

North Bay Watershed Association

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

Date: Friday, March 6th, 2020 – 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Location: Napa Sanitary District

Directors or Representatives Present Included:

Board Member	Agency/Organization	Board Member	Agency/Organization
Michael Boorstein	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Megan Clark/ Judy Schriebmen	Las Gallinas Valley
Pam Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District	Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District
Rob Carson	MCSTOPP	Jean Mariani	Novato Sanitary District
Mary Sackett	Marin County	Rick Fraites	North Marin Water District
Elisabeth Patterson	Solano Co. Water	Paul Jenson	City of San Rafael
Ryan Gregory	Napa Sanitation Dist.	Leon Garcia	Napa Co. Flood Control & Water Cons. Dist

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 and February 2020 Summary with two abstentions on the Summary. Treasure’s Report accepted, and Judy advised finances in good shape and in flux as we receive conference sponsorships. All members have paid annual dues.

4. Information exchange. Pam started off the round of information sharing by telling the group about an award that Ross, and a few other districts, received for their PSAs. Jack spoke about the group at MMWD discussing e-bikes on the Mt. Tam watershed. The full discussion will go to the MMWD Board soon. He also mentioned the possibility of modifying rates to accommodate second units by not requiring new meters etc. Megan said the District is looking for a permanent site for the administration offices. Bio-solids disposal at LGVWD is also under investigation. Ryan mentioned that a new three mile trunk line is now underway to be built through established neighborhoods and that Napa is looking at floating photovoltaics on their ponds, which would be the largest project of it’s kind in the nation. Paul reported he is happy to be sponsoring the conference and working on the outreach materials. Solano is working on finally adopting a terrestrial HCP that has been in the works for 16 years. Solano receives water from the North Bay aqueduct and Elisabeth reported there is an interest in possibly moving the intake. She noted that SFEI determined that Suisun is an ideal place to try sediment management to address sea level rise. Leon reminded the group the Am Canyon also gets water from Barker slough and that the City came up with a policy for offsetting water needed for new developments. All new water needs are to be offset with items such as landscaping improvements, low flow toilets, re-lining delivery systems etc. He mentioned that aggressive leak detection work which

has dropped leaks from 25% to less than 5% in the City and that Am Canyon was recently awarded Measure AA money. Judy S. mentioned that cardboard is not being recycled due to the virus concern. Michael mentioned that at CMSA, a new co-generation engine is coming online in a year or so. They are now testing how much food scrap can be consumed with the new equipment.

5. Implementing the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio, Armando Quintero, Chair, California Water Commission

Armando began his presentation by saying that most folks don't know what the Water Commission does. The Commission has 9 members appointed by Governor. At first their main role was to lobby for Federal funds. They also approved DWR rules and regulations- but under Grey Davis, the Commission essentially expired. Gov. Schwarzenegger reinvigorated the group as the Delta tunnels came into focus.

Armando reviewed the California water situation. There is about 65M acre feet available to meet ag, urban, and environmental needs. Typically snowpack is 18 million acre feet [MAF], reservoirs are 40 MAF, soils hold 80 MAF. Capacity of our aquifers is 100 MAF.

The Commission has quite a lot of authority over Prop 1 money. They took two years to develop regulations and submitted to Office of Administrative Law. Language in the operative section limits the expenditures in Prop 1 Storage to "public benefits". There were surface and ground water projects proposed for funding. Final projects would potentially add 10% in storage. It was the first time climate change had to be considered. Armando spent a few minutes discussing why the proposed on-stream dam, Temperance Flat, proposal received any funding and reminded the group that the proponents received far less than requested. Regarding Sites Reservoir project; a concern is that there is a 65% chance of a major quake there in next 35 year. Final build out might be around 2035. Sites will be part of the Central Valley Project [CVP]. The good news is that some of the ground water projects will be online next year. By 2022, all the projects must have permits in hand; 75% of funding defined, and secured and environmental documents finished. Given these requirements, some of these projects may not make this timeline.

By January of this year the critical ground water basins had to have their plans in place; they all complied. Armando is hearing a lot more conversations about moving ahead collaboratively. The groundwater groups are new, with no fees and little ability to hire etc, but this is changing. Now working on information exchange on things like financing. There is likely to be bonds on financing this in the future.

A question came up about fracking. Armando replied that the salty sediments that come out of fracking produce (this would be from a rather poor well) 44 times the amount of salt water to oil. This is referred to as "produced" water. There was also a question about what chemicals are being putting into the wells. Larry Russell stated that the operators say they are only injecting into non-potable basins, but they are doing this at high pressure that may leave room for migration. There is a lot of work now to map aquifers. Armando is hoping we can ultimately repurpose some lands for groundwater recharge. UC Santa Cruz is working on how landowners can monetize the benefits of water infiltration. It turns out you can also use groundwater infiltration to sequester carbon. The state is also working on

digitizing well logs.

As part of the work the Commission is doing for the new Portfolio, they will be looking at how flood insurance money might be better spent. Right now it goes to the Federal government and California gets less back they we send. The Commission will be looking at better ways to use that money by perhaps creating a state program.

Armando spoke with Sec. Crowfoot recently about permit streamlining efforts. "Cutting the Green Tape" working group was created and will be rolled out on Earth Day. Includes creation of strike teams to focus on getting the Portfolio moving faster.

Leon touched on the interest in American Canyon for tapping into Sites reservoir for up to 4K AFY. They estimate it will end up costing \$600AF. He also talked about the historic use of the Colorado River, in the area near Blyth where he grew up.

5. Status of new Bond Discussions, Chris Choo, Marin County

Chris began by letting the Board know everything now is pending, with the expectation that something will go to the voters in November. A priority has been expressed for Disadvantaged Communities [DAC] expenditures through the final bond, as those DACs have been defined by the State. She emphasized that there are several possible bills being discussed and has provided details about the three main proposals now under discussion, and the programmatic emphasis and dollar amounts in those bills. Her presentation available here. https://www.nbwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020.03_NBWA_bonds.pdf

6. Announcements and Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:25

Next Meeting: May 1st, 9:30 am, via Zoom

SUBMITTED BY: Judy Kelly, Executive Director NBWA