

## North Bay Watershed Association

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

Date: Friday, June 7th, 2019 – 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Location: Marin Municipal Water 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
Grant Davis	Sonoma Water	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
Paul Jensen	City of San Rafael	Megan Clark	Las Gallinas Valley

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. May Meeting Summary was approved
5. Acceptance of the Treasure's Report.

**6. Board Information Exchange.** Jack mentioned that the pending MMWD rate increase was approved, and the MMWD Board is now will looking toward issues like vegetation management on the watershed and a new bike policy. Pam Meigs stated that the Larkspur Landing project, a \$10 million dollar effort, is currently at the phase of cleaning up PCBs on the site. The Ross Valley PSAs were up during the Warriors game and she hoped other Board members had a chance to see them. She recapped the Alpine Dam 100th year celebration plans noting that events will start in September. She mentioned that her agency is also in the midst of a rate increase and then invited everyone to the June 11<sup>th</sup> opening of the new pump station. Pam also noted that there would be California Special District training in Napa on July 7th that she plans on attending. Jean stated that Novato San maps for new district elections are nearly completed. Grant mentioned that Sonoma Water Director and County Supervisor Susan Gorin would be joining the NBWA. Grant also noted the new planning agreement recently reached on the Potter Valley project. There are three primary partners working together. Grant credited California Trout with being instrumental in creating a draft Notice of Intent and the planning documents. Mr. Huffman was also instrumental in pushing for a two-basin solution under discussion. Grant expects it will be two years for a feasibility study and that the partners are working with the Tribes, such as Round Valley. Elizabeth mentioned that Solano County Water is working with the much larger SWP contractors trying to reach a settlement agreement on the Sacramento flows. She noted that she helped set up a policy committee on the issue of water transfers which are important to the City of Benicia. Elizabeth also mentioned again that the new California Water Plan, at 50 pages, is just about to be released and she encourages everyone to read it and noted that Benicia is about to do another long-planned rate increase. Napa

is in midst of their budget process and will finalize a +600M budget which will include strong commitments to seal level rise and climate change. Drawn Down Marin is one program Damon highlighted, with the goal of coming up with specific projects. Paul mentioned the possibility of dredging on San Rafael Creek; it used to be dredged every 7 years but that is now much harder now due to both cost and contaminated materials. San Rafael is also doing a major plan update and looking at sea level rise adaptation and is using Bay Wave as foundation for that. Megan said that Las Gallinas is in the midst of \$60M worth of construction work and noted that they are also in the early phase of their lateral review program beginning to answer the question: does it pass, fail, is it legal, or illegal. Michael B. for Central Marin Sanitation mentioned the District recently sold back energy for the first time. However their cogeneration machine quit working shortly afterward and is now being fixed. Leon mentioned the City of American Canyon will be taking up the issue of pesticides use in parks and described how the City put together a public panel including folks who were once in opposition to rate increases but through an inclusive process are now supportive. Pam Drew mentioned they are working on a citizen effort on fire suppression. She also stated her support of PG&E shut down during times of high risk.

## **7. The One Water Concept and where it's headed in the region.**

### **Paula Kehoe, SF PUC**

Paula made a presentation and began by noting that the Water Research Foundation has produced a roadmap for One Water. She also commented that our 21-century water challenges will force us to better collaboration and plan for more integrated water and that the benefits will be better resilience and optimization of our water infrastructure. She noted how San Francisco is going about the One Water approach; with leadership, working groups, vision, and guiding principles. The City has had the historic experience of siloed thinking about water and has recently pushed to strengthen cross-department working groups. She mentioned that the City has come up with their own One Water approach, from Yosemite to the Bay and emphasized that the approach must work on multiple scales. There are 10 principles established as part of the effort, including making sure they plan for flexibility and getting multiple benefits. They want to create and support programs that conserve the resources, pilot state-of-the art practices, create new partnerships, and work across traditional boundaries including finances. And they want to engage the community. Essentially the PUC wants to encourage more partnerships and implement new technologies. Examples of this work include how the city is re-studying the city's historic groundwater, which has been underused since the 1920's. They are looking into the beneficial use of Bio-solids, instead of sending them to landfill. Paula mentioned the City is looking at Ocean Beach and ways to deal with beach erosion and improving access. The PUC is piloting decentralized water systems in buildings, to reduce potable use. This started as a voluntary effort but now mandatory in many areas in the city in developments of a certain size. The City is working with breweries to allow reuse of water for cleaning, they are looking at "cloud catching" of water, or atmospheric collection of water on-site. The PUC's building water system treats 60% of water on-site. They are looking at leak detection technology as well as monitoring related to water quality and reuse. And they have initiated a green bond effort.

Paula then gave a brief overview of other areas in the nation like Los Angeles and New York. The Board asked about permitting and costs of getting buildings to reuse onsite. Paula responded by noting that it was the private sector that wanted to build green and asked how they can reduce water used in new construction. The City set a health code ordinance (working across agencies) which was key with Department of Public Health, a main player. Paula was asked how can the NB, more rural, think about this? Paula remarked there are a lot of entities here that do want to work together and we have the NBWA and the regional recycling effort that is a great foundation. Projected water use in SF is going up due to new development and the limit of per capita water use reduction. Elizabeth asked how we can speed up the transitions? Paula noted it's really about

leadership, ambassadors, and showing inspirational stories. It's also about remembering everything costs, and water will cost more in the future.

## **8. Update on the Joint Technical Committee** **Chris Choo, Marin County**

Chris provided an overview of where the Joint Technical Committee is on this conversation about One Water – the NBWA's Strategic Plan Direction #1. She noted that we are having the One Water conversation at the JTC, but that much of this is between members of environmental organizations and RCD folks. She noted that the JTC membership is still not fully representative of the Board, but that the Committee will continue to look at this issue and seek new opportunities.

## **9. WRDA Update** **Grant Davis, Sonoma Water and Damon Connolly, Marin Co.**

Damon led the discussion about the newly presented opportunity to have North Bay input into the 2020 WRDA. The challenge is to bring ideas forward about how to re-vision our water and watershed issues to better take into consideration climate. There was a brain storming session last week hosted by Damon looking at models and ideas. The question came up about what is the right balance between the scale needed to get USCOE attention while at the same time responding directly to the local environmental issue. As analogy, they considered the South Bay Salt Ponds efforts which have received millions of dollars from the USCOE . Do we try to tie into that effort as part of a larger, San Pablo approach to these issues? The group last week asked what role NBWA can play to help bring the players together? How do we determine the interest level in these ideas in the regional USCOE ? One question is, can we come up with a pilot project, such as Highway 37 that would touch upon many issues, such as sea level rise, critical transportation routes, and bay restoration? Grant reiterated that scale is an issue, and that we need a project big enough to get the USCOE attention. We could be mitigating what we know will be happening when the Bay cities start hardening shorelines; the North Bay shoreline will be inundated. Damon mentioned we will need to be bold and leverage all the dollars we get. More discussions are planned to determine if the partners in this conversation can come up with a strong idea before the summer deadline for input. Damon told the group he would keep them updated.

## **10. Board Leadership** **Jack Gibson, Chair**

This item was a follow-up to the May meeting when the Board expressed support for Jack Gibson continuing on as NBWA Chair, and Damon Connolly as Vice Chair. No further comments or suggestions were received on this item so it remains the decision of the Board.

## **11. Announcements and Adjournment**

On June 25th there is a meeting in San Francisco about the installation of the building systems that treat stormwater. Meeting adjourned at 11:25

Next Meeting: July 12th, 2019, Petaluma Community Center, Petaluma, CA

SUBMITTED BY: Judy Kelly, Executive Director NBWA