

North Bay Watershed Association

Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

February 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

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

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Tony Williams – North Marin Water District
Pierre Washington - City of American Canyon	Reid Bryson – Napa
Leon Garcia - City of American Canyon	Tan Zi - SFEI
Paul Jensen – City of San Rafael	Melissa Foley - SFEI
Damon Connolly – County of Marin	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Megan Clark - Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Rob Carson - Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program	Kellie Anderson - Linda Falls Alliance
Jack Gibson - Marin Municipal Water District	Neil Hancock - ModularSensors
Larry Russell - Marin Municipal Water District	Brad Sherwood - County of Sonoma
Ryan Gregory – Napa Sanitation District	Chris Choo – County of Marin
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Ann Thomas – Marin Conservation League
Jean Mariani – Novato Sanitary District	Gustavo Goncalves – County of Marin
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	Kate Powers – Marin Conservation League
Elizabeth Patterson – Department of Water Resources	Susan Stompe - Marin Conservation League

Eleven NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 28 agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public.

Call to Order – Jack Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:32 am via Zoom.

2. **General Public Comment** - None
3. **Approval of Agenda** - Unanimously approved
4. **Approval of December 4, 2020 Meeting Summary** - There was a request to edit page 5 of the summary correcting the spelling of 'Santa Venetia'. Unanimously approved
5. **Accepted Treasure's Report** - Mariani moved. Gregory seconded. Unanimously accepted
6. **Guest Presentation– Highlights from The Bay Regional Monitoring Program and the Newly Developed Regional Watershed Model**

Melissa Foley, Ph.D., Program Manager

Tan Zi, Ph.D., Environmental Scientist

Clean Water Program, Bay Regional Monitoring Program, SFEI

Melissa and Tan provided an overview of the San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) including highlights of programs and initiatives and introduced key aspects and potential future uses of a new regional water quality model.

The Bay Regional Monitoring Program is in its 27th year and is a model long term monitoring program for the US. The program collects data and communicates information about water quality in San Francisco Bay in support of management decisions.

~ 68 entities in the Program

- Municipal wastewater
- Industrial wastewater
- Municipal stormwater
- Dredgers

Annual budget is around \$4M and is paid in the following percent's:

- Municipal wastewater 45.8%
- Industrial wastewater 11.5%
- Municipal stormwater 24.5%
- Dredgers 18.2%

The budget covers: Special studies (including shorter term studies and emerging issues, or follow-ups from Status and Trends monitoring), program management, governance, QA and Data services, Reporting, Communications, Status and Trends monitoring, and Status and Trends review.

RMP governance structure includes a Steering Committee, Technical Review Committee, six work groups (currently only 5 are active) whose main purpose is to develop proposals for special studies.

Program highlights from Status and Trends: Monitoring covers sport fish, bird eggs, bivalves, water, sediment, and different frequencies. Goal is to understand how contaminants are changing in these areas over time. Any changes help inform development of special studies.

Contaminants of Emerging Concern: Tiered risk-based framework to help identify where contaminants fall into their concern level. Melissa discussed examples of copper in water with no trends in PCBs and mercury in sport fish.

The data collected from the RMP goes into their publicly available data base Contaminant Data Display & Download (CD3). New feature added that adds guidelines for pollutants so you can easily see if values are above a threshold of interest.

Melissa spent some time discussing special studies involving stormwater monitoring that has been taking place since 2011. Extensive monitoring of PCBs and mercury in stormwater at more than 80 sites. They also have a number of studies looking at sediment transport and deposition monitoring, with sampling sites in a few watersheds around the bay to help calibrate the model. Novato, Walnut Creek, and Belmont locations are monitoring sediment loads.

There are more RMP updates online, update reports come out in the even years (longer communications come out in the odd years), annual meetings take place in October.

Tan introduced the modeling work being done at SFEI, including regional watershed

model, SF Bay model, and Urban Hydrology model. They hope to utilize the models for technical support and better planning.

Model Implementation Plan:

- Hydrology (2020)
- Sediment (2021)
- Water Quality
 - PCBs, Hg
 - Emerging Contaminants
 - Metals
 - Microplastics
 - Pesticide
 - Pathogen
 - Nutrients
- Stream Temperature

Potential Model Application: Climate Adaptation, Reservoir operation, and Flood control. Andy followed up the presentation with a mention that there is a group, small tributary loading strategy team, from the regulated community providing input to the model and that they can reach out to Melissa or Tan for more information.

Questions:

Gibson: What exactly are microplastics?

Foley: Are smaller than 5 millimeters in diameter. Often times it is break down products of larger products. For stormwater, one of the biggest contributors of microparticles is small rubber fragments, some identified as tire fragments. Microfibers are also identified.

Clark: PCBs and mercury in sport fish was last updated in 2014. Is that the last year there's information?

Foley: they have samples from 2019 but the pandemic impacted the processing of it. Hopefully the figures will get updated in the next couple of months.

Clark: Is SFEI looking at inclusivity in staffing?

Foley: there are a number of measures that SFEI is undertaking, including working with community groups which are predominantly people of color and low income.

Carson: Going back to the map of storm water monitoring shows a lack of north bay region data, are those watersheds included largely monitored by Phase 1 communities or is this your programs monitoring? What is the likelihood of including some data from north bay watersheds?

Foley: This is just their monitoring. It does not include any of the storm water agency monitoring. They do work with the counties in selecting priority sites for the year. They don't monitor areas like Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano. There is a separation and these north bay stormwater entities don't pay into the RMP.

Carson: His agency has paid for over two decades at a complete population-based share.

Foley: She will follow up with Rob offline.

Powers: Are there any studies with using asphalt grindings for repaving roads or road maintenance? What kind of contaminants can come from that use?

Foley: No, they haven't done that work. Road work contaminants is starting to take off. They are working on a conceptual model. Stay tuned.

Rodgers: With the rubber fragments, are those suspended fragments in samples collected or is it the dissolved constituents that come off the fragments that you're analyzing? Also, when is the next biannual report coming out?

Foley: The RMP update just came out in October (2020 RMP Update is here: <https://www.sfei.org/documents/rmp-update-2020>). We are detecting the rubber fragments found in sediment and a dissolved fraction from the fragments in the water samples.

Gibson: (to Tan) How big is the staff that you work with?

Tan: 2-3. He is the main staff, but he has support.

Carson: Is this an evolution of the regional watershed spreadsheet model that started quantifying loads for PCB and mercury? He has PCB and mercury load requirements in the TMDLs but there are no permitting mechanisms requiring certain implementation actions. They are in discussions with the SF waterboard on what will be part of the reissued statewide Phase 2 Stormwater Permit; they will be working to implement some PCB and mercury implementation requirements into it. He is interested in how this model can help them meet their load reduction or demonstrate their load reduction. It sounds like it can help them estimate what that load is. Does the model have any other way to quantify load reductions from other controlling mechanisms besides GreenPlanIT, or other institutional controls?

Tan: Yes, it is. The model right now can provide baseline load. If they have other control measures, they can be considered. There is flexibility built into the model to address those kinds of questions.

Carson: Given the fact that there are now 5 counties that have developed or are developing their own independent RAA's, many share similarities, how useful is it to develop full blown RAA, particularity for smaller communities with far less resources, is there some way to develop a reasonable assurance that relies on the existing modeling that's been done and the demonstrated load reduction that is involved in those assumptions ?

Tan: Currently counties have different ways of doing the RAA analysis. Ideally there would be a universal methodology to apply to the bay area. The current situation is not that way. For the North Bay that hasn't started yet, universal methodology is one thing that can be considered, and the current information can be leveraged. The GreenPlanIT tool and model can be scaled easily and will save a lot of time.

Carson: The regional watershed model is estimating loads of PCB and mercury, how are those loads calibrated if there's no monitoring data from the north bay?

Tan: That goes back to the model settings. They know there are data gaps. If they have some future data they can adjust.

Powers (chat): Will the hydrologic modeling maps and modeling results be publicly available (in addition to jurisdictional agencies)? Are they available on the GreenPlanIT tool? Exciting effort. Thank you.

Foley(chat): Tan is finalizing the modeling report that covers the information he presented today. It will be available on our website, but we will send a copy to Andy when it is ready so he can send to this group.

Foley (chat): melissaf@sfei.org; tanz@sfei.org

7. **Executive Director Report**

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

- FY 21/22 work plan development will come in the March meeting for review and is anticipated to be finalized in April
- Call for newsletter topics and project/program highlights
- Attended annual SOE event planning meeting—They are planning an event for this fall.
- Developing JTC plan and focus for 2021
 - JTC meetings to resume March/April 2021
- ED applied but was not selected for SFBRA Advisory Committee—They are cutting down the size of the committee and are working to be more inclusive of social justice and disadvantage community members.
- Chair and Vice Chair: No inquiries of interest to serve were received by February 1; however, one board member expressed a willingness to serve as Vice Chair, if the Board were supportive.
 - Damon Connolly has been Vice-Chair and is happy to continue.
 - Gibson: Jean Mariani has expressed interest.
 - Gibson: He has been the chair for as long as the NBWA has been in existence and would be happy to step back or continue to serve.
 - This will be brought up for formal vote at the next meeting.

8. **NBWA Information Sharing - Board members**

Gibson: Marin Municipal Water District is concerned with the lack of rainfall and they are monitoring closely. As of February 3, they are 50 % of average to date. They are taking necessary steps, given the options. They purchased a new generator for Soulajule reservoir. It's the least used because of pumping challenges; the generator will help. 75% of their water supply comes from their reservoirs, 25% is purchased from Sonoma Water. This purchased water doesn't have much storage so much planning needs to happen for this. They are about to ramp up their conservation efforts: one is voluntary, and the community responds well, the second is declaring an emergency conservation effort.

As a result of the recent fires, they purchased 14 new portable generators to assist in wildfires, they are clearing brush.

Garcia: American Canyon is making good progress on their new county reservoir. They are also concerned with rainfall. They are also interested in learning more about the contaminants from areas that were burned.

Mariani: Novato Sanitary District received a PG&E small generation incentive program grant which will allow them to buy back-up storage Tesla batteries. They're just starting the grant process. It's just over 2 million dollars.

Gregory: Napa Sanitation District is well into their Prop 218 process for rates for the next 5 years. It will hurt commercial business more than residential. They reviewed their contingency plan and one of the biggest measures they're counting on is potable reuse, but it's not in their budget yet.

Meigs: Ross Valley Sanitation District had their third informational meeting regarding the Larkspur property. The last informational meeting discussed the Surplus Land Act and how it will affect the property. They hope to have more public input. The land is still not approved by the EPA. They have done everything and are now just waiting on the state. Their PSA's are doing well, and they enjoy the collaboration of other districts and agencies.

Patterson: for DWR, the water commission has been conducting regional meetings on water conveyance for statewide interest, which means a lot to the bay area because they have a real potential for connecting. With statewide interest that means there would be some money and technical assistance.

The Delta Stewardship Council has been doing a workshop on adaptive management, which is digging into permit issues and applications. It is being recorded and she encourages everyone to check it out.

Connelly: (Marin County) The homeowners of Flood Zone 7A in Santa Venetia, which is a newly created subzone, have an opportunity to decide on initiative Measure A to upgrade the timber reinforced berm and protect the neighborhood by reducing tidal flood risk. It's a special election on March 2. The Army Corps of engineers has identified this TRB as the weakest link in the levy system in that area. This Measure can increase the life expectancy by 30 years. Bigger picture, this project is along the lines of what NBWA is about and the ongoing efforts in resiliency and preparing for sea level rise.

Patterson: Did you consider an enhanced infrastructure finance district instead of a typical assessment.

Connolly: Yes, they looked at various options.

Clark: Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District is actively looking for partners in sludge storage/bio-waste. Four letters of interest were received. They are continuing their secondary treatment upgrade in recycled water expansion. They are looking into a solution for their administration building.

9. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

March 5 – Regional Water Board update on water quality issues associated with people experiencing homelessness, and water supply conditions update

Mariani: Can the Water Board provide an update on them going after Cal Trans for trash?

Andy: He will ask. The division chief will be on the call.

April 2 – Post-wildfire water quality findings update, and consider FY21/22 work plan

May 7 – Local/regional Environmental Education Program updates

June 4 – North Bay One Water initiatives

10. Announcements and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 am

Next Meeting: March 5, 2021, Zoom

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA