

North Bay Watershed Association

Draft Summary - the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) Board of Directors.

Date: Friday, September 11th, 2020 – 9:30 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. Location: Zoom call

Directors or Representatives Present Included:

Board Member	Agency/Organization	Board Member	Agency/Organization
Michael Boorstein	Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Megan Clark/ Judy Schriebmen	Las Gallinas Valley
Pam Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District	Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal WD
Amy Peele	City of Novato	Jean Mariani	Novato Sanitary District
Mary Sackett	Marin County	Rick Fraites	No. Marin Water District
Elisabeth Patterson	Solano Co. Water	Paul Jenson	City of San Rafael
Ryan Gregory	Napa Sanitation Dist.	Grant Davis	Sonoma Water
Leon Garcia	Napa Co. Flood Control & Conservation Dist.	Rob Carson	MCSTOPP

1. Call to Order – Jack Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:32 am via Zoom.
2. Public Comment - No public comment.
3. And 4. Approval of Agenda and June 2020 Summary. 5. Accepted Treasure's Report

Judy reviewed the Treasures Report and explained the situation that after our vendor, Brown Paper Tickets, went out of business, NBWA sent checks to those who requested refunds from the April conference. Larry R. suggested we go after any insurance if possible and that we should consider having third parties bonded in the future. Frances explained that there was no insurance. The memo for item 5 covers this issue.

6. NBWA Re-Oaking Project 9:45 am - Frances Knapczyk Napa RCD and Sean Baumgarten SFEI.

Frances opened the presentation on the North Bay Re-Oaking project, which was funded by NBWA. Frances said she would be happy to send hard copies of the Strategy to anyone who wants one. She began by reminding us that the native peoples managed over 40,000 acres of North Bay oak woodlands. We have lost 99% of those woodlands. Several years ago, the Napa RCD began working with landowners to replant oaks on their property. In 2017 we lost oaks in the catastrophic fires, and that resulted in many agencies and institutions being interested in replacing those iconic oaks. NBWA provided funds to create a plan for re-oaking the region in 2018.

Sean Baumgarten of SFEI described the development and outcome of the strategy. Sean explained the history of these woodlands based on the work SFEI has done on historical ecology of the region. He mentioned that the native people used fire as a management tool. There has been a disproportionate loss of the valley oak species, which was the dominant species in the region.

The goal of the work is to provide a scientifically-based strategy for replacing these trees. SFEI looked at oak surveys and then contrasted them to historical photos to see where the big oaks have been lost. They also identified where large oaks are still present - large oaks provide outsized ecological benefits. They found that creek corridors provide natural pathways to help with connectivity. They looked at soil and depth-to-groundwater as possible constraints. Possible strategies include expanding existing nodes; increase density within nodes; created corridors along creeks; widening existing corridors; restoring areas of historical loss, such as along alluvial fans. Sean reminded the group that it is equally important to protect existing oaks. He showed graphics about what these proposed strategies would look like on the landscape. Jack asked about the reason for the steep loss of oaks. Sean responded that 19th century logging and 20th century house building and urban development were all causes that came in waves over time. Paul asked if irrigation had an effective on the loss of oaks and Sean replied probably but a lesser impact than logging and house building. Larry asked about sudden oak death. Sean replied that it affects coast live oak and others, but not the valley oaks.

Frances talked about the current re-oaking work at the Napa RCD and next steps. The RCD is making an effort to reach out to partner organizations, which have connections to landowners. The RCD sees a lot of opportunities along fence lines and vineyards. They are planning a targeted outreach effort directly from the RCD and are working on some virtual events and looking forward to in-person events where the strategy can be expanded. Ryan asked what have we learned about replanting and replacing oaks. Frances talked about the method they have used successfully over the past 8 years using acorns and protecting the young oaks with caging. The Sonoma RCD has had less funding but is interested in doing this work.

Elizabeth asked Napa RCD to do a presentation on this for Solano. Rick asked what percent of possible replanting areas is agricultural land? Frances said they have been working in the ag preserves in many cases. Approximately 80% of the valley floor is still in ag. Judy S. asked how long the seedlings were monitored to see if they are surviving. Frances mentioned they created a citizen's science group to do some of this work. The oak seedlings are not irrigated. They hope to visit each tree planted to check survival. Amy asked if they aware of independent organizations working on this and if private donations come in and mentioned that high school students are looking for work to do in the climate world and wondering how to get them involved. Frances talked about how they train and work with students and mentioned an internship they have working with the acorn distribution.

Item 7. Proposed reduction in dues. Judy explained the details in the associated Memorandum regarding the proposed reduction of dues of 20% for one year. Larry proposed that those who can pay the full dues be welcomed to do so. The amended proposal was approved with the two-part invoice proposal.

Item 8. MMWD contract for Andy Rodgers, West Yost. Judy explained the outlines of the proposed new contract for Andy Rodgers with West Yost as described in the associated Memorandum. The contract was approved.

Item 9. Ken Schwarz, Horizon Water. Ken presented a series of slides that reviewed the work that has been underway for the past few months to define additional details on opportunities to do more integrated work across the region on One Water issues. Ken went over the list of agencies and individuals who were interviewed in this round. The interviewees were asked if any good One Water examples came to mind and other questions which will be summarized in a draft and final memo to the Board after input from the JTC.

Pam M. asked about what would be envisioned with a regional BMP? Ken responded that, for example, re-vegetation work across the region could be consolidated more through permitting. Jean commented on the slide about the sewer agencies not being concerned with Sea Level Rise and pointed out that most of the facilities are at the bottom of the basin. Megan asked if there would be iterations of the work- Judy K. replied yes. Elizabeth mentioned that One Water is an international concept and not proprietary term in any way. She mentioned that we should also tap into tribal knowledge about historical fire management as part of the effort.

Item 10. Farewell and Welcome. Judy said her goodbyes to the Board and thanked them for the honor of being the Executive Director for the past 5 years, and the Board thanked her. She then turned it over to Andy Rodgers who reviewed some of the online resources on how to learn about the extent of the North Bay fires and what some of our partners are doing to prepare to evaluate the impacts of the fires and the actions.

Item 11. Announcements and Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 11:35

Next Meeting: October 2nd, zoom

SUBMITTED BY: Judy Kelly, Executive Director, NBWA