

North Bay Watershed Association

Board of Directors Meeting -

DRAFT Summary

June 3, 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	Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District
Cory Bytof – City of San Rafael	Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency
Chris Choo – County of Marin	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Damon Connolly – County of Marin	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Susan Gorin - County of Sonoma	Susan Stompe – Public
Pat Eklund – City of Novato	Cheryl Howlett – Marin Municipal Water District
Jack Gibson – Marin Municipal Water District	Kate Powers – Public
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Ann Thomas – Public
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Taylor Nokhoudian San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Tony Williams – North Marin Water District	Michelle Novotny – San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Jean Mariani – Novato Sanitary District	

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 9:34 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 Boorstein moved to approve the agenda and approve the past meeting summary. Director Clark seconded. Unanimously accepted.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Director Russell moved to accept the Treasure's Report - No comments. Unanimously accepted.

5. **Guest Presentation— Bay Area IRWMP Updates**

Taylor Nokhoudian, Water Resources Program Manager and Michelle Novotny, Manager of Special Programs, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Taylor and Michelle provided an overview of the Bay Area IRWMP Coordinating Committee's recent activities and upcoming engagement opportunities for the North Bay region.

What is IRWM?

- Integrated Regional Water Management came to prominence in California in early 2000's
- Passage of Regional Water Management Planning Act (SB 1672) in 2002

Goals of IRWM:

- Identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale
- Increase regional self-reliance
- Work across jurisdictions
- Manage water to achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives

IRWM CA Water Bonds

Water Bond	Total State \$	Bay Area IRWM \$
Prop 50 - 2002	\$3.4 Billion	\$12.5 Million
Prop 84 - 2006	\$5.388 Billion	\$136 Million (4 rounds)
Prop 1 - 2014	\$7.12 Billion, \$510M to IRWM	\$65M

- Prop 1 included multiple funding categories –IRWM is only one small slice of the funding pie.

What is the Bay Area IRWMP?

- 9-county effort to coordinate and improve water supply reliability, manage flood protection, protect habitats and watersheds, and enhance the overall health of the San Francisco Bay
- RWQCB Region 2 Boundary includes the counties of Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco.

What Kinds of Projects Are Included?

- Projects are under four broad Functional Areas:
 - Water Supply / Water Quality
 - Wastewater / Recycled Water
 - Flood Control / Stormwater
 - Habitat / Watersheds

How Are Projects Selected?

- The Bay Area region has a Coordinating Committee, which is open to the public and includes representatives from each of the four functional areas, each of the four sub-regions, and from Tribes and Disadvantaged Communities.
- Projects are reviewed and ranked by the Project Scoring Committee according to priorities set by the Coordinating Committee.
- The Bay Area then submits an application to DWR with funding recommendations for projects.

DAC and Tribal Participation

- Historically limited participation due to bureaucratic and inequitable processes
- Prop 1 IRWM included a requirement for:
 - 10% of funds (\$6.5 million for Bay Area) to be spent on outreach to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and Under-represented Communities (URCs.)
 - 10% of funds (additional \$6.5 million) to go to implementation projects in DACs and URCs.
- IRWM founded the Bay Area Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program
- Community-led needs assessments, and capacity building
- 1st of its kind tap water quality testing program in the state
- Project development to develop projects that meet the community needs
 - Modernizing aging pipes, green infrastructure, addressing illegal dumping, creek restoration, environmental education

Future Funding and Engagement Opportunities

- Final Guidelines for Prop 1 R2 funding round for implementation projects were released on May 17
- Coordinating Committee to solicit project proposals this summer/fall.
- Applications due to DWR Feb 2023
- Coordinating Committee Meetings are held the 4thMonday of every month and are open to all. Email Taylor (tnokhoudian@sfwater.org) to join our listserv.

Questions/Comments

Director Gibson: Part of the motivation to create NBWA was to become more competitive, regionally, to Southern California. What are your thoughts on NBWA competitiveness?

Michelle Novotny: The Bay Area has its own allotment of funds [so there is no competition with Southern California], the only competition is locally. With very rare exception, DWR will accept their recommendation for funding. Regionally, Northern California is doing well with state funding. The North Coast region comes forward a lot as an example of IRWM coordination success. There are other regions that have not coalesced. State funding is also structured in a way that projects need to be far along to receive funds: Planning, design, environmental review.

Elizabeth Patterson: The funding is bond funding, and for years it has been requested by the IRWM round table to have more dedicated continuous appropriation of funding for IRWM because they're so important for regional integration and play a key role in resiliency. Is there continuing effort to get legislative authority for continuous appropriation of funding outside of bond financing? What is the status of the IRWM round table coming back?

Michelle Novotny: [continuous appropriations and ongoing bond financing] There has been continued effort to advocate for funding and it has not been successful. Her assumption is that its because there are a lot of regions where this isn't working and they don't want this structure. If you don't have the water agencies behind this water funding initiative, it's unlikely to work.

Taylor Nokhoudian: The round table of regions gathering started as in informal gathering on IRWM practitioners to share with each other. Over the last few years, it has become more a more formal meeting for advocacy. They put on conferences and collaboratives, and she will keep NBWA informed.

Megan Clark: Is there money in the summer and fall project consideration for public outreach and education?

Michelle Novotny: IRWM is for construction/implementation. You can put planning money in the application, but historically they have not scored high in the Bay Area.

Larry Russel: You said that often the underserved communities have reason to suspect the municipalities. He isn't aware of any mis-reporting water quality in California. How can we bring underserved communities up to speed to trust them?

Michelle Novotny: She didn't mean to imply there were any agencies that have been misleading around tap water quality specifically. She meant historically there has been mistrust around public agencies in the Spanish communities more broadly, not specifically water quality or in water—its public agency mistrust in general. There's a lot of national news that impacts perception of water; some people move from areas where tap water wasn't potable and there's a lack of understanding the tap water here is safe; there's also premise plumbing issues in older building or building not kept up that can be impactful. There's a lot of education that needs to happen in engaging the public.

Susan Gorin: Sonoma Water educates the youth about water issues; Take It From The Tap is a campaign that they fund and promote. There are also tours to the ecology center and other opportunities to get at-risk youth engaged. She suggests when applications are submitted to include a youth element.

Elizabeth Patterson: The CA Water Plan, that has to be updated every five years, consistently has an action item of funding education. There are also items in the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio. There needs to be education that there are cost savings and higher EPA standards being met for tap water than bottle. Consistent and unified messaging should be created.

Andy Rodgers: There is clear interest in this group surrounding this topic. In future meetings, programs that everyone in this group are aware of can be brought back to share with members. With the IRWM, are there actions that NBWA can position themselves to be better competitive in the Bay? Maybe link or bundle our projects? Thoughts?

Taylor Nokhodian: Bundling and collaborating is a great idea. It's usually considered at the end of the scoring and screening of projects. Please email any projects (even conceptual) to her.

Michelle Novotny: They are currently developing the scoring criteria and it is a public process. She encourages the members to review the Coordinating committee packets to see what projects they have that may score well under those criteria.

Chris Choo: NBWA has historically played a roll in getting information regarding IRWM to the region and helping smaller organizations partner for project development.

[chat] Many of our organizations are involved with the Water Bond Coalition and one of the advocacy positions for the coalition has been to continue funding for IRWM in state bonds. I encourage others to participate if this funding is important to your organization

6. Executive Director Report

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Updates since last meeting

- Hosted NBWA Land Use and Water Infrastructure Virtual Workshop on June 2
- Tracked IRWM May 23 coordinating committee meeting
- Evaluated grant funding opportunities for regional programs

Administrative Activities

- Finalized FY2022-23 workplan/budget
- Coordinated with Board Chair, Deputy Director, Finance Manager
- Paused Agreement for Drought/FireSMART campaign until FY22-23
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants
- Updated website and meeting packet information

Communications

- Followed up from April 22 presentation at ASCE Region 9 SF Section Equity In Resilient Infrastructure conference
- Board members and member agency staff
- Regional partners
- Subject matter experts and speakers

Committees

- Met with April 8 conference committee staff to debrief
- Met with NBWA Deputy Director and staff to develop priority initiatives

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.
- Attendees included Planning and Utilities staff from the four NBWA counties.
- 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.
- Presentations from: Andy Rodgers, NBWA; Pete Parkinson, Former Sonoma County Planning Director and Past President of APA's CA Chapter; Leelee Thomas, Deputy Director of Marin County Community Development Agency, Housing & Federal Grants Division; Jay Jasperse, Chief Engineer, Sonoma Water; Chris Choo, Planning Manager, Marin County Department of Public Works.
- 26 registrants
- 22 attendees

- Jurisdictions included:
 - NBWA
 - County of Marin
 - County of Napa
 - County of Solano
 - County of Sonoma
 - City of Beneficia
 - City of Petaluma
 - Marin Municipal Water District
 - North Marin Water District
 - Solano County Water Agency
 - Sonoma Water
 - Ross Valley Sanitary District
 - Permit Sonoma
- Preliminary Takeaways
 - Housing shortage/requirements and ramifications unprecedented
 - Drought conditions/requirements and ramifications unprecedented
 - Same communities served, though jurisdictional boundaries, funding streams, and calendar milestones differ
 - Though there is coordination, significant and complex State requirements are not integrated
 - Need for broader engagement of planning and water agencies – decision makers and staff
 - Potential regional funding opportunities on horizon for integrated planning and implementation
- Next Steps
 - Workshop Committee to debrief and develop follow up communications with attendees.
 - Share meeting recording with agency staff interested but unable to attend workshop.
 - Utilizing feedback from attendees, develop proposed follow-up actions
 - Potentially schedule a focused workshop late summer/early fall 2022

FY 2022-23 Board Meetings

- July 1 – in-person?
- August – Skip Month
- September 2 – field trip?
- October 7
- November 4
- December 2 – field trip?
- January 6 – potential skip month
- February 3
- March 3
- April 7 – field trip?
- May 5
- June 2

Board Meeting Topics in Development

- Conference speaker outreach has produced a remarkable list of potential future speakers and collaborations!
- Regional Resiliency, Basin Plan Amendment, 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, What’s Next in Environmental Education, Small Grants and Scholarship Program, New Members!

Questions/Comments

Jack Gibson: Regional and interdisciplinary and intercounty coordination are subjects for one of our monthly meeting presentations.

Pat Eklund: How can we consider building development if we don’t have water to service? How can we work together to change the standards regarding the use of recycled water, especially with new home builds?

Leon Garcia: American Canyon is pretty aggressive with reusing potable water consumption and increasing recycled water.

Larry Russel: Its not legal in CA to introduce reclaimed water for toilet flushing in single family homes. Water districts are in favor, but there are concerns with cross connections and bad plumbing practices in homes that can be controlled in businesses.

Pat Eklund: This is a great discussion, and it would be great to bring someone in from the State to discuss further. NBWA would be in facilitating a brainstorming session for solutions for the region.

Rick Fraites: For North Marin Water District, there are recycled water development standards, like outdoor water features must be recycled water. 11/12% water usage in Novato is recycled water. Putting it in residences would be expensive.

7. Board Information Exchange and Drought Updates

Michael Boorstein: At CMSA they have tertiary recycled water, RVSD is the main user of this. It turned out to be a community safety issue; they couldn't keep up. With MMWD, they released a draft Technical Memorandum in March, 'Direct Potable Reuse Feasibility Study' https://www.cmsa.us/assets/meetings/collateral/TM_CMSA_MMWD_DPR_PrintCopy.pdf \$110 million project that would take about 10 years. Financially, it makes more sense to do DRP than to do tertiary cleaning.

They have completely installed their new Jenbacher engine. They are just waiting for PG&E to get running. Both digesters are up and running again.

Leon Garcia: They have home delivery system for recycled water.

Cory Bytof: They are in their three-year code cycle. He is curious if this group is work on or knows anyone working on water reach codes?

Jack Gibson: I think there is activity at the Water District, and he will connect with Cory.

Elizabeth Patterson: There is state legislation that provides for landscaping limitations for new development and significant redevelopment. She'll think more and provide any resources to him. Last week the City of Benicia had an emergency because the city's only treatment facility had a pipe break. The community cut more that 30% of their water use over 4 days. Vallejo and the County provided assistance. There are a lot of small acts, like collecting rain water, for water conservation and water use efficiency.

Megan Clark: They are discussing the organizational control center building. They have a huge strategic plan meeting coming up. They are getting the end of their secondary treatment plant & recycled water enhancement. They are also researching biosolid reuse and how they will handle that.

Pam Meigs: Ross Valley Sanitary District is still going strong after 123 years. They are finalizing their budget next month.

Rick Fraites: They are discussing secondary water treatment, ACWA News has an article that he suggests members read.

Damon Connolly: There is progress at Marin Wood Plaza. The buildings are going to be demolished, except for the Marin Wood Market. There's ongoing litigation at the Silveira Ranch regarding groundwater quality and the contamination around the plaza.

8. Announcements and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am

Next Meeting: July 1, 2022, Zoom

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA