

North Bay Watershed Association

Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

May 7, 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	Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District
Jason Dow – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Jean Mariani – Novato Sanitary District
Leon Garcia—City of American Canyon	Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitation District
Pierre Washington – City of American Canyon	Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency
Madolyn Agrimonti – City of Sonoma	Brad Sherwood - Sonoma Water
Gustavo Goncalves – County of Marin	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Damon Connolly - County of Marin	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Chris Choo – County of Marin	Susan Stompe – Marin Conservation League
Susan Gorin – County of Sonoma	Cory Bytof – City of San Rafael
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Mark Fenstermaker - Pacific Policy Group
Jack Gibson – Marin Municipal Water District	Ann Thomas
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Stephen Keese
Paul Sellier - Marin Municipal Water District	Colleen Hunt
Ryan Gregory – Napa Sanitation District	

Fourteen NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 27 agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public.

Call to Order – Jack Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:31 am via Zoom.

2. **General Public Comment** - None.

3. **Agenda Review, Approve Past Meeting Minutes, and Treasurer's Report** – Director Agrimonti moved to approve agenda. Director Meigs seconded. Unanimously approved.

Director Patterson requested the April 5 meeting summary notes indicate that she is representing Solano County Water Agency. No other updates or comments. Director Patterson moved to approve the summary. Director Agrimonti seconded. Unanimously approved.

Director Clark moved to approve the Treasure's Report - Director Agrimonti seconded. Unanimously accepted.

4. **Consider Proposed 2020/2021 NBWA Workplan and Budget**

Andy Rodgers provided an overview summary of work plan updates proposed and discussed at the April Board meeting, including an update to category titles, adding a new initiative, and updating task titles.

Proposed approach to FY 2021/22:

- No change to annual budget
- Maintain core programs and tasks

- Monthly Board meetings
- Support Committee meetings
- Quarterly newsletter
- Website
- Conference 2022
- New initiatives
 - Program Development committee
 - Regional water conservation messaging campaign and other support programs
 - Expand NBWA visibility
 - Advocate funding for regional north bay initiatives

Andy plans to create a program development committee to discuss how, if at all, to utilize the uncommitted fund balance. He asked board members to contact him if interested to participate.

Questions:

Clark: Have Special Benefits Projects A,B, and C.

Andy: No. The Joint Technically Committee and Program Development committee will be key in development of project ideas.

5. Executive Director Report

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

- Attended Petaluma Watershed Collaborative meeting on April 9
- Attended Highway 37 Town Hall on April 15
- Presented NBWA overview at Napa WICC on April 22
- Follow up to Petaluma Baylands Strategy Webinar on April 27
- Finalized FY 21/22 work plan for Board consideration on May 7
- Preparing website and meeting packet updates
- Updating distribution lists—Please send us any new staff / contacts
- Quarterly newsletter distributed May 4
- Drought information gathering
- Call for newsletter topics and program highlights
- Developing JTC plan and focus for 2021
- JTC meetings to resume June 2021
- Conference committee to focus on 2022 event

Questions:

Gibson: How many people are receiving the newsletter?

Marson (chat): Newsletter distribution list has 340 Recipients

Clark: The old conference committee, before the event was canceled, should be used for the 2022 event before new members are added.

Andy: He is connecting with Frances (RCD) soon to talk about planning. He will contact previous/existing committee when the planning picks up.

6. Guest Presentations – Water/Resilience Bonds Updates

Mark Fenstermaker of Pacific Policy Group

Overview and status of water bond negotiations underway in the legislature.

Key Deadlines:

- May 15 (or so) – Governor releases May Revise
- June 4 – SB 45 must pass the Senate
- June 15 – Legislature must deliver proposed budget
- June 30 – Governor must sign/veto budget
- September 10 – 2021 Legislative Session Concludes

Mark discussed an AB 1500 – SB 45 comparison, the Senate Drought Package:

- Total Funding Proposed: \$3.41 Billion
 - Federal ARPA Funds
 - State General Fund
 - Past Bonds (Prop 1 & Prop 68)
- Immediate Community Assistance for Water and Drought Relief: \$500 million
- Emergency Drought Water-Use Efficiency: \$500 million
- SGMA: \$350 Million
- Resilient Water Infrastructure Projects: \$200 million
- Recycled Water: \$200 million
- Stormwater Management: \$200 million
- Protecting Fish & Wildlife from Drought Impacts: \$285 million.
- Water Quality: \$100 million
- Water Data and Forecast Improvement: \$75 million
- Assistance for Past Due Bills: \$1 billion

And the Senate Wildfire Package:

- \$533 Million was appropriated earlier in the session.
- The Senate now proposes \$1 billion per year for the next five years.
- Funding would be split between General Fund and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund on an 80-20 basis.
- Funding would be put into a newly created fund that would then be appropriated through the annual budget process.

Questions:

Gibson: With the waning of the proposed bonds they seem to skip over reducing the bond. Is there an option to find a number that works, rather than cancel entirely?

Fenstermaker: All options are on the table. The challenge is getting support in the legislature and the ballot. If budget satisfies the issues of water and wildfire than a bond may not fare as well.

Gibson. The problem with that thinking is the crisis is now and this is the opportunity to get public support.

Clark: She is interested in green house reduction fund 80/20 basis, is it going to be affected by Bidens proposal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 by 50%

Fenstermaker: Clarified his slide: Of the billion proposed, general fund would cover 80% and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund 20%. What Biden is not proposing is a cap in trade or interfering with the cap and trade system. Unless there is a national shift to nation wide carbon tax and away from the state, but he doesn't see that being an issue.

Fraites: Housing has been an issue with proposals for more being built, but the drought is going to affect that. Do you see the legislature taking this into consideration and modification related to housing vs water supply?

Fenstermaker: He doesn't work in that area of the legislature. He doesn't think there will be any reduction in emphasis in trying to meet the need for housing. There will most likely be incentives in reducing water use and increasing water efficiency in response.

Gibson: He was surprised at the diminished number for recycle water. He thought that would be higher in the budget.

Fenstermaker: he doesn't think, politically, that recycles water has gained much traction. The number could go up or down and discussions go along.

Patterson: Recycled water : State water board is looking at efforts to make recycled water into potable water. Her question is: Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Programs IRWM funding is always relying on bonding. To what extent can they actually get that into the budget as continued appropriations? To what extent does ACWA have in the resistance?

Fenstermaker: When you get out of the bay area, there isn't a lot of support for this. A regional approach that the legislature is favoring is an opportunity to get regional water funding in to a final deal. Given their membership, ACWA doesn't promote it a lot and not necessarily included in their packages. Their silence on the issue isn't helpful.

Patterson: A lot of water managers and planners see IRWM as being the glue to bring sustainable groundwater management together and involve the region in that. She would like to see more support for that.

Bytof: Is there anything in the senate package that indicates a breakdown of funds to help small farmers or ag?

Fenstermaker: This is still a general working draft so details aren't included but there is some funding that would include those groups.

Fraites: what's the status of the proposal to build the twin tunnels?

Fenstermaker: Newsome's administration has not pursued this. They are pursuing a voluntary settlement or agreement, but COVID has delayed that.

Gibson: Any status on pursuing recycled water to potable water?

Fenstermaker: He hasn't seen any legislation on this.

Russel: MMWD has helped fund continued studies to get this approved by the health department. There's been a lot of progress in the last three years. It's a modification to a state regulation, which is probably why there's no legislation on this topic.

Rodgers: When we do our outreach to Assembly Members, what specific things do you think we should highlight, such as NBWA's OneWater strategy?

Fenstermaker: You want your legislators to understand that this tool (NBWA) exist and if there is funding related to regional water, that is would benefit their district through this mechanism. Showing coordination is what will speak to them.

Clark: Are there funds for public outreach and education in these water bills?

Fenstermaker: Yes, this is often included and there are opportunities to promote/ask for it.

7. Guest Presentations – State Water Resources Control Board Drought Emergency Updates *Samuel Boland-Brien, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights*

Postponed to June.

8. Water Supply Roundtable Update and Board Information Exchange
Paul Sellier, Operations Director, Marin Municipal Water District
Brad Sherwood, Division Manager, Community & Government Affair, Sonoma Water
All Members

Paul Sellier provided an overview of Current Water Supply, Water Use Restrictions Conservation Tips, and Water Conservation Incentives and Resources.

Actions by MMWD

- February 16: Marin Water's Board of Directors approved a resolution declaring a drought and asking all customers to voluntarily conserve water
- April 20: Marin Water's Board of Directors declared a water shortage emergency and adopted water use restrictions
- May 04: Marin Water's Board of Directors approved additional irrigation restrictions
- New water restrictions
- Conservation tips and resources
- Programs & incentives

Brad Sherwood provided updates on Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino water supply—It's extremely dry and it's serious. There's no projected rainfall. Both reservoirs are the lowest they've ever been. Army Corps is looking into the unique engineering challenges related to the low levels: sedimentation issues and fisheries. They will most likely be issuing water right unavailability notices this month. If the water storage projections continue for Lake Mendocino and water use continues the way it has, Lake Mendocino will run dry by October. Lake Sonoma, if it doesn't get water in the fall, is also looking at mandatory 30% conservation for all their wholesaler retailers.

The current outreach is 20% water saving requested. Will turn mandatory conservation this summer.

They are going to the water board to seek a new temporary urgency change order that would reduce diversions from the Russian River by 20%. Starting July 1 our wholesale customers will receive 20% less water from Sonoma Water. Will have negative effects on water flows. Lower river community will see the most impact. Sonoma Water is working with the state board, their retailers and jurisdictions to implement actions.

Questions:

Fraites: Is irrigating outside going to be limited to one day a week?

Sellier: Right now, spraying is limited to two days a week and drip irrigation is three days.

Mariani: Is a per capita cap on consumption reduction being considered instead of a percentage reduction?

Sellier: The 40% goal is the district as a whole. Its difficult to come up with a per capita but they are looking at ways to measures.

Garcia: They are installing a My Water app that can measure how much water is being used per day. If you are interested in learning more, contact him.

Bytof: In the last drought there was a fair amount of leakage from pipes. What do you think the state of the infrastructure is and do you see any opportunities in Biden's infrastructure plan to address funding maintenance? Are you considering partnering with Rising Sun Energy Solutions again?

Sellier: Yes, leaks have been prioritized and they have maintenance out assessing conditions.

Agrimonti: Mulch is a big issue, but because its wood there it's a concern for fire hazards. Can you talk more about water circular rebates?

Sellier: yes, there is more information online regarding the rebates.

Fraites: He read that the dam at Lake Mendocino, if it gets below a certain level, the integrity is impacted. Is that true?

Sherwood: He has not heard that from the Army Corp of Engineers. There's not a lot of history for this situation, but they are out there maintaining and studying. Emphasised that there is no indication there are any safety issues.

Clark: Is there any way to separate water usage from making money (less water used, less money is available.) Is there outreach to help people understand? Also, water re-use education is important.

Sherwood: He hopes that with Newsome's declaration, there will be more opportunity to have federal funding. He hopes to coordinate with others to leverage projects for funding.

Patterson: Drought is every year and should have long term planning but there hasn't been support by the administration or the legislature . California has one of the highest rated dam safety programs in the US.

9. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- June 4 – “Sediment for Survival” Presentation, State Board Drought Resources Update, Member Agency Innovative Water Conservation BMPs
- July 9 – San Pablo Baylands and SR 37 Initiatives, Legislative Updates
- Others in development: One Water Highlights, environmental education, urban scale carbon sequestration initiatives, funding, water management/conveyance

10. Announcements and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 am

Next Meeting: June 4, 2021, Zoom

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA