

# North Bay Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

April 2, 2021 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS N-25-20 AND N-29-20 WHICH SUSPENDS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BROWN ACT, THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY VIA REMOTE CONFERENCING SERVICE — NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION

Zoom Meeting

[www.nbwatershed.org](http://www.nbwatershed.org)

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

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Leon Garcia—City of American Canyon	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Piere Washington – City of American Canyon	Susan Stompe – Marin Conservation League
Paul Jensen – City of San Rafael	Chris Choo – County of Marin
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Elena Karoulina – Sustainable Solano
Rob Carson – Marin Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program	Nicole Newell – Sustainable Solano
Jack Gibson – Marin Municipal Water District	Stephanie Turmipseed- Napa Sanitation District
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Stephanie Bastianon – Friends of the Petaluma River
Ryan Gregory – Napa Sanitation District	Madolyn Agrimonti – City of Sonoma
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Frances Knapczyk – Napa RCD
Jean Mariani – Novato Sanitary District	Caitlin Cornwall – Sonoma Ecology Center
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	Cory Bytof – San Rafael Sustainability
Elizabeth Patterson –Solano County Water Authority	Aurora Mahassine – Gallinas Watershed Council
Gustavo Goncalves – County of Marin	Ann Thomas
	Kate Powers

Fourteen NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 29 agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public.

Call to Order – Jack Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:31 am via Zoom.

2. **General Public Comment** - None.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – Director Gregory moved. Director Meigs seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. **Approval of March 5 Meeting Summary** – Agrimonti was not at meeting and recused herself. Director Garcia moved. Director Clark seconded. Unanimously approved.
5. **Accepted Treasure’s Report** - Unanimously accepted.
6. **Guest Presentation – One Water North Bay Communities: Public Engagement, Programs and Activities (Virtual and Distanced) for Spring 2021**  
*Sustainable Solano, Napa Resource Conservation District, Sonoma Ecology Center, Friends of the Petaluma River, Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, San Rafael Sustainability Program*

As our region emerges from winter and a year of relative seclusion, representatives from six dynamic organizations in the North Bay will share their plans for offering our watershed communities opportunities for environmental education, awareness, and activities this Earth Day and Spring 2021.

The NBWA Board asked that the collective information presented be compiled into a document for convenient sharing with our north bay communities. ***This compilation is provided as a separate attachment.***

Questions:

Agrimonti: Thank you for the presentation. Does [Sustainable Solano] program address the architecture when planning landscapes?

Karoulina: Yes. The design is done in partnership with the homeowner. (she also suggested using landscapers who focus on permaculture.

Newell (chat): Provided a link in the chat: <https://dailyacts.org>

Cornwall (chat): Question for Rob Carson: Is the Clean Marin website from a template that we could also use?

Carson: The Clean Marin website a word press site, so likely based on a standard template. I can put you in touch with my staff member who helps manage the site. [Cornwall to reach out to Carson directly].

Mahassine: [to San Rafael] Are there ongoing daily dredging/sump pump/groundwater pumping happening being paid by San Rafael? Is there creek development in the 2040 plan?

Jensen: He is unaware of any groundwater pumping or program like that she mentioned. San Rafael has no plans to “channelize” any creeks into concrete type structures. Gallinas watershed council made an effort to include a program in the general plan to essentially reclaim the Gallinas creek and San Rafael creek. The biggest challenge it to have funding for dredging. It may have been someone from public works. There are a series of pumping facilities that require pumping and maintenance. It’s always been the cities goal to try to use the creek as a resource and there are some recommendations in the general plan.

Bytof: He is not aware of any pumping, other than storm pumps that help pump water related to flooding, which is something else entirely.

## 7. **Draft FY 2021/2022 NBWA Work Plan**

Andy provided an overview of 2020/21 task status’, past work plan structures, and proposed updates, including an update to category titles, adding a new initiative, and updating task titles.

Proposed approach to FY 2021/22:

- No change to annual budget
- Maintain core programs and tasks
  - Monthly Board meetings
  - Support Committee meetings
  - Quarterly newsletter
  - Website
- Conference 2022

- New initiatives
  - Program Development committee (*Poll Board Members for those interest to participate*)
    - Regional water conservation messaging campaign support? Other programs support?
  - Expand NBWA visibility
  - Advocate funding for regional north bay initiatives

Andy would like to create a program development committee to discuss how, if at all, to use the carry forward funds. He asked board members (maybe four or five for a committee) to reach out to him if they're interested.

Comments:

Patterson: She is interested in the committee if it would be possible to consider Vallejo funding for initiative related to litter in the San Pablo Bay.

**8. Executive Director Report**

Andy reported on activities that have taken place since the last meeting:

- Attended Water Bond & Resilience Coalition conf call on March 8
- Provided input to SOE conference SC meeting on March 25
- Met with Bay Area Regional Collaborative on March 23
- Met with State Coastal Conservancy on March 25
- FY 21/22 work plan will be considered for approval on May 7
- Updating distribution lists and website
  - Please send us any new staff / contacts
- Developing JTC plan and focus for 2021
- JTC meetings to resume May/June 2021
- Conference committee to focus on 2022 event
- Call for newsletter topics and program highlights

**9. NBWA Information Sharing - Board members**

Gibson: Drought is all consuming. As of last month, the board went into voluntary conservation outreach. He has signs for this and if there is anyone interested in having one, to reach out to him. Its likely they will enter into mandatory water conservation soon.

Fraites: North Bay Water District they also issued some voluntary conservation efforts and he also expects they will go into mandatory soon.

Agrimonti: The City of Sonoma is interested in the land surrounding highway 37.

Andy indicated there is a presentation coming up in a future meeting, possibly in May.

Clark: Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District's first phase of the treatment plant is done. They are deciding on a site and plan for an Ops (Admin) building. They are also working on master and strategic plan shared biosolids injection plans and are starting their Union negotiations.

Garcia: City of American Canyon. They are not in as a dire situation regarding water conservation as others, but he anticipates they will also do some outreach and will look into offsets.

Patterson: On the upcoming agenda for the Solano County Water Agency is a discussion regarding turn out for the North Bay Aqueduct. There's been a long-term study to realign the aqueduct (water isn't moving well) and there's a lot of runoff from cattle activity. The realignment is associated with the tunnels through the Delta. Also on the agenda is property acquired for watershed management that is adjacent to the creek runoff from Berryessa. Benicia had great conservation in the last drought, but the water meters were outdated, and many were receiving "free" water; Water meters were replaced and she cautioned people to look at the timing of meter updates and rate changes.

There is controversy developing on proposed natural gas well development in Suisun Marsh, the largest wetlands in California and on the west coast and is designated as a habitat of interest and priority. Gas wells were capped by Chevron allegedly because there wasn't enough production, but now there is a proposal from Contra Costa County for an exploratory well to investigate. She wanted to bring this to everyone's attention because, for various reasons, there may not be an opportunity for public comment or a cumulative impact analysis, among other things. If you have any questions, please email her.

#### **10. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

May 7 – SR37 series (Baylands Strategy, restoration projects)

June 4 – North Bay One Water Initiatives, Sustainability Collaborations and Programs

July 9 – Environmental Education and Legislative Updates

Others in development: urban scale carbon sequestration initiatives, funding, water management/conveyance and transportation, member collaboration updates and highlights

#### **11. Announcements and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 am

Next Meeting: May 7, 2021, Zoom

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA