

North Bay Watershed Association

Board of Directors Meeting -

DRAFT Summary

July 1, 2022 | 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	Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitation District
Leon Garcia – Napa County Flood Control and Water Resources	Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency
Cory Bytof – City of San Rafael	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Damon Connolly – County of Marin	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Susan Gorin - County of Sonoma	Indigo Bannister – West Yost
Jack Gibson – Marin Municipal Water District	Susan Stompe – Public
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Stephen Keese – Public
Ryan Gregory – Napa Sanitation District	Kate Powers – Public
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Ann Thomas – Public
Tony Williams – North Marin Water District	Karen Cowen – CASQA
Jean Mariani – Novato Sanitary District	Hawkeye Sheene – CASQA Legislation Subcommittee

Twelve NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 23-member agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public.

Call to Order – Director Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:32 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 Fraites moved to approve the agenda; Director Bytof seconded—Unanimously accepted.

Director Patterson moved to approve the past meeting summary. Director Fraites seconded—Unanimously accepted.

4. Treasurer's Report

Andy presented a draft Treasure’s Report – did not cover the entire month. The full report will be presented for approval in September.

5. Guest Presentation— Legislative Updates for Stormwater Management

Karen Cowen, Executive Director, California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA), and Hawkeye Sheene, Chair, CASQA Legislation Subcommittee

Karen and Hawkeye provided an overview of current state water quality legislation consequential to our north bay watershed communities and our member agencies responsible for implementation.

The CASQA Legislation Subcommittee was rebooted this past year because CASQA is increasing their involvement in legislative endeavors and education around stormwater.

Karen Cowan requested that agencies consider checking in with CASQA before taking a position on legislative actions. CASQA makes decisions and moves efforts that are in line with their mission and vision, which can be viewed in full at <https://www.casqa.org/about/strategic-plan-vision>

SB54 is a plastics reduction bill that has been several years in the making. CASQA sent in their letter of support. This extended producer responsibility bill for packaging was signed into law on June 30, 2022. The bill will create an EPR program for printed paper and plastic packaging, require certain reductions and eliminations in single-use plastic packaging, promote reuse or refill systems and implement eco-modulated fees and environmental justice provisions. It also will require all plastic packaging in the state to reach a 30% recycling rate by 2028, increasing to 65% by 2032. The EPR provisions of the new law are set to take effect Jan. 1, 2027.

Another bill that CASQA has been actively engage on, AB 2106. This would require the State Board to evaluate the state's stormwater program and the state's progress toward compliance with water quality standards. Additionally, it would require the State Board to establish a statewide commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) order following the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's adoption of its CII NPDES permit. CCKA's stated intent for this bill is to reduce the cost of compliance with data reporting requirements and improve enforcement efficiency, and also to reduce permitting complexity while improving water quality along the lines of the yet-to-be-finalized Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board permit. CASQA is not opposing the permit, but if they are going to create this whole new regulatory process, don't make the cities and counties that aren't subject to the permit pay for it. The state should fund getting the process up and running.

Additional details on CASQA's stance on the above are provided in handouts found here:
www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-3/

- HANDOUT 1 - FINAL CASQA Comments - AB 2106 - Senator Ben Allen (EQ Committee) - 06-09-2022
- HANDOUT 2 - CASQA Support Letter for SB 54

Andy is part of the legislative committee and will continue to bring updates as needed.

Questions/Comments

Chair Gibson: Where did the primary opposition for SB54 come from?

Cowan: Ironically the environmental community. They didn't think the bill went far enough.

Andy: How will funds from SB54 be competed for?

Cowan: Funds will be prioritized to underserved communities. She believes the legislature may be the ones to identify, but there are many agencies that would receive funding.

Director Patterson: Do you want to speculate on the effect the recent Supreme Court decision on EPA regulations would have on your next step your outlining?

Cowan: She will have to get back on this, as they are trying to understand as well.

Director Garcia: Have you heard any conversation around depolarization?

Cowan: Chemical recycling is the term that is used, and it was a point of contention in the bill as it doesn't allow the use of the term recycling. She isn't clear what the environmental harm is specifically.

Director Patterson: 350.org has been a proponent for the recycling of plastics to avoid fossil fuel extraction.

6. **Executive Director Report**

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

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

Updates since last meeting

- Followed up on NBWA's Land Use and Water Infrastructure Virtual Workshop (June 2)
- Attended IRWM coordinating committee meeting June 27 – call for PSC volunteers!
- Evaluated grant funding opportunities for regional programs

Administrative Activities

- Programmed FY 2022-23 work plan
- Coordinated with Board Chair, Deputy Director, Finance Manager
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants
- Updated website and meeting packet information

Communications

- Scheduled ‘urban tap water trust and equity’ presentation for NBWA Sept. 2 meeting
- Board members and member agency staff
- Regional partners
- Subject matter experts and speakers

Committees

- Met with Land Use and Water Infrastructure initiative subcommittee on June 8
- Met with Chair, Deputy Director, and staff to progress NBWA initiatives

NBWA FY 2022/23 Work Plan

- Executive Director services
 - Virtual transition to in-person (including tours) & virtual meetings
 - Member communications and advocacy
 - Convene Executive/Admin Steering Committee – August/September 2022
 - Prioritize and provide direction on implementing initiatives
- Implement focused regional initiatives
 - Water services infrastructure and land use/housing – Focused workshop, fall 2022 (slide)
 - Align missions and programs with NBWRA – Coordination meetings, summer/fall 2022
 - Annual General Managers meeting – October/November 2022
 - Phase I (exploratory) DroughtSMART & FireSMART branding pilot – Summer 2022 (slide)
 - Proposal to support convening a series of ACWA-endorsed regional industry workshops
- Participate in regional forums
 - IRWM, RCIS, others – call for IRWM Project Screening Committee volunteers from Marin and Sonoma!
- Convene Joint Technical Committee
 - Programmatic planning and funding
- Communications
 - Quarterly newsletter
 - Update NBWA website

Convene Land Use/Housing Agencies and Water/Wastewater Services Agencies

June 2, NBWA convened a workshop for land use/housing and water services infrastructure agency staff in the NBWA region to share information and stimulate dialogue.

Purpose: Inform and identify practical and productive next steps to foster collaborative initiatives and partnerships that address and support the needs of land use and water services agencies in times of unprecedented housing shortage and drought.

Attendees included Planning and Utilities staff from the four NBWA counties.

NBWA subcommittee conducted debrief, prepared summaries, distributed meeting materials to attendees/interested parties, and planned next steps.

Next Step: Schedule a focused workshop late summer/early fall 2022

One Water Strategic Initiative – Water and Fire

NBWA/MWPA collaborating with Combustion Creative 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

FY 2022-23 Board Meetings

- September 2 – Field trip
- October 7 – In person/hybrid
- November 4 – In person/hybrid
- December 2 – Field trip
- January 6 – potential skip month
- February 3 - In person/hybrid
- March 3 – In person/hybrid
- April 7 – Field trip
- May 5 - In person/hybrid
- June 2 – Field trip?

Board topics in development

Tap water trust and equity (Sept 2), Regional Resiliency (Oct 7), SFBay Basin Plan Amendment (Oct 7 or Nov 4), Environmental Education/Grant Funding (Dec 2), 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!

Questions/Comments

Director Patterson: She would like to see the hybrid component be maintained.

Director Meigs: Will the public still be able to come?

Andy: Yes.

Director Bytof: Is there going to be continued discussion, a white paper or providing high level tips or take-aways on the Convene Land Use/Housing Agencies and Water/Wastewater Services Agencies workshop?

Andy: Yes, there is an event being planned for the fall.

Director Patterson: She is going to be teaching a course on Land Use Planning and Water Management. She is looking for links, resources and books on the history of the Eel River, Russian River and Dry Creek areas so if anyone has some, send them her way.

Andy [via chat]: This report is highly technical, but it has a great overview of the RR you might be interested in: <http://www.russianriverisrp.org/>

7. Board Information Exchange and Drought Updates

Executive Director thought for information sharing agenda item:

- Board Dialogue and Information Sharing is always illuminating!
- Wondering if there are ways to leverage the forum *more* to further our One Water strategy and enhance the benefits of NBWA
- Would it help if ED sends communication the Monday before a board meeting to gather information and any associated links?
- In addition to sharing highlights and updates on agency activities and considerations, would it be helpful (when applicable) to also mention if there are topics or questions needing information that NBWA and/or others on the call can assist with?

Director Gibson: the Jacobs Resiliency Study is going on. They have wildfire preparation taking place. They are engaged in a watershed recreation plan. Success is based on the increase in patrons to the watershed, but he has concerns that the watershed can't sustain an increase in visitors. He is watching the watershed recreation plan closely.

Director Mariani: CA Association of Sanitary Agencies is having an in-person conference August 10-12 in Lake Tahoe. They have interesting topics and speakers. More information is at <https://casaweb.org/>

Director Gorin: She serves on the Sonoma Valley and Petaluma Valley GSAs. There is overlap in discussion on the ability to utilize stormwater to recharge groundwater. The topic of fees is currently being discussed and she would like to hear from members on how they are looking at recharge. She suggests Andy coordinate some discussions on this.

Andy agrees and will maximize all opportunities to share information.

Director Patterson: She suggested Director Gorin tap into Flood-MAR program resources. Also, Prop 218, she thinks needs to be reformed, and suggest this as a future topic of discussion. Roland Sanford is retiring by the end of the year so his position for General manager for Solano Water Agency is coming available if anyone knows of a candidate.

Director Garcia: 450 households are receiving recycled water. 300 gallons per delivery. It's also available for people to come with their own container to fill up. This water is for landscaping only and a training video is available.

Director Fraites: There was a rate fee increase hearing recently that passed. Their headquarters is under construction so they meet virtually but will be meeting off campus until the construction is over when they start in-person.

Director Meigs: She agrees Prop 218 should be reformed and should be discussed. They hosted with Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District a workshop where staff shadowed, with their repair crew, Ross Valley Sanitation District's staff to learn how to correct pipes with patch repairs.

Director Connolly: Single use plastics ordinance was adopted. They continue to prioritize climate change initiatives, sea level rise adaptation, and land use acquisition in Tiburon.

8. **Announcements and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am

Next Meeting: September 2, 2022, Zoom

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA