/Organization
Michael Boorstein	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Leon Garcia	Napa Co. Flood Control & Water Cons. Dist.
Elizabeth Patterson	Solano County Water	Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District
Mariam Aboudamous	City of American Canyon	Jean Mariani	Novato Sanitary District
Pamela Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District	Rick Fraites	North Marin Water District
Pam Drew	City of Novato	Damon Connolly	Marin County
Mike Healy	City of Petaluma		

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;
4. Acceptance of the Treasure’s Report.
5. The April Meeting Summary was approved with a correction from Elizabeth Patterson who noted that there are 50 pages in DWR’s new California Water Plan.

6. Board Information Exchange. Jack Gibson reminded the group that MMWD is doing a restructuring of the budget and an associated rate increase. MMWD is trying to differentiate between ongoing capital needs and emergency expenditures. Example: PG&E has said, if warranted, they will shut down electricity without notice. MMWD is spending \$1-2 million on emergency generators to be sure there are no water blackouts. Leon noted that Calistoga went without power for 3 days during the last fire and now has put an emergency generator in as well. He also reported that their recent rate increases went smoothly because they used a citizen advisory group that brought people along. The Board generally agreed that while painful to go through, district elections result in better customer representation. Damon noted that the County is having a wildfire preparedness event tomorrow for the public and also looking at planning for road restructuring going into China Camp where issues are habitats, sea level rise and access. Key is getting right players on same page as the regional permitting agencies. Pam M. mentioned that Ross Valley has been invited to celebrate the 100 years of Alpine Dam. They are continuing their TV ads and also doing rate increase. Elizabeth mentioned last Friday she heard a discussion about potential conversion of oak lands. Yesterday, SFEI and SPUR released an online atlas of Bay Area shoreline sea level rise. Petaluma- Mike reported on his work with the groundwater agency that is going well. Rick recapped the progress on changing election structure and noted NMWD will have a rate increase hearing this month and that they are ramping up co-generation efforts. NMWD is small but looking at being more energy independent.

7. Roland Sanford, GM, Solano County Water Agency. Roland mentioned that Solano County has both diverse political spectrum and varied regulatory regimes. The west side is under RB2, while the east side is covered by the Cen. Valley RB. Most things in the county got started after the Gold Rush and focused on farming. History is one of land use transformations. Started with grain. The old town of Grain City was once one the largest ports and shipped worldwide. Then moved into trees and row crops. Putah Creek would often flood, made operations unstable. The Yolo Bypass are was wild with complex channels and lakes. Tules 20 feet high, with Grizzly bears. After years of planning, BOR build Monticello Dam and Lake Berryessa (primary water source) in 1950's. Groundwater became an issue with Mare Island and Travis AFB in Dixon, go into an overdraft state. The North Bay aqueduct was conceived in the 1960's to address these issues.

The agency owns a 1600-acre [Petterson Ranch] cattle ranch in the Delta, bought to assist with long term planning effort. It was formed in 1951 to hold the master contact for the new dam. Board was 5 county supervisors. In 1989 the Board was reformed by adding the 7 cities, plus the 3 large irrigation districts. They then had land use authority and the water users. Solano project is the backbone of the county's water supply with Lake Berryessa as lynchpin. Gravity feed throughout the county, ends in terminal reservoir and then Benicia and Vallejo pick it up. No mussel infestation yet. But if they come, they will spread rapidly into the Delta. Have boat inspections. Do have aging infrastructure. The 60 years old Putah South canal now has houses alongside and so county can't afford to have a failure. North Bay aqueduct is the dominant source for M & I in the county. Has poorest water quality of all state facilities due to Barker slough intake; algae issues, endangered species like Delta smelt. Solution: move intake towards Sacramento with various release points to allow for multiple restoration efforts.

The \$600 million North Bay Aqueduct was not finished till 1989. Also involved with SGMA and have good groundwater information. Two basins, one low priority, they are at work on Solano sub-basin which has 3 responsible agencies. Hope is to have one consolidated plan. Two flood control projects; first Ulatis project, built to protect agricultural land but now working dual purposes, recycling ag return flows with "summer dams" put in to capture ag flow. The second project is the Green Valley Project in Cordelia -once a major port, now residential.

Created a Habitat Conservation Plan 1999 as part of BOR contract renewal term. Encompasses entire county. USFWS lead, takes a very long time, currently in year 20. The cattle ranch (Peterson Ranch) is there to support the HCP. The plan is intended to direct growth in more planned way. There is great pressure on the county due to home prices, esp. Dixon and Vacaville where class 1 agricultural land is being developed. Hope to go to Federal Register in the fall. Putah was originally ephemeral and used as a flood control channel. South fork was created in late 1880's and did not enter the Sacramento River. An accord settled years of litigation after drought in late '80's and a water rights adjudication (Putah Creek cases), after 10 years of litigation, the agreement turned the Creek into a permanent stream and stabilized the trout population, now even seeing salmon. Goal is to get a self-sustaining salmon population in lower Putah.

Roland noted that there are several important SCWA/NBWA interconnections- climate change and mussel control in recreational lakes and infrastructure management to name a few.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. Presentation and Approval of NBWA 2019/2020 Budget and Workplan.

Judy Kelly presented the proposed 2019/2020 Draft budget and workplan. She noted that the two newest NBWA members [Solano County Water Agency and Napa County] would be paying dues during this cycle and that those dues are being proposed to be allocated to special projects category [projects not yet defined and approved by the Board] thereby requiring no changes from the past several years to the allocation of ongoing expenses or the allocation of dues. Pam Meigs stated she would have a few questions at a later date; the Draft Budget was unanimously approved.

8. Meeting adjourned at 11:25

Next Meeting Information: June 7th, 2019, Marin Municipal Water District, Corte Madera, CA

SUBMITTED BY: Judy Kelly, Executive Director NBWA