

# North Bay Watershed Association

## Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

December 3, 2021 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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
Jason Dow – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Rob Carson – Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
Leon Garcia—City of American Canyon	Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency
Madolyn Agrimonti – City of Sonoma	Brad Sherwood – Sonoma Water
Cory Bytof – City of San Rafael	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Gustavo Goncalves – County of Marin	Sandi Potter – NBWA
Chris Choo – County of Marin	Ann Thomas
Susan Gorin – County of Sonoma	John Driscoll – U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman’s office
Jack Gibson – Marin Municipal Water District	Susan Stompe - Marin Conservation League
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Kate Powers
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Laura Chariton
Jean Mariani – Novato Sanitary District	Cheryl Howlett – Marin Water
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitation District	

Fourteen NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 25 agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public.

Call to Order – Director Gibson 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 Gibson asked for any Board members to speak up if there were requested changes to the agenda. No comments.

Director Agrimonti moved to accept the agenda - Director Meigs seconded. Unanimously accepted.

Director Agrimonti moved to approve the past meeting summary. Director Fraites seconded. Directors Agrimonti, Bytof, and Gibson abstained. Unanimously approved.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Director Gregory moved to accept the Treasure’s Report - Director Patterson seconded. Unanimously accepted.

5. **Executive Director Report**

*Andy Rodgers, Executive Director*

Andy provided updates on active projects such as the collaboration with the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, initiatives such as those identified at the recent General Managers summit, progress of the 2022 conference committee, plans for an administrative steering committee meeting, member communications, activities, developing programs, and plans for next and future Board meeting topics.

**Updates since last meeting**

- Met with Marin Wildfire Protection Authority on November 15
- Met with Sonoma County Regional Parks re potential Storm Water Capture projects on November 17
- Attended NBWRA meeting on November 29
- Met with members and corresponded with regional One Water partners

#### **Administrative Activities**

- Coordinated with Board Chair, Deputy Director, Finance Manager
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants
- Updated website and meeting packet information

#### **Communications**

- Distributed Fall 2021 Quarterly newsletter
- Concluded Drought Relief Grant Program Support survey initiative
- Updating member contact lists - Need new staff / contacts
- Board members and member agency staff
- Regional partners
- Subject matter experts and speakers

#### **Committees**

- Met with 2022 Conference committee on November 9
- Prepared follow-up communication to Regional Leaders and General Managers meeting
- Convening Admin Steering Committee meeting in December
- JTC will implement new initiatives

**Quarterly Newsletter** – Fall 2021 (Nov. 17) - Forward us newsworthy items for next issue. Help expand distribution.

- Partner agency contacts
- Funding agency staff
- Other department staff
- Information officers/communications

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

NBWA/MWPA met with Combustion Creative and received proposal to complete Phase One. Phase One Scope: Develop identity for public education campaign for drought and fire smart practices. Many existing programs educate to cope with either drought or fire. This campaign combines both realities and provides focus on commonalities and practices that address both.

Regionally Applicable Deliverables:

- Campaign name
- Campaign logo
- Digital library

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

- Tracking NBWA/MWPA collaboration in evaluation of nexus of wildfire-water-drought

**2022 NBWA Conference Committee:** Jack Gibson, Jean Mariani, Megan Clark, Brad Sherwood, Andrea Rodriguez, Tony Hale, Frances Knapczyk, Andy Rodgers, Sabrina Marson

**November 9 Committee Meeting – Progress Summary**

Tentative conference date: April 8, 2022

Tentative title: Climate Change **D** – *Tag line to follow being refined*

Format: Virtual core with limited in-person outdoor experiences (before/during/after)

- Budget and schedule in preparation
- Creating Save the Date
- Contacting Sponsors

**Next conference committee meeting:** December 14

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
    - Propose/develop collaboration project
- 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

**Convene Administrative Steering Committee**

Consider options for regional One Water strategic initiative priorities in 2022

- Elevate awareness of NBWA programs and expand applied collaborations
- Identify/develop program/project(s) in collaboration with NBWRA
- Identify/develop and co-fund feasibility study projects
  - Flood management/stormwater capture/reuse
  - IPR
  - ASR
- Convene forum for strategic planning with land use/housing and water services
- Drought and Fire Smart Campaign
- Small grants program

Bring recommendations to NBWA Board.

**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

Questions/Comments

Stompe: There is a meeting scheduled for April. Usually, the meeting doesn't happen around the conference.

Rodgers: (Andy made a note of this)

**6. Guest Presentation— Progress Update: Two-Basin Solution for Potter Valley Project and FERC Relicensing**

U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman's office will provide an update on the status of the project and the Ad Hoc Committee's focus for the future.

- PG&E operates the Potter Valley Project. Several years ago, when they were considering relicensing the project, they came to Congressman Huffman's office about creating an Ad Hoc Committee that could guide the relicensing process. For several years the Ad Hoc Committee oversaw a two-basin solution (insuring the continuing of supply to the Russian River, while preserving the habitats and nature on the Eel River side.)
- PG&E decided not to continue with the project.
- Five new parties got together to consider a new license to operate the project (Sonoma Water, Water and Power, Pomo County, Round Valley Indian tribes, and CalTrout). They filed a notice of interest to assume the license. The group didn't find the funding. In September the group filed an update with FERC that it was unlikely they would obtain funds needed to continue the project.
- FERC has not responded yet. The project could be decommissioned. There's no way to know here FERC will land. It's likely the Scott Dam will be removed, as a fish ladder isn't economical.
- Over the summer, PG&E discovered one of the main transformers at the Potter Valley Power House had failed. It will cost 5-10 mil to replace and will take 18-24 months.
- Stakeholders in the area were notified and a bypass was set up to divert. About ½ of what can be diverted through the hydro tunnel. It's unclear if PG&E has the right to divert through the bypass valve.
- Congressman Huffman's office is going to PG&E and asking them about their legal ability. They are holding out hope the winter diversion will continue.
- There are discussions about what to do when the license expires in April. There is a strong possibility that the infrastructure will be replaced with modern infrastructure to divert in winter seasons to Lake Mendocino and a pump back to Potter Valley. There is five billion dollars from the Bipartisan Infrastructure framework (passed in October) and President Biden's Build Back Better bill that includes another 110 billion (not passed yet). They expect request for funding will come in for this project.

Questions/Comments

Director Patterson: What is the role of the State in all of this?

Driscoll: The state role is limited in this. Fish and Wildlife will need to be part of the FERC discussion. The State Water Resource Control will be involved in how the water rights are sorted. It's going to be complicated.

Director Meigs: Marin County depends on the Russian River for water supply. Is that going to go away or impacted? It will cost about 18 million for studies. What is happening with the fish?

Driscoll: Marin will be impacted, but it's unclear how. The fish habitat above the Scott Dam is valuable if they can access it. They are looking into measures that will improve conditions for the fish.

Director Gibson: What happened to the other partnerships, Lake County in particular, that wanted to be at the table?

Driscoll: When the Ad Hoc was created, Lake County was part of that. The five parties that came together, it was hard to find partners that would commit to a two-basin solution and organizations that could be operative; FERC licensing is complicated. Lake County has been involved in an advisory capacity.

Director Russell: What would happen if PG&E took the flow up to the max.

Driscoll: It's unknown. There may be environmental groups that may be concerned.

Stompe: There are Eel River groups that are highly interested in preserving the river.

Driscoll: The two-basin solution is supported. There's interest in helping and not completely shutting down the diversions.

Director Patterson: (comment) PG&E has a debt for conservation efforts that they are behind on.  
(question) Can you say more on Lake County's interest?

Driscoll: Lake County's interest are mainly tourism and some residences. Lake Pillsbury is a remote lake that is hard to get to and not much there. Value for the lake in recreation, wildlife, and fire suppression. The problem is that it's a piece of private infrastructure that can be forced to maintain. Lake County doesn't have a lot of resources.

Rodgers: Are there shorter-term next steps that you anticipate in early 2022 or anything that organization like NBWA can do to help raise awareness for the project?

Driscoll: The NBWA can continue to pay attention. Things will start to move quickly with the license expiring in April. Working to preserve the diversion will be helpful. Everyone should be thinking about water resiliency in their communities, as they have. If sources of water sources are changed, having a plan to get through that will be beneficial.

If there are any additional questions, reach out to John Driscoll directly. Andy has his contact information.

## 7. **Executive Director Report, continued**

See notes in item 5 above.

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

Director Gibson: A lot of coverage on the drought. Watershed wildfire protection needs more publicity. Grants have been obtained and crews working to prepare for a potential dry year ahead. The intertie across the bridge is moving along; Reconnection with Sonoma County and enhancing their collaboration with them; there's buyoff with Caltrans on the bridge; BCDC permits are in. Financial commitments can begin in January.

Director Fraites: Last year they were in agreement with Sonoma Water to refill their only reservoir- Stafford Lake. They are pursuing it again this year.

Director Bytof: They are waiting to hear back on a grant application to do some sea level rise adaptation work in the canal neighborhood adjacent to the bay. They are bringing to council an endorsement for the Bay Adapt Program with the BCDC. He is wondering if the NBWA was approached for an endorsement. How does NBWA feel?

Rodgers: NBWA has not been approached. (Director Bytoff with gather more information and bring it to the next meeting for the NBWA board to consider)

Director Gorin: All of the groundwater Basins are set to consider and potentially approve implementation plans for GSPs in the next week or two.

Director Meigs: They are still doing their PSAs regarding FOG, not flushing drugs, and other important issues. They got a \$20K federal grant to take out a 100-year-old sewer pipe in Ross. Its now up and running.

Director Carson: Focused heavily on full trash capture projects with their agencies and Caltrans. They are waiting the reissuance of a state-wide Phase 2 permit; they are working with CASQA to negotiate elements with State Water Board. Working with a lot Marin community groups to identify beautification and cleanup projects that they can include in a grant application with Clean California local grant program through Caltrans. Applications are due February 1. If there are areas that members are aware of, send them to him.

Director Gregory: Their GSP is coming up next Tuesday.

Director Patterson: Benicia completed a coastal cleanup took place after the last atmospheric river. Benicia, Vallejo and Fairfield are being considered in redistricting to Contra Costa, which means they are out of North Bay water management congressional representation. They are still working on that, but it doesn't look good.

#### 9. **Announcements and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am

Next Meeting: January 7, 2021, Zoom

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA