

North Bay Watershed Association

Board of Directors Meeting -

DRAFT Summary

April 7, 2023 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
John Shribbs – City of Petaluma	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Cory Bytof – City of San Rafael	Vicki Kretsinger Grabert – Public
Ron Wellander – City of Sonoma	Jasmin Diaz – Public
Susan Gorin – County Sonoma	Susan Stompe – Public
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Gina Benedetti-Petnic – Public
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Brendan McGovern – Public
Ranjiv Khush – Marin Municipal Water District	Jack Gibson – Public
Ryan Gregory – Napa Sanitation District	Robert Rogers – Public
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Jamison Crosby – County of Napa (Guest Speaker)
Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District	Chelsea Thompson – Public
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	Marcus Trotta – Sonoma Water (Guest Speaker)
Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency	Sandi Potter – Public (Petaluma Valley GSA)
Brad Sherwood – Sonoma Water	Bill Keene – Public (Sonoma Valley GSA)
	Ann Thomas – Public
	Kate Powers – Public

Fifteen NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 30-member agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public. Attendees were comprised of in-person and remote via Zoom.

Call to Order – Chair Mariani called the meeting to order at 9:32 am and took roll call.

2. **General Public Comment** – None

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

Director Gregory moved to accept the agenda to approve the past meeting summary - Director Fraites seconded. Unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's Report

No comments. Chair accepted the report by consensus.

4. **Guest Presentation: Status and Sustainable Management Plans for North Bay Groundwater Basins**

Marcus Trotta, Sonoma Water Principal Hydrogeologist and Plan Manager for Sonoma and Petaluma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, and Jamison Crosby, Napa County Natural Resources Conservation Manager and Napa Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Before introducing the speakers, Andy presented information regarding the California Groundwater Basins, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and a brief overview of the completion of Steps 1 and 2 of SGMA compliance and the implementation of Step 3. Additional information can be found on the NBWA presentation slides.

Marcus and Jamison provided basin status overviews, near- and long-term sustainability management programs and initiatives given the recent noteworthy approvals by DWR for their respective Groundwater Sustainability Plans, and opportunities for regional collaboration and multiple benefit funding.

Marcus detailed SGMA Implementation in Sonoma County. Basins/Subbasins included are:

- Petaluma Valley (medium priority)
- Sonoma Valley (high priority)
- Santa Rosa Plain (medium priority)

3 GSAs (one per basin) submitted 3 GSPs in January 2022. DWR issued approval of all 3 Sonoma County GSPs, along with Napa County's GSP, in January 2023. Only 4 of the 65 statewide GSPs submitted in 2022 to be approved to- date.

Additional information regarding the Board of Directors for Sonoma Valley and Petaluma Valley GSAs; three successive questions Groundwater Sustainability Plans are designed to answer; Sustainability Indicators Summaries for Petaluma and Sonoma Valleys; keys to achieving sustainability goals by 2042; data gaps to be filled; partnership opportunities for mutually beneficial projects and programs: Petaluma Valley and Sonoma Valley GSAs; DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Funding; and more can be found on the 'Sustainable Groundwater Management in Sonoma County' presentation slides.

Jamison discussed the Napa Valley Subbasin GSA's formation and governance; subbasin stats; highlights from Water Year 2022; sustainability indicators and metrics; and Response Actions & GSP Implementation. Details can be found on the 'Napa Valley subbasin - Onward to Sustainability' presentation slides.

Questions and Comments

(The Chair asked for clarifying questions to Marcus' presentation)

Director Schribbs: Has this been projected out toward the future with the expected growth that we have in, especially in Santa Rosa? How comfortable are we for number of years of drought that we can withstand?

Marcus: SGMA requires a projection out 50 years in in the plans. Additionally, the GSAs work with cities and the larger water districts that are required to prepare urban water management plants every 5 years as part of those plans, they do projections that the GSA has utilized. Ag and residential use in the region is also being projected out.

(Director Schribbs): Can you talk about what Sonoma County has done and what the impact is for wells being put in, as well as the type of restrictions? Also, what's going to happen downstream? You mentioned there wasn't much data or information on surface water impacts. Yet we have regulations that are tying them together.

Director Gorin: Sonoma Valley Basin has shown significant decline over the past decade, even before the GSA's formation. The County's Water Agency established an implementation plan with voluntary well monitoring. That basin has a number of measuring devices throughout the basin, but still we're moving forward in drilling a deeper well to do some monitoring, especially around the

mouth of Sonoma Creek. I think we're still under litigation threat by various groups for our permitted wells. The Board has been reviewing various options to move forward. I advocated for the metering of all new wells and replacement wells—it was the three to two vote so at some point we will get to that place so that we can fill our data gaps in all of the basins, but and maybe do a better job of understanding how much water is being drafted, and how much water is being reached.

[Questions after Napa Valley subbasin presentation]

Director Gregory: Recharge, actual, deliberate, artificial recharge, which is happening, and it is very exciting and something I feel we can do to be proactive on.

Director Meigs: I have a generic question—When the wells dry up, I heard they can't be recharged, or they will collapse. Is that accurate? Also, how much power are we talking about when pumping all this water? Is solar, etc. being used?

I just attended the Marin Coalition water panel on Resiliency. The trend of talking about water in one-acre feet is moving away, and it's all going to talk about how many gallons. 326,000 gallons is one acre foot.

Marcus: Wells that are in a condition where they could be collapsing, that has occurred and can occur related to groundwater pumping in areas where the aquifer and the soils are susceptible to the land surface actually subsiding. This is something that has occurred in the San Joaquin Valley. In our region we don't have a lot of subsidence so a collapse would not be from groundwater pumping. For power usage, there are a variety of power sources that are being utilized.

Director Russell: Is it possible to recharge on the vineyards in the off season?

Jamison: Yes, it's done. In the rainy season, in the winter, vines can tolerate being wet and being saturated; in the spring and summer they can't, and that's exactly when we would do those kinds of projects.

Marcus: He agrees with Jamison and its it location specific.

Director Patterson: [inaudible] There is a webinar coming up about soil. She will send the link to Andy.

Director Shribbs: What is the recovery timeframe and how long will it last?

Jamison: I couldn't speculate on how long it would take. They're always at the lowest point in the fall and highest in the spring, but they look at the trend if those peaks and valleys to see if the levels are trending down. The GSA collaborates and educates about what's happening and helping to implement BMPs.

Marcus: The geology in Sonoma and Napa Counties are highly variable and complex. We expect to see, you know, variable levels of recovery depending

upon the condition. We do also have areas that are continuing to decline and are not recovering fully during those wet years.

Vicki (Public): There's also a plan inside the Napa County Vineyard and Winery Water Conservation plan to include some case studies that are scattered throughout the Napa Valley subbasin to look at some of the research and technology and it advances in water conservation measures that are occurring. So, this compendium of information and best management practices, it's trying to be dynamic to describe what the state of the country measures are today, and what else is occurring, and what else growers could adopt pending their individual circumstances.

5. Consider Appointment of Past Chair John Gibson as Non-Voting Honorary Member of the Board

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Andy informed the Board of CASA bylaws in regard to Non-voting Honorary Members, which defines what NBWA would like to do.

Non-voting Honorary Members. Any individual who meets the following minimum criteria may, by majority vote of the Board, be granted an honorary life membership in the Association:

1. He or she is no longer actively employed by or affiliated with a voting member of the Association.
2. He or she has held leadership positions, such as officer, director, committee chair or staff in the Association.
3. He or she has been an active participant in the Association for at least ten years.
4. He or she has made a significant individual contribution to the Association's mission and goals.

Honorary life members are not required to pay fees, dues or assessments, nor shall they be entitled to vote or hold office as a director or officer or be employed as staff. They shall be entitled to notice of meetings and to attend meetings in an emeritus capacity at their own expense so as to contribute their knowledge and experience for the good of the Association.

No Questions or comments.

Director Patterson moved to appoint past Chair John Gibson as Non-Voting Honorary Member of the Board- Director Fraites seconded. Unanimously accepted.

6. Executive Director Report & FY23/24 Workplan Overview

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Andy provided general updates on NBWA activities since the March 3 Board meeting, including active projects, recent meetings, regional programs and initiatives, communications, and committees.

Andy outlined plans for NBWA's FY23/24 workplan and solicited board input.

Updates since last meeting

- Thank you, Chris Choo, for staffing NBWA's March Board meeting!

- Attended CASQA legislative subcommittee meeting March 28
- Participated in North Bay/Coast GSAs (6) collaboration
- Continued work on NBWA/NBWRA alignment planning

Administrative Activities

- Coordinated future Board and social events
- Initiated droughtSMART & fireSMART research
- Worked with SFEI on NBWA website rebuild! Beta for Board review May meeting
- Coordinated with MMWD Finance Manager and NBWA staff on reporting
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants

Communications

- Held state and federal funding overview presentation on March 3
- Preparing NBWA 1st Quarter Newsletter
- Coordinated w members to host meetings throughout NB region
- Regional partners
- Subject matter experts and speakers

Committees

- Met with Chair, Deputy Director, and staff to progress NBWA initiatives

Work Plan Structure

Andy is bringing the final Work Plan to the May meeting for approval and discussed some changes. The structure is essentially the same. A couple of regional initiatives, development tasks were added and some of the language and some of the projects were modified. No recommend changes to the annual budget. Everybody is struggling with getting and maintaining staff in the North Bay so work force development programs and topics will be supported. The Joint Technical committee will be reconvened with a specific focus to produce regional initiatives and aggressively go after grant funds while they're still available.

Executive Director services

- Facilitate monthly Board meetings and participate in regional collaborations
- Continue transition to in-person/hybrid (including field trips) meetings
- Member communications and advocacy
- Convene Executive/Admin Steering Committee – Spring 2023
 - Prioritize and provide direction on implementing initiatives (small grants, regional planning, association alignment)

Implement focused regional initiatives

- Water services infrastructure and land use/housing – Focused workshop #2, TBD 2023
- Align missions and programs with NBWRA – Chairs meeting May 2023
- Annual General Managers meeting – Summer 2023
- Phase I (exploratory) DroughtSMART & FireSMART branding pilot – Summer 2023

Participate in regional forums

- IRWM, RCIS, SFBRA, others

Convene Joint Technical Committee

- Programmatic planning and funding
- Communications
- Quarterly newsletter
 - Update NBWA website

North Bay Watershed Association MOU Refresher: Mission, Goals and Objectives

Mission Statement: Facilitate partnerships across political boundaries that promote stewardship of the North San Pablo Bay watershed resources.

1. Bring together local agencies to work cooperatively and effectively on issues of common interest.
2. Be proactive on watershed-based regulation, which increasingly affects areas beyond traditional political boundaries.
3. Work cooperatively to increase eligibility for watershed-based funding.
4. Maximize effective use of resources.
5. Enhance the NBWA's influence on local, state, and federal policies and programs.
6. Educate communities about the importance of watershed stewardship.

[More information can be found on the presentation slides.]

FY 2022-23 Board Meetings

- May 5 – Field trip?
- June 2 – In person/hybrid
- July 7 – Virtual
- August ** SKIP MONTH**
- September 1 – In person/hybrid
- October 6 – In person/hybrid
- November 3 – In person/hybrid
- December 1 – In person/hybrid

Topics in development:

OneWater-OneBay Strategic Funding Initiatives, Regional Resiliency, SFBay Basin Plan Amendment, American Canyon Field Trip, Berryessa and Solano County Field Trips, Environmental Education & Grant Funding, Small Grants Program, Urban Scale Carbon Sequestration Initiatives, Regulatory Compliance Partnerships, Baylands Strategies, DroughtSMART/FireSMART, Water Management & Conveyance Innovations, Capital and Natural Assets Management, Small Grants and Scholarship Program, New Members!

Questions and Comments

Director Meigs: I'd like to be involved with the launch phase or the exploratory phase with the Fire Smart cause I've attended probably every single MWPA meeting, and also, I am involved with the ESP group, which is the Ecologically Sound Practices group who created a draft and are working with the MWPA.

7. **Water Year 2023 Updates / Board Information Exchange**

Members highlighted issues and shared items of interest.

Director Patterson: [in audible]. There's legislation that I think we ought to be interested in regarding the State Water Resources Control Board's determination of water rights and trying to clarify a really old law that's very confusing. AB068 [inaudible].

Director Fraites: We get approximately 75% of our water from Sonoma Water from this aqueduct [referencing a picture he's holding up and he passed around]. There is a line in danger of breaking, but they are monitoring it. PG&E has been very cooperative.

Director Clark: The ribbon cutting ceremony has been delayed again to possibly May 20th.

Director Shribbs: They just submitted for the second and hopefully final time, their housing element. Keeping everything within our urban boundaries, but still having projections of people over the next 10 years. We currently have developers and landlords in the north section there that want to build out.

Director Bytof: [inaudible]

Director Russel: Thank you to North Marine for the help they've given us with this aqueduct problem with the landslide. Sonoma water has been very helpful, too. We are moving forward with their search for water reliability, resilience. we'll continue to get you updated on where we are in exploring alternatives with Sonoma and North Marin.

Director Meigs: Ross Valley Sanitary district won the statewide award for CWEA's 2022 small collections system of the year.

8. **Announcements and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am

Next Meeting: May 5, 2023

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA