

North Bay Watershed Association

Board of Directors Meeting - Meeting Summary

November 6, 2020 | 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

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

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency/ Ross Valley Sanitary District	Grant Davis – Sonoma Water
Jason Dow- Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Gustavo Crus - Sonoma Water
Paul Jensen - City of San Rafael	Jay Jasperse - Sonoma Water
Susan Gorin - County of Sonoma	Roger Leventhal, County of Marin
Rob Carson – MCSTOPP	Chris Choo – County of Marin
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Liz Lotz - County of Marin
Jack Gibson (Chair) – Marin Municipal Water District	Ashley Llewellyn - County of Marin
Larry Russell - Marin Municipal Water District	Elizabeth Lewis - County of Marin
Paul Sellier - Marin Municipal Water District	Joanna Dixon - County of Marin
Leon Garcia – American Canyon/Napa County Flood Control & Conservation District	Steve Moore - Ross Valley Sanitation District
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District
Jean Mariani - Novato Sanitary District	Ken Schwarz - Horizon Water & Environment
Tony Williams - North Marin Water District	Lisa Micheli - Pepperwood Preserve
Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Roland Sanford - Solano County Water Agency	Sabrina Marson – NBWA

Eleven NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 42 agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public. Roger Roberts, Felix Hernandez III, Ashley Morris, Kate Powers, Laurie Williams, Scott Weinstock, Ann Thomas, Stephen Keese -and Gustavo Goncalves were also in attendance.

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

- Public Comment** - One public comment from Roger Roberts- He brought up an article in the SF Chronical regarding continuing drought in northern California. Does the watershed committee have a coordinated program for drought preparation? What is it?
 - Gibson- No. But the committee shares information with each other. There is no policy.
 - Rodgers- If there are coordinated efforts between members, the NBWA can help highlight information and and connect with other groups.
- Approval of Agenda - Unanimously approved**
- Approval of October 2, 2020 Summary - Unanimously approved**
- Accepted Treasure’s Report** - Reimbursement requests from the cancelled 2020 conference have been processed and is reflected in the report. Unanimously accepted.

6. Guest Presentation—San Francisco Bay Area Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System (AQPI) and Benefits to Rainfall-Based Flood Warning System in Marin County

Jay Jasperse (Sonoma Water) provided an overview and progress update on Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System (AQPI), an advanced weather and water forecasting system for precipitation and coastal flooding in the San Francisco Bay Area. The impacts of atmospheric rivers, a new technology to respond to extreme weather: SF Bay Area AQPI System Overview, Bay Area Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) Project Prop 84 grant awarded by DWR—\$19M over 4 years; Sonoma Water is grant administrator; Involves NOAA, CSU, USGS, & Scripps; Bay Planning Coalition provides stakeholder/partner coordination & outreach services; Local Partner Agency Committee.

SF Bay Area AQPI System Components—Advanced weather radars and surface meteorology deployments; Integration of observations and forecast models; Precipitation, streamflow, and coastal storm surge forecasts; Decision Support Tools - Integrate & disseminate observations & forecast information.

AQPI Benefits Summary: NOAA estimates \$60.9m in avoided costs per year; provides severe weather detection, tracking, & forecasting; improved situational awareness reduces risks to public safety & protects water quality and resources; improves early warning and emergency response support; leverages investments in observation networks established by local agencies; supports NOAA's Weather Ready Nation Initiative.

Roger Leventhal (Marin County) presented Rainfall Based Flash Flood Trigger Model - Based on Statistical Analysis of Historic Storm Events for Marin County, California and how AQPI will greatly improve a unique flash flood forecasting model developed for Marin. Dept of Public Works has been awarded Phase 1 of a FEMA grant for 2 new x-band radars in Marin and Sonoma County. They're currently narrowing down locations.

Marin looked to Contra Costa County's Flood Control & Water Conservation District flood forecasting but it didn't really work for Marin—too conservative and doesn't account for Marin rainfall variability; based on analysis of two or maybe events (so not statistically valid?). Marin is attempting a statistically valid flooding tool; it's been useful for now. First draft done last November but unable to test in 2019 – maybe in 2020? Need to make many improvements to interface and model; Hire a statistician evaluate methods and results.

Questions:

Moore: How does the improved resolution from the radar technology improve environmental and ecosystem benefits?

Jay- from Sonoma Water's perspective. The radars will help work with partners, like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to inform operations.

Roberts: How significant in analysis are wind velocity direction and duration in the effects of potential flooding

Leventhal: Have not done it yet, but they have the data now. They're will be opportunity to view additional data in the future now that data sets are available.

Patterson: DWR has some wind data and Mike Anderson would know if there is historical data that may be useful. Will AQPI system be useful for central valley?

Jay: yes, AQPI will provide importation information and sees a regional benefit that can be combined with additional data sources. There are other multi-benefits that are being discovered as they progress.

Keese: Have you considered using AI and big data analysis to speed up finding usable correlations?

Leventhal: a simple machine learning routine (which is AI) was tried and it didn't work as well. I am not sure that 600 or 700 data points is big enough for ML. Often used for millions of points, but I want to hire someone to check that. I did a very simple run that is built into Mathematica.

Powers: Beyond use for future design of stormwater infrastructure, how might information from AQPI info and modeling inform planning and policies in cities and developed areas for prioritizing space for restoring more meandering and flood plains of where creeks flow into the flatlands and urban corridors?

Leventhal: Does not have a specific answer, but the process is going to give some data that will help better inform the future for intelligent green design.

7. **Executive Director Report**

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

Administrative Activities—updates to the standardizing meeting formats and communication and documentation

Communications, and Committees—identify compelling topics/projects supportive of NBWA roles, provide direct tangible member agency and regional benefits, leverage archive of NBWA successes, schedule regular jtc meetings starting early 2021.

One Water Approach for North Bay – Next Steps include distribution of a summary memo to Board and Technical Committee and topics for committee to further consider.

Andy beginning to plan for FY 21/22 Work Plan and 2021 Annual conference.

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

Gibson: Still in COVID-19 mode with 40 % of staff still working from home. 60% are primarily out in the field. Mitigate and prevent wildfires work continues. At the next board meeting, the response to grand jury request for climate change reaction and plans is up for approval. The Districts' last rate increase had a couple built-in planned increases; one was planned for July- which was postponed due to COVID to January 2021.

Garcia: Question regarding wildfires and water quality.

Andy: Planning is still being done and when more resources and information become available, he will forward that on. May be at the December or January meeting.

Meigs: Finalized scholarship program and three students were just awarded the first round.

Patterson: Approved and will be installing a water quality instrument directly as a result of the fires. Restoration activities are also taking place. They have concerns with draining into the Delta and its impact to water quality. Elizabeth is helping US system develop a legislative

program for resilient landscapes. She is also retiring from City Council and Solano County assignment, but her role may be shifting to represent them as a private citizen.

Ryan: Congrats to all the recently re-elected. They are in good shape and are finalizing their rate study. They may have issues with this and are looking for a PR group that can help them navigate the process.

Fraites: Salinity intrusion on their wells; Moving further up Lagunitas Creek. No state or federal violations.

Boorstein: Cogeneration engine-Next Tuesday they hope to award the contract to get it installed and running. They are producing recycled water for Ross Valley San District's use.

Jensen: They are opening their doors for 8 hours a week starting next week, but they are still encouraging online interaction. They launched a virtual counter, where folks can Zoom with staff from various departments. Adaptation planning, local hazards mitigation (including fire prevention) being drafted.

Carson: Stormwater Phase 2 from state is being delayed, probably due to COVID and other permits ahead of them. BASSMA is going through organizational changes beginning next year. Can NBWA step in and provide continued collaboration if BASMAA isn't a viable option?

Keese: Marin grand jury issues a new report that a new JPA to prevent wildfires. Tax passed back in March and is up and running as Marin Wildfire Prevention authority 19 mill a year. Broad public support.

9. **Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Wildfires recovery actions; Measure A activities, Restoration activities; stormwater management

10. **Announcements and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:25

Next Meeting: December 6, 2020, Zoom

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA