

North Bay Watershed Association

Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

February 3, 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	Robert Rogers – Sonoma Water
Leon Garcia – City of American Canyon	Chris Choo – County of Marin
John Shribbs – City of Petaluma	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Cory Bytof – City of San Rafael	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Ron Wellander – City of Sonoma	Armin Munévar – Jacobs (Public)
Mary Sackett – County of Marin	Tom West – West Yost
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Susan Stompe – Public
Matt Sagues – Marin Municipal Water District	Steven Lee – Public
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Kate Powers – Public
Ranjiv Khush – Marin Municipal Water District	John Peairs – Public
Robb Carson – MCSTOPPP	Jack Gibson – Public
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Jordan Ollanik – Public
Jean Mariani – Novato Sanitary District	Stephen Keese – Public
Ryan Gregory – Novato Sanitary District	Ann Thomas – Public
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	Bonnie Robison – Public
Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency	Brenda Estrada – Public
Don Seymour – Sonoma Water	

Fourteen NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 33-member agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public.

Call to Order – Executive Director (ED) Andy Rodgers called the meeting to order at 9:35 am via Zoom and took roll call.

2. **Election of Board Officers**

ED Rodgers opened the meeting with a call for nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Director Patterson moved the recommended nomination from the past Chair to appoint Director Mariani for Chair and Director Gregory for Vice Chair—Both accepted the nominations; Director Garcia seconded—Unanimously accepted.

3. **General Public Comment** – None

4. **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. Chair approved the Agenda by consensus.

Treasurer's Report

No comments. Chair accepted the report by consensus.

5. **Guest Presentation: Sonoma Water Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study**

Donald Seymour, Water Resources Manager, Sonoma Water and Armin Munévar, Global Water Resources, Jacobs

Donald and Armin provided an overview of the on-going Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study and efforts to identify the key factors impacting regional water supply resiliency, evaluate the current levels of resiliency, and identify promising opportunities for Sonoma Water and its retail customers to improve regional resilience in the future.

Don provided an overview of what Sonoma Water does and their on-going efforts on adaptation. Details can be found in the PDF of the presentation slides (<https://www.nbwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Guest-Presentation-Sonoma-Water-Regional-Water-Supply-Resiliency-Study.pdf>).

Sonoma Water Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study

- Sonoma Water system serves as backbone of water supply for Sonoma and Marin counties
- Retail providers have growing local supplies and demands
- Systems are connected, but only loosely integrated ... especially in times of shortage
- Multiple individuals, specific models
- Study seeks to:
 - identify the key factors impacting regional water supply resiliency,
 - evaluate the current levels of resiliency,
 - develop a decision support framework model and process, and
 - identify promising opportunities for Sonoma Water and its retail customers to improve regional resilience in the future
- First of a kind look at the Integrated Regional System
 - Russian River & Potter Valley Project (Eel River)
 - Sonoma Water “backbone” system
 - 9 retail customer systems
 - 6 groundwater basins
 - local supplies and recycled water
 - multiple risk drivers
 - decision support model

Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study and Phases are described in more detail in the PDF of the presentation slides (<https://www.nbwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Guest-Presentation-Sonoma-Water-Regional-Water-Supply-Resiliency-Study.pdf>).

Accelerated 2021-2022 Drought Resiliency Analysis, including Drought Baseline Simulations, Synthesis of Drought Water Management Options, and Near-Term Drought Resiliency/Response Actions are described in more detail in the PDF of the presentation slides (<https://www.nbwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Guest-Presentation-Sonoma-Water-Regional-Water-Supply-Resiliency-Study.pdf>).

Other Risks to be Evaluated in 2023

- Seismic
- Wildfires
- Power Loss
- Flooding
- Potter Valley Project Uncertainty

Next steps:

- Completion of Additional Risk Scenarios
- Cascading Risk Scenarios
- Summarize and Recommend Regional Strategies
- Prepare Study Report

Questions and Comments

Director Bytof: Is any part of the study or anything that you're doing related to governance structure and how to integrate solutions across multiple elected bodies and jurisdictions?

Don Seymour: Through this whole project they have been working closely with the technical advisory committee (comprised of representatives from each of the retail

customers) and the Water Advisory Committee . This collaboration is continuing on the seismic. As we get to the recommended strategies, some of them are about interrelationships between various entities and there will be a governance aspect in order to facilitate that—it's not just a project recommendation or a set of actions but really about policy and institutional actions as well as physical infrastructure.

Director Shribbs: In this modeling will there be any possibility for the adaptation of increasing the water supply by the various methods of capturing the storage and retention and groundwater recharge that does not seem to be included in the current model as presented?

Don Seymour: This model, does incorporate groundwater recharge projects in Sonoma County. In time we may know recharge rates and extraction rates and we'll be able to incorporate it into this decision support model that Jacob has developed.

Right now, Sonoma Water is not looking for additional storage, those type of projects are extremely expensive and very difficult to implement. Projects that increase storage capacity, raise the dams up higher, or find a new storage reservoir area, if implemented, would be incorporated in the model. Just going back to the groundwater recharge, both above ground and underground storage, are being considered, we're kind of taking the lead when we identify the risk of each of the scenarios.

Director Patterson: Several questions in follow up on the floodMAR. One is, what are you estimating the capacity for groundwater storage in the system—re projecting the capacity? Second, following up on the capacity issue is developing relationships with Ag. There's also the underlying issue of water rights—are you taking a look at the associated issues with water rights and groundwater?

Don Seymour: We have this [inaudible] project in the Santa Rosa Plain. Currently our 4 water rate permits do not have groundwater recharge as a purpose of use, so we will have to deal with that as that project comes in line; probably will be like 180-day temporary permit, because want to see with a pilot test the project before we go for some type of permanent permit.

Director Fraites: Are you going to study desalinization at any point?

Armin Munevar: We did include it in the in the long-term drought options at a very high level. We also looked at it as part of the drought study as well, but it was at a really high level in in the assessment.

Kate Powers: How are environmental demands and resiliency for both the Russian River system and watershed, and the Eel River, integrated into the impacts of the water supply study. Both in preparing scenarios, evaluating baseline resilience, and recommending strategies, and evaluating recommended strategies going forward?

Don Seymour: The modeling does incorporate the minimum stream flow requirements that are required in Sonoma Water's permits that take into consideration ecological benefits for endangered species. There's not a specific metric on environmental benefits.

Director Patterson: Are you able to project some of the capacity to handle those more intense [inaudible] because of the flooding issues in in the area?

Armin Munevar: That's the major challenge. Not just in the North Bay, but also all over California—How do we adapt to that kind of growing extremes, both on the on the wet and the dry side? I think part of the effort here is to look at how do we take some of those greater extremes on the wet side and manage the greater extremes on the dry side? Whether that's through storage or improved management of the groundwater basins or through some shared programs across the regional customer boundaries. I think that's really what we're seeking as part of the study.

Director Wellander: Could you please shed some light on how I can respond, and whether or not the governor's ambitious housing [plan for] the State is impractical given our limitations on water?

Don Seymour: Sonoma Water works really closely with our retail customers, and every five years the retailers and wholesalers are required to prepare what's referred to as an urban water management plan. The last one was prepared in 2020, due to the Department

of Water resources on July 1, 2021. Those plans forecast out demands by each of the retail customers based on growth estimates and housing growth estimates, and then each of our customers provides us those demands to analyze the water supply availability under different hydrologic conditions, and in the last urban water management plan only under the most severe single year drought was there a deficit of water, but it was certainly within the realm of less of an effort. I think that's the answer that you know every 5 years, City of Sonoma is preparing an urban water management plan and submitting their demands; look at your own local resource, your own local supplies to confirm that you're able to meet demands. Those water management plans go out 25 years.

6. Executive Director Report

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Updates since last meeting

- Attended North Bay/Coast GSAs (6) collaborative meeting on Jan 31
- Attended CASQA legislative subcommittee meeting on Jan 24
- Attended Bay Area IRWM CC meetings on Dec 5 and Jan 23
- Attended GRA legislative advocacy meetings on Dec 8 and Jan 13
- Attended NBWA/NBWRA alignment planning meeting Dec 20
- Attended Petaluma Watershed Collaborative meeting Jan 19
- Evaluated grant funding opportunities for regional programs

Administrative Activities

- Set up NBWA social event on Jan 6 (cancelled due to flood event)
- Coordinated with Board Chair, Deputy Director, Finance Manager
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants
- Working with SFEI on NBWA website rebuild!

Communications

- Held 4th in-person BOD meeting at Silverado Country Club, Napa with tour of Milliken Creek Flood Reduction and Fish Passage Project on Dec 2!
- Distributed NBWA Fall Newsletter on Nov 29
- Coordinated w members to host meetings throughout NB region
- Regional partners
- Subject matter experts and speakers

Committees

- Attended drought & fire SMART coordinated messaging campaign planning meeting with MPWSA on Jan 10
- Met with Chair, Deputy Director, and staff to progress NBWA initiatives

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.

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

NBWA FY 2022/23 Work Plan

Executive Director services

- 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, winter/spring 2023
- Align missions and programs with NBWRA – Chairs meeting Feb-March 2023
- Annual General Managers meeting – April 2023
- Phase I (exploratory) DroughtSMART & FireSMART branding pilot – Spring 2023
- Proposal to support convening a series of ACWA-endorsed regional industry workshops

Participate in regional forums

- IRWM, RCIS, SFBRA, others

Convene Joint Technical Committee

- Programmatic planning and funding

Communications

- Quarterly newsletter
- Update NBWA website

2022 Key Accomplishments

- Ten guest subject matter expert presentations on wide range of topics
- Two Board meeting/field trips
- Climate Change(D): Weathering Extremes Together, April 8
- Four modules posted on NBWA website – and viewable on YouTube
- Land Use and Water Infrastructure Workshop, June 2
- Foundation for workshop #2 tentatively scheduled for spring 2023
- Progressed priority initiatives identified from 2021 General Managers meeting
- Established drought & fire smart campaign pilot partnership with MWPA, Lawrence Berkeley Lab, and Stanford's Woods Institute
- Established on-going roles or tracking with regional initiatives – Bay Area IRWM CC, North Bay Baylands Regional Conservation Investment Strategy stakeholder, CASQA legislative committee, SR37 Baylands Group
- Presented to local, regional, and state-wide organizations

FY 2022-23 Board Meetings

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

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Topics in development:

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, OneWater OneBay Strategic Initiatives, DWR & SWRCB Drought Assistance Programs and Resources, Collaboration-Based Funding

Opportunities, Water Management & Conveyance Innovations, Capital and Natural Assets Management, Small Grants and Scholarship Program, New Members!

7. Board Information Exchange and Drought Updates

Members highlighted issues and shared items of interest.

Director Gregory: Potable reuse is a big component of our drought contingency plan, and we just signed an MOU with the City of Napa to explore the feasibility of potable reuse. We're still waiting for the regulations which we hear are coming soon, but we're going to start exploring how to deal with that. The Napa treatment plant is very close to the City's water treatment plant, so the questions will be, where do we do treatment: at the wastewater plant or at the water plant. We hope sometime soon we can present to this Board.

Director Russell: We are in the process of looking at water supply enhancement alternatives.

We are staying out of the issue we got into about 2 years ago, when we were looking at emergency pipeline across the San Rafael Bridge. Our report is scheduled for some time around the beginning of next month, and we will have a lot to talk about as we get into that deciding where we're going.

Ranjiv Khush is one of our new Board members; he is taking over the Fairfax Ross section of our watershed. Rajiv, Jed Smith and Matthew Samson are also new.

Director Garcia: They have a new City Water Portal. You can sign on online, and it will monitor your water to your house any time of the day. This has been able to identify for a lot of households where water leaks are. We have a recycle water program going on—it's a recycle home delivery program.

We're building all new houses, but there is a certainly environmentally sensitive water supply, sensitive issues, freedom related to the construction. For example, there are no laws allowed in the front yard to the house, maybe up to 25% in the backyard.

Corporate yard is right on the wetlands is being moved to be used for an ecology center, the American Canyon Committee and Parks Foundation is working on that.

Director Meigs: Our district has recently changed an ordinance for lateral replacement. We are now for people who can't afford or have a problem with the financial aspect we are offering them low loans.

Director Fraites: They appointed a new Board Member from West Marin.

Director Patterson: We have a new executive officer for the Solano County Water Agency. Lake Berryessa is the highest it's been since 2022.

She recommends a land use presentation (Director Fraites supports this).

Director Clark: There is a new Director, Gary Robarts. We finished our strategic plan. We have had zero spills during the rains.

Director Boorstein: CMSA did quite well in the recent rains. Ponds are filled completely.

8. Announcements and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am

Next Meeting: March 3, 2023

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA