

North Bay Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

May 5, 2023 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

City of Petaluma Ellis Creek Treatment Plant
3890 Cypress Drive
Petaluma, CA 94954 United States

Zoom was available for those to attend virtually
www.nbwatershed.org

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

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Jack Gibson – Emeritus
John Shribbs – City of Petaluma	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Cory Bytof – City of San Rafael	Indigo Bannister – NBWA
Ron Wellander – City of Sonoma	Tony Hale – SFEI (Guest Speaker)
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Christopher Bolt –Petaluma
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Robert Rogers –Sonoma Water
Rob Carson - Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program	Curtis Paxton –Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Susan Stompe – Public
Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District	Michael Gadoua – Bel Marin Keys Community Services District
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	Ann Thomas – Public
Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency	

Eleven NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 21-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 9:38 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 Patterson moved to accept the agenda and to approve the past meeting summary – Director Shribbs seconded. Unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's Report

No comments. Chair accepted the report by consensus.

4. **NBWA FY23/24 Workplan Overview**

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Andy summarized the draft NBWA's FY23/24 workplan for Board consideration of approval. Workplan highlights include:

- No change to annual budget
- Maintain core programs and tasks
- Monthly Board meetings
- Committee meetings- Conference planning will commence in the summer. The JTC will reconvene (dredging is a topic suggested for them to discuss further. Health and the

watershed is a topic that is of interest of the group, such as homelessness near waterways and mosquitos).

- Quarterly newsletter/Website
- Implement focused initiatives- There's a great deal of interest and furthering, NBWA's role in workforce development initiatives and funding.
- Participate in regional forums
- Develop and propose new programs/opportunities for consideration- The drought smart and fire smart campaign has started. It's a campaign to align both water conservation messaging and the fire safe messaging.
- Expand NBWA visibility and membership
- Advocate funding for regional north bay initiatives

Additional details on the workplan's structure and estimated budget, including Executive Director services, focused regional initiatives, regional forums, and communications, can be viewed in the meeting presentation posted online.

Andy also discussed a proposed amendment to the Executive Director Services Agreement:

- Current Agreement for ED Services = \$134,160/year
 - Amended in FY22/23 adding \$22,000 for development of regional initiatives and participate in regional forums
 - Amendment expires June 30, 2023
- Proposed FY23/24 workplan includes continued ED participation in forums, and development and implementation of regional initiatives which requires the funding level to remain.
- Seeking Board approval to amend ED Agreement to maintain current fundingsabg level and align expiration date with original 2020 agreement terms: *"until termination of this agreement by either or both parties or unless otherwise voted on and approved by the NBWA Board of Directors"*
- NBWA budget will remain unchanged

Director Patterson moved to accept the workplan - Director Fraites seconded.
Unanimously accepted.

Director Fraites moved to accept the amendment - Director Boorstein seconded.
Unanimously accepted.

5. **Guest Presentation: NBWA Website Re-Design Preview**

Tony Hale, PhD, Program Director, Environmental Informatics Program, San Francisco Estuary Institute

Tony shared a beta version of an updated NBWA website that SFEI and NBWA staff have been working on this year.

The objectives going into this project was to select and implement a new theme for usability. The last website was harder than necessary to administer the hosting of the latest information, and the refreshing of information. New ADA compliance structures are being put in place. The new site will be more streamlined and makes it easier to showcase the regional projects programs and priorities. Additional noteworthy changes include: the color scheme was updated and redesigned the calendar pages to help the board meetings be more findable and referenceable, and homepage images will be updated, and some image leveraging will be done to give examples of different

projects that are available to be featured as part of the our Projects page. Suggestion was made by Director Patterson to organize projects by subject, not project name. Tony will work to tag the project so that queries can be done easily to filter projects.

Direction was provided to Tony to include a Spanish version accessible through a Google Translate button. A finer tuned control of translation would need to be done manually. Andy will look into finding metrics on the site for the top languages the site is being converted to if it's possible.

Multiple comments were made on the font size. Tony noted individuals can change font size on their end, but he will confirm its adaptability on different devices and make font large enough to be readable. Andy requested that members reach out to him with any additional feedback or updates.

6. **Executive Director Report & FY23/24 Workplan Overview**

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Andy provided general updates on NBWA activities since the April 7 Board meeting, including active projects, recent meetings, regional programs and initiatives, communications, and committees.

Updates since last meeting

- Thank you, Novato San, for hosting NBWA's April Board meeting!
- Attended Bay Area IRWM Coordinating Committee meeting on April 24
- Attended CASQA legislative subcommittee meeting April 25
- Participated in North Bay/Coast GSAs (6) collaboration
- Continued work on NBWA/NBWRA alignment planning

Administrative Activities

- Developed FY23/24 Work Plan
- Coordinated future Board events and speakers
- Initiated droughtSMART & fireSMART research
- Worked with SFEI on NBWA website rebuild! Beta for Board review today
- Coordinated with MMWD Finance Manager and NBWA staff on reporting
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants

Communications

- Followed up from NBWA's state and federal funding overview presentation
- Distributed NBWA Wintert Quarterly 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

FY 2022-23 Board Meetings

- June 2 – In person/hybrid
- July 7 – Virtual
- August ** SKIP MONTH**
- September 1 – In person/hybrid
- October 6 – In person/hybrid
- November 3 – Virtual
- 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 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!

USACE San Francisco District Dredging Open House

Andy extended the invitation to The US Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District's 2023 Dredging Open House, Tuesday, May 23 from 9 AM – 12 PM

Register for this free virtual event here:

<https://usace1.webex.com/weblink/register/re4548f9ab44e674203ce8418a8e53598>

7. Water Year 2023 Updates / Board Information Exchange

Members highlighted issues and shared items of interest.

Director Patterson: On the eastern edge of Solano County is an island that was called Liberty Island. It was kind of nonfunctional as an agricultural island. An official plan of restoration has been adopted, and that includes lookout slough and falls cache slough. This area would be fabulous field trip, because the North Bay Aqueduct intake is at Markersloo, and if you want to think about having an intake for water and a slough, going on a field trip to on the east side of Solano, and seeing this intake that serves Napa and American Canyon as well as Benicia and Vallejo—Most of the other cities are tied into Lake Berryessa, but they do have access to the State water—you would see how they're breaking the levee down and terminating the levy at a certain point. It remains protecting the intake area but they're creating this title opportunity very similar to what the Bay lands have achieved.

Another good field trip would be to the Delta. The mid sector is pretty interesting, and a little bit more accessible. Maybe we could send a questionnaire out to people to see who would be interested since it takes a while to get there and drive around. This would be a good topic in 2024, leading into the conference subject matter which could be connecting the Delta back to what we're concerned about with the watershed.

Director Fraites: We cut that whole area pipe and they better replace the road. We're probably looking at 4, 5, 6 months down the road if everything's solidified. We're pumping water to MMWD and north Marin enough to keep us going—We're being very careful.

Director Clark: The ribbon cutting ceremony that was postponed is looking certain to take place June 8th; it will be virtual. Our Operations Control Center Project, which was called the Admin Building, we were looking at upping our rates by 25% to help fund completion, but that's not attractive. They have to strip apart all the different uses that are needed and focus in items like updating the infrastructure and building the Education Center. The thought is to reach out to NBWA, MMWD, and others for sponsoring displays that are fun and interactive that teach the public about various topics.

Director Russell: Fortunately, we're in a situation that we don't need the water, it's actually not causing any difficulties at this time, which is very fortunate. We continue on our aggressive approach to define future waters supplies, and our friends as Sonoma Water are working hard with us and as well as North Marin. We have a hearing coming up on May sixteenth with a rate increase even higher than 25%.

8. Announcements and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am
Next Meeting: June 2, 2023

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA