

North Bay Watershed Association  
Board of Directors Meeting -  
Summary  
June 2, 2023 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Boro Community Center  
50 Canal Street, San Rafael, CA

Zoom was available for those to attend virtually  
[www.nbwatershed.org](http://www.nbwatershed.org)

**1. Welcome and Call to Order—Directors, Member Representatives Present Included:**

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Robert Rogers – Sonoma Water
Jason Dow – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Jack Gibson – Emeritus
Cory Bytof – City of San Rafael	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Leonard Ohenhen – City of San Rafael	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Chris Choo – Marin County
Mary Sackett – Marin County	April Robinson – SFEI (Guest Speaker)
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Lydia Smith Vaughn – SFEI (Guest Speaker)
Ranjiv Khush – Marin Municipal Water District	Kate Hagemann – City of San Rafael (Guest Speaker)
Leon Garcia – Napa County FCWCD	Barbara Salzman – Public (Marin Audubon Society)
Ryan Gregory (Vice Chair) – Napa Sanitation District	Kate Powers – Public
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Dane Behrens – Public (Environmental Science Associates)
Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District	Susan Stompe – Public
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	
Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency	
Brad Sherwood – Sonoma Water	

Twelve NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 26 member agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public. Meeting participants attended in-person and remote via Zoom.

Call to Order – Chair Mariani called the meeting to order at 9:33 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 Fraites moved to accept the agenda and to approve the past meeting summary – Director Sackett seconded. Unanimously accepted.

**Treasurer’s Report**

No comments. Director Boorstein moved to accept the report– Director Garcia seconded. Unanimously accepted.

**4. Guest Presentation: Delta Wetland Futures - Marsh Resilience and Blue Carbon in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta**

*April Robinson and Lydia Smith Vaughn, San Francisco Estuary Institute*

April and Lydia shared findings of two paired studies assessing how wetlands in the Delta can mitigate subsidence, sequester carbon, reduce GHG emissions, and provide resilient habitat for wetland dependent species.

The presentation included work that grew out of a larger body of work that SFEI has completed over the past decade or more that they refer to as the Delta Landscapes Project. Lydia provided a brief introduction to the project. April followed up with information regarding the Tidal Marsh Resilience to Sea Level Rise project. The project analysis focused on how resilience would play out across the Delta and how it might be different in different areas. The approach was to conduct modeling and mapping based on currently available data and planned future work.

SFEI is utilizing their landscape scenario planning tool that has been in use for a number of years. It's a GIS-based tool that allows users to create and evaluate land use scenarios to look at the different benefits that you might get. There are a lot of different potential uses in the Delta that can be evaluated under different scenarios.

Lydia discussed a second focus of this larger project which was to look at potential greenhouse gas and subsidence mitigation options through wetlands in the Delta. SFEI noted that in the Landscape Scenario Planning Tool, for a given scenario, they could input their scenarios and another user could input their own scenario. The tool outputs projections 40 years into the future of elevation, carbon storage, and greenhouse gas emissions, and also a feature that allows users to explore potential revenue from the sale of carbon offsets due to wetland creation. This tool is free. It's available to use on their website, download it and run it for their own scenarios in order to reproduce these carbon metrics alongside the various other tool analyses related to ecosystem functions.

The presentation in PDF format can be viewed at <https://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-10-2023-04-07-4/>

Questions/Comments:

Director Patterson: Why didn't you include Suisun, which is part of the Delta?

April: we did consider it, but we just felt like it needed to be done separately. There would be different input parameters thinking about brackish marshes versus freshwater marshes. So, it's simpler under this process to just stick with the Delta.

Director Gregory: Property owners may want to protect their land and potentially protect themselves from any kind of migration. What are some strategies you will be using to deal with that?

April: There's a lot of overlap in those areas, and there is a lot of competing land use. Finding areas where agriculture can be maintained in some areas that are restored is important. As the tides come into those areas, more work must be done to keep the tides out. It's going to become less sustainable to farm those areas over time. A lot of the areas that are being farmed now are already deeply, deeply subsided. It's a big problem to solve in the Delta—how important economic and agricultural interests are maintained, while also maintaining a vibrant ecosystem. It's an important question and I wish I had a better answer.

## 5. Executive Director Report

*Andy Rodgers, Executive Director*

Andy provided general updates on NBWA activities since the May 5 Board meeting, including active projects, recent meetings, regional programs and initiatives, communications, and committees.

### ***Updates since last meeting***

- Thank you Petaluma for hosting NBWA's May Board meeting!
- Met with Rescape California on May 9 to coordinate promotion of training events planned for north bay region
- Attended CASQA legislative subcommittee meeting May 23
- Participated in North Bay/Coast GSAs (6) collaboration
- NBWA/NBWRA staff meeting June 6 to plan alignment strategy

### ***Administrative Activities***

- Finalized FY23/24 Work Plan
- Coordinated future Board events and speakers
- Progressed droughtSMART & fireSMART messaging task
- Worked with SFEI on NBWA website rebuild. Update to Beta reviewed by Board on May 5 coming soon
- Coordinated with MMWD Finance Manager and NBWA staff on reporting
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants

### ***Communications***

- Met with workforce development consultants on May 10 to seed ideas for a NBWA-sponsored initiative
- Worked on NBWA Spring Quarterly Newsletter
- Coordinated w members to host meetings throughout NB region
- Regional partners
- Subject matter experts and speakers

### ***Committees***

Met with grant program experts to identify grant program templates to model in 2023 refresh  
Met with Chair, Deputy Director, and staff to progress NBWA initiatives

### ***FY 2022-23 Board Meetings***

- July 7 – In person/hybrid
- August \*\* SKIP MONTH\*\*
- September 1 – Field trip?
- October 6 – In person/hybrid
- November 3 – In person/hybrid
- December 1 – In person/hybrid
- January 2 – SKIP MONTH or WATERSHED SOCIAL GATHERING

### ***Topics in development:***

OneWater-OneBay Strategic Funding Initiatives, Regional Resiliency, SFBay Basin Plan Amendment, American Canyon Field Trip, Berryessa Field Trip, Delta Field Trip, SR37 Field Trip, 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

## 6. Board Information Exchange

Members highlighted issues and shared items of interest.

Director Clark: Ribbon cutting ceremony is still on track and it will be held at McGuinness Restaurant.

Director Sherwood: Lake Sonoma 98% of water supply capacity. Mendocino is at 90%. Thanks to the implementation of forecast informed reservoir operations (FIRO) at both of them we've been able to save roughly up to almost 30,000 additional water. Again, we sell about 40-to-45,000-acre feet of water a year. Sonoma Water is hosting a workshop on June 27<sup>th</sup> at their office with various representatives from Danish water utility companies sharing success stories and innovations.

Director Russell: The search for water continues and they are looking at alternatives for water supply.

## 7. Guest Presentation Guest Presentation: Sea Level Rise Challenges in San Rafael

*Kate Hagemann, Climate Adaptation and Resilience Planner, City of San Rafael*

San Rafael is the most vulnerable community in the Bay area to short-term sea-level rise. The City of San Rafael and the Multicultural Center of Marin provided an overview of an ongoing sea level rise planning project in San Rafael and some of the challenges and aspirations for climate adaptation planning.

Kate provided an overview of sea level rise history, the BayWAVE Vulnerability Assessment (2017), BCDC Vulnerability Study (2020), Flood Risk & SLR Adaptation Report (2020), and Resilient by Design. Additional topics included subsidence, costs, current grant, and next steps, including:

This month

- Steering Committee recruitment
- Technical Advisory Committee recruitment
- creating outreach strategy

This quarter

- improving vulnerability information
- releasing the RFP
- first meetings of the technical advisory & steering
- committees

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## 8. Announcements/Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am

Next Meeting: July 7, 2023

## 9. Walking Tour—Shoreline Improvements and Nature-Based Adaptation

Following the meeting, participants were guided by Kate Hagemann, City of San Rafael and Dane Behrens, ESA, to tour the nearby shoreline and learn about a planned nature-based adaptation project at Tiscornia Marsh and discuss other opportunities for implementing adaptation measures, and the compounding hazards of subsidence, groundwater rise, and increasing flooding risks.

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA