

# North Bay Watershed Association

## Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

November 5, 2021 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS N-25-20 AND N-29-20 WHICH SUSPENDS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BROWN ACT, THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY VIA REMOTE CONFERENCING SERVICE — NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION  
Zoom Meeting  
[www.nbwatershed.org](http://www.nbwatershed.org)

**1. Welcome and Call to Order—Directors or Member Representatives Present Included:**

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Ryan Gregory – Napa Sanitation District
Leon Garcia—City of American Canyon	Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency
Pat Eklund - City of Novato	Trisha Meisler – Sonoma Water
Damon Connolly – County of Marin	Ryan Pedrotti – Sonoma Water
Chris Choo – County of Marin	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Susan Gorin – County of Sonoma	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Rob Dusenbury - Lotus Water
Rick Fraithe – North Marin Water District	Susan Stompe - Marin Conservation League
Tony Williams – North Marin Water District	Chance Cutrano
Jean Mariani – Novato Sanitary District	Stephen Keese
Megan Clark - Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Cheryl Howlett – Marin Water
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitation District	

Twelve NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 23 agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public.

Call to Order – Director Jean Mariani called the meeting to order at 9:34 am via Zoom.

**2. General Public Comment - None**

**3. Agenda Review and Approve Past Meeting Minutes**– Director Connolly asked for any Board members to speak up if there were requested changes to the agenda. No comments.

Director Russell moved to accept the agenda - Director Fraithe seconded. Unanimously accepted.

*[Robert Dusenbury was late to join. Agenda modified to move agenda item 7. Executive Director Report to after the Treasure's Report]*

Director Russell moved to approve the past meeting summary. Director Fraithe seconded. Director Eklund abstained. Unanimously approved.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Director Garcia moved to accept the Treasure's Report - Director Eklund seconded. Unanimously accepted.

**5. Guest Presentation— Applied One Water Policy: Orange Memorial Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project**

*Robert Dusenbury, Lotus Water*

Robert will provide an overview of the Bay Area's first regional stormwater capture project. The project captures stormwater runoff from six different municipalities to remove trash and contaminants, treat and use water for park irrigation, recharge the underlying groundwater basin, and reduce local flood risk.

The project was conceived as a primarily a water quality project, but is multi beneficial. The goals are to 1) DIVERT flows from Colma Creek for treatment, beneficial reuse, and local flood reduction; 2) CLEAN contaminants from creek per MRP requirements using green infrastructure (settling, infiltration, reuse) Mercury, PCB's, and Trash; 3) REUSE treated water for irrigation, water trucks, and groundwater recharge.

- Original project concept is from San Mateo County Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP).
- SWRP concept attracted \$9.5M funding from Caltrans
- In September 2019, an additional \$6M was procured from Caltrans for \$15.5M total
- Construction began last month March 2021

#### Interagency Coordination

- Internal coordination with Public Works and Parks Department (landowner)
- San Mateo County Sea Level Rise and Resiliency District (canal owner)
- Cal Water and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (water providers)

#### Project Elements

- Instream Diversion
- Grit/Trash Chamber
- Diversion Pipe
- Flow Splitter
- Cistern & Infiltration Gallery
- Water Quality Treatment Shed

#### Estimated Benefits

- Water quality treatment provided to 2,468 acres of equivalent watershed area
- 640 acre-feet of water diverted and cleaned annually
- 15 MG of potable water offset per year; \$140,000 annually in water savings
- 240 acre-feet of groundwater recharge annually
- 10 grams of PCBs removed annually
- 30 grams of mercury removed annually

#### Permitting Requirements for Monitoring

- Established primarily by the 401 Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements administered by the Bay Area Regional Water Board
  - Water Quality Compliance Monitoring (many constituents)
  - Performance Monitoring (PCB and Hg removal)
  - Flow Monitoring (water balance with fate of treated waters)
- The water reuse system is regulated by the City itself
  - IAPMO 324 certification

#### Questions/Comments

Director Ryan: How long was the vision to construction phase?

Dusenbury: From the time they were hired to take the project concept and advance it to design development, outreach and construction took a little over 3 years. The CalTrans funding had an expiration date.

Director Meigs: Are you recycling any of the water to give to the community individuals or it is just for the project.

Dusenbury: Not directly. Irrigating the three parks is contribution to the city. There is a filling station that city non-potable trucks can use to fill up.

Director Meigs There's no pumping to get it to storage?

Dusenbury: They saw in the channel itself that there was about a four-foot drop, may have been a flood control measure. There was also gradual drop as the channel moved east towards the bay. They took advantage of those two things. They gained about 5-6 feet of grade bringing them closer to the service. There are projects like this in Southern California, this is one of the first of its kind in Northern California. Southern California have more mechanical components and pumps. This project only has one pump to go into the water treatment facility.

Director Russel: What happens to your system when there's drought? Aren't you recharging to a saltwater aquifer?

Dusenbury: Colma Creek maintains flows throughout a drought. Sometimes it does dip down to as low as 100 gpm. At its lowest point of flow, it was still easy to irrigate the area. In an emergency, there is way to disconnect from the non-potable supply and connect to the city's potable supply.

For the second question: It's the southern branch of what is called the west side ground water basin, which the City of San Francisco is developing it as a water source.

**6. Guest Presentation—Sonoma Water's Water and Energy Education Program, A Call to Action**

*Ryan Pedrotti, Water and Energy Program Manager*

*Trisha Meisler Water and Energy Educator*

Ryan and Trisha will provide an overview of this effective regional education program, and its evolution to engage children through experiential and hands on education.

Sonoma Water provides tap water to over 600,000 people; manages and operates 8 sanitation districts and zones; and maintains over 75 miles of streams. Their Water and Education Program is a comprehensive regional program designed to help educators and students learn the value of resource conservation. The program serves three counties, 28 School districts, and 300 Schools. The free program is offered to students in kindergarten all the way to high school. They maintain a Water Education Center and a Fish Viewing Gallery and Collector Well. They provide drought education, free classroom materials, and teacher workshops (topics include climate change education and career opportunities in the water and science fields). High school students can participate in a video contest, co-sponsored with the Russian River Watershed Association, in honor of Water Awareness. Each year, the RRWA Board of Directors votes on a contest topic. Students are challenged to make a public service announcement that will help change public attitudes and behaviors by raising awareness about the water issue.

Sonoma Water has a small Grants Program to support solution-focused projects related to water or climate change. \$100-\$1,000 per project:

- Hydration stations
- School gardens
- Water catchment
- Waste management/composting

They receive 9 applications in their pilot year. They are funding 7. Hydration stations seems to be the most requested. They will have another funding cycle in January.

Student Showcase May 18, 2022.

Questions/Comments

Director Eklund: Do you consider Novato to be in your service area regarding the grants that are available?

Pedrotti: Yes. The North Marin Water District is a member of the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership.

Director Fraites: Commented how impressed he is with the program.

Director Meigs: The NBWA Board toured the facilities in the Russian River; she suggested they schedule another tour. She asked if the Ross Valley area has any similar programs.

Pedrotti: The Marin Municipal Water District is loosely associated with their program. They have Zun Zun. There has been conversations about having a consultation to bring more services. The drought put that on pause.

Director Garcia: Is there a way for teachers to connect without having a program for this?

Pedrotti: There have been conversations with environmental educators in Napa and have shared resources. One of the reasons this program is successful is the local component and funding support. Its up to leaders in the Napa area to support and fund opportunities like this.

## 7. **Executive Director Report and Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Andy reported on activities that have taken place since the last meeting:

### **Updates since last meeting**

- Met with Stanford's Woods Institute for the Environment and Marin Wildfire Protection Authority on October 19
- Met with Sonoma County's Decision Support Framework development team on October 18
- Met with members and corresponded with regional One Water partners

### **Administrative Activities**

- Finalized contracts with SFEI, Data Instincts, Napa RCD, County of Marin
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants
- Updated website and meeting packet information
- Compiled information for next NBWA quarterly newsletter

### **Communications**

- Updating member contact lists - Need new staff / contacts
- Drought conditions and response info gathering
- Board members and member agency staff
- Regional partners
- Subject matter experts and speakers
- Call for newsletter topics and highlights

### **Committees**

- Met with 2022 Conference committee on October 12
- Convened Regional Leaders/General Managers meeting on October 28
- JTC will implement outcomes of GMs meeting

### **One Water Strategic Initiative – Water and Fire**

#### **Stanford's Woods Institute for the Environment, Urban Water Policy**

- NBWA/MWPA collaboration one of three California regions being studied
- Evaluating nexus of wildfire-water-drought, and the impacts of wildfire to various dimensions of water quality, water quantity, and water infrastructure (including natural, green, and gray infrastructure)
- Two key questions: 1) What are major risks, barriers and opportunities for resilient water management in the face of wildfire? And 2) What are potential social and economic risks

associated with wildfire impacts to water systems/watersheds, and what are key drivers or moderators of these impacts?

Director Patterson asked for the recording. Andy will look into this and let her know if there is one to share. He is going to ask Stanford to present to the Board in the future.

#### Sonoma County's Decision Support Framework (DSF)

- DSF is an integrated set of tools to enable strategic investments in fuel load reduction, vegetation management, community health and safety, and the long-term resilience of watersheds.
- Sonoma Water and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) collaborating to develop the DSF and to ensure the compatibility of publicly funded tools (such as [www.wildfirefuelmapper.org](http://www.wildfirefuelmapper.org)) for prioritizing activities that reduce fuel loading and enhance community and landscape resiliency.

Director Clark commented that she learned at the recent SF Estuary Conference that the Indian management (seven districts) sets fire one by one, which is very successful and could be adapted for fire control.

Andy commented that the North Coast is adopting some of those strategies.

**NBWA convened a Regional Leaders/General Managers meeting on October 28, 2021**, launching development of a Regional One Water Drought Project Strategy and Funding Initiative

Broadly beneficial goal of identifying and executing creative and strategic one water solutions that prepare the North Bay for the next drought by prioritizing and implementing projects

Summary Outline Notes:

#### **One Water portfolio approach for the north bay**

- Organized by scale and types of projects
- Coordinate/bundle climate adaptation projects
- Distinguish missions & align NBWA/NBWRA initiatives

#### **Support development and completion of regional feasibility studies**

- Flood/Stormwater and water supply
- Indirect and Direct Potable Reuse (IPR/DPR)
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)

#### **Convene land use agencies and water/wastewater service agencies**

- Strategize for expanded housing mandates
- Land use/housing nexus for infrastructure improvements and water delivery

#### **Outreach**

- Empowering people to understand ways to contribute at home and at work

NBWA Direction: Schedule next meeting to focus initiatives

#### Questions/Comments

Director Patterson reminded the members that FloodMAR is having a conference; she will send out the link. She commented that floodwater program is central valley-centric. Its nice to have a north bay connection that she will stress at the conference. She invited others to join her.

She also noted that the Water Commission has been looking at multiple issues. Land use and flood management are included but it central valley-centric. She encourages members to contact them to highlight north bay projects for future funding and technical support.

Director Gorin: She commented on FloodMAR. Sonoma County is looking into strategies for how they can divert stormwater from fast moving creeks (upper Russian River reach and Sonoma Creek) and divert them into low land areas to recharge groundwater. She is working with Ag and Open Space

District to detect former natural pathways to suggest how they might move forward in the future. She encourages others to look into this approach.

**Director Patterson:** In the Central Valley a lot of research is being done by Davis and others to identify the pathway to recharging ground water. In the Central Valley, the leveled the ag fields that impacted the natural course of streams and tributaries. There are techniques that are being developed and researched to identify historic routes. She hopes that all the great work being done in Sonoma and the North Bay gets highlighted at the conference for future funding and technical support.

### **October 12 Conference committee meeting summary**

Tentative conference date: April 8, 2022

Tentative title: Climate ChangeD – Our New Normal of Weathering Extremes

Format: – Virtual core with limited in-person outdoor experiences (before/during/after)  
– Utilize local live stream/hybrid interface professional support  
– Conference format could be a pilot for future events  
– Preliminary budget and preparation schedule being drafted

November 9: Next conference committee meeting

### **2021 Board Meetings**

December 3 (in person...?)

### **2022 Board Meetings**

January 7

February 4

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3

### **Topics in development**

SR37 Initiatives, DroughtSMART ↔ FireSMART, Progress One Water Strategic Initiatives, Urban Scale Carbon Sequestration Initiatives, April 2022 NBWA Conference, DWR & State Water Board Drought Assistance Programs and Resources, Collaboration-Based Funding Opportunities, Regulatory Compliance Partnerships, Water Management & Conveyance Innovations, Capital and Natural Assets Management, What's Next in Environmental Education

Director Eklund: She recommends the Board have a presentation on Bay Adapt, which is focusing on strategies for sea level rise and climate change.

## **8. Board Information Exchange and Drought Updates**

Director Meigs (Novato Sanitary District): They had nine inches of rain in October. The plant had 6+ inches on Oct 24. She also shared that Cal Trans virtual scoping meeting is on November 17 from 5:30-7:30. Caltrans EIR virtual scoping meeting for Hwy 37 flood reduction project (101 to 121) <http://www.sr37corridorprojects.com>

Director Garcia (City of American Canyon): Public Works is relocating. The American Canyon Community Parks Foundation is fundraising for outdoor activities. They recently raised \$50k for outdoor exercise equipment. They are now raising funds to turn the public works building into an eco-center. If anyone on the NBWA board has an eco-center in their jurisdiction, please let him know so he can connect the foundation to assist in the planning. American Canyon has a great recycled water program for landscaping; the water is delivered.

Director

**9. Announcements and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am

Next Meeting: December 3, 2021, Zoom

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA