

North Bay Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

March 1, 2024 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

City of Sonoma - Council Chambers
177 First Street West
Sonoma CA 95476

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

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

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District
John Shribbs – City of Petaluma	Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District
Leon Garcia – City of American Canyon	Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency
Kate Hagemann – City of San Rafael	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Ron Wellander – City of Sonoma	Indigo Bannister – NBWA
Susan Gorin – County of Sonoma	Eileen White – Guest Speaker
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Jack Baker – North Marin Water District
Mary Sacket – Marin County	Alisa Keenan – County of Sonoma
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Susan Stompe – Public
Ryan Gregory – Napa Sanitation District	Ann Thomas – Public
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	

Fourteen NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 18-member agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public. Meeting participants attended in-person and remote via Zoom.

1. **Welcome and Call to Order – Roll Call and Introductions** – Chair Mariani called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and took roll call.
2. **General Public Comment** – None
3. **Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes Review**– Chair Mariani asked for any Board members to speak up if there were requested changes to the agenda. No comments. Director Patterson moved to approve the agenda. Director Gregory seconded; None opposed—Unanimously approved.

Chair Mariani asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes for February. No comments. Chair accepted the minutes by consensus.

Treasurer’s Report

No comments on the November Treasurer’s Report. Director Boorstein moved to approve the November Treasurer’s Report; Director Patterson seconded—Unanimously accepted.

4. Guest Presentation: 2024 Outlook and Dialogue with the San Francisco Bay Water Board Executive Officer

Eileen White, Executive Officer, San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board

Eileen provided a forward-looking overview of water board priorities in 2024/2025 that may be of interest to north bay utilities and municipalities, described State budget impacts to water board programs, and prompted a dialogue with attendees.

The full presentation is in PDF format and can be found at www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-18

Questions/Comments:

Director Gorin: We're challenged to move forward with repaving because of some of the restrictions and requirements. Could you help the Board understand how this is within our jurisdiction?

Eileen: Under the municipal stormwater permit, there are trash provisions required by the State. Our goals are to shift from gray to green infrastructure. To address things like climate change, and work better for the environment, things can be more expensive. We're looking at multi benefit solutions, multi-regional solutions, and the perception of competing priorities of investing in our infrastructure, but also wanting to do it most cost effectively, providing long-term benefits.

She is happy to continue this discussion offline.

Director Sacket: In looking at the SF Bay Regional Water Board Strategic Plan, I'm wondering if in that plan or elsewhere how you're thinking about housing.

Eileen: We're we are very sensitive to the housing issue in California and have developed a racial equity action plan, which is also on our website. However, we do not have resources for this. They're looking at cleaning up some contaminated sites that could allow for building on when there's a developer interested in a particular site for housing.

Director Shribbs: He recently met with SFEI regarding the Adobe Creek Project. Is this project part of the other two [that were previously mentioned]? It doesn't quite come across that they're working on the entire watershed to the extent that you're talking about.

Eileen: Yes, it's all part of looking at the whole watershed.

Director Shribbs: What is your predictions on how you're going to be involved in flood models and housing?

Eileen: We're not a housing agency, and we don't want to be a barrier to housing. At the same time, we have to make sure that we are following all the rules and regulations that our authority puts us in.

Director Shribbs: Do you see a new refuse dumping site anywhere coming soon?

Eileen: I am not familiar enough with the area to know at the moment.

Director Patterson: Her question is about carbon capture. What will the process be for the Water Board to make sure that a pilot project (such as the one regarding the Montezuma wetlands) does not have catastrophic effects on the communities, including the habitat communities?

Eileen: When permits are applied for, we look at the potential impact. [She isn't familiar with the project mentioned so cannot comment on it.] [The Water Board's job] is to protect the environment to protect the wetlands—to restore and not destroy.

Eileen is available if anyone would like to talk more.

Website: www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay

Contact: Eileen.White@waterboards.ca.gov

Andy offered the NBWA platform to her and her agency to discuss or distribute any information in the future.

5. **Executive Director Report**

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Andy provided updates and solicited board input on activities since the February 2 Board meeting, including association administration updates, and other activities, programs and communications.

Updates since last meeting

- Thank you, Central Marin Sanitation Agency for hosting NBWA's February 2nd Board meeting!
- Attended Friends of Petaluma River's hosted workshop for SFEI's Sediment Solutions Project on February 28
- Chaired CASQA's Legislation Subcommittee meeting on February 28

Administrative Activities

- Coordinated future Board events and speakers
- Developed draft FY24-25 work plan
- Updated NBWA website
- Coordinated with MMWD Finance Manager and NBWA staff on reporting
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants

Communications

- NBWA conference sponsorship solicitations sent out week of February 19, 2024
- Coordinated with members to host meetings and highlight programs
- Regional partners
- Subject matter experts and speakers
- Chair, Deputy Director, and staff to progress NBWA initiatives

Committees

- Conference Committee meetings on Feb 6 & 20, 2024
- BAYWORK meetings on February 12 & 28, 2024
- Speaker and partner communications all month

FY 2023-24 Board Meetings

- April 5 – In person/hybrid (possible skip)
- April 19 – Biennial Conference @ SSU!
- May 3 – In person/hybrid
- June 7 – Field Trip

6. NBWA FY 2024/25 Draft Workplan

Andy provided an overview of a draft workplan and solicited feedback.

General approach to FY 2024/2025

- No change to annual budget and dues
- Maintain core programs and tasks
 - Monthly Board meetings
 - Committee meetings
 - Quarterly newsletter/Website
- Implement focused initiatives
- Participate in regional forums
- Develop and propose new programs/opportunities for consideration
- Expand NBWA visibility and membership
- Advocate for and support north bay membership interests

Current Fiscal Year 2023-24 Year End Projection

- Membership dues collected: \$221,783 (\$3,506 due)
- Expenses through February 28: \$91,400
- Projected fiscal year-end expenses: \$186,780
- Estimated contingency reserve (carry-over): \$35,003
- Estimated fund balance as of June 30: \$548,759

Estimated Budget for FY 2024/2025

- Administrative services \$ 62,000
- General Benefit projects \$123,290
- Special Benefit projects \$ 40,000
- TOTAL \$225,290
- FY 2023/2024 carryover \$ 35,003

Andy provided an overview of a proposed Executive Director Services Budget. NBWA member dues budget is proposed to remain unchanged. Currently there is no policy around fund balance, but one will be considered in the next year.

Motion to adopt the work plan was made by Director Gregory. Director Shribbs seconded. All favored, none opposed.

Questions/Comments:

Director Mariani: [comment to Andy]: She appreciated how careful he has been as a steward of the NBWA's money. It would be helpful to have some discussion of reserves and has some ideas to share at a later point.

Director Patterson: When we do the small grants, can we have kind of a geographic distribution of that?

Andy: Yes, that is the goal. At the upcoming conference, you'll see some of that.

Director Meigs: What is the "General Benefit Projects"

Andy: [referred to slide] This includes:

- Public Outreach Materials
- Committee Activities and Initiatives
- Website
- Data Management
- Legislative Action*
- Joint Technical Committee
- NBWA Conference Expense
- NBWA Conference Support
- Small Grant Program Development & Admin
- Regional Alignment and Strategic Funding
- Contingency Reserve

7. NBWA Biennial Conference Planning Update

Andy provided an update on conference planning activities and the progress for the event scheduled for April 19, 2024, at Sonoma State University, including sponsorship opportunities, and a call for project and facility images. Andy reviewed the conference event support services budget required for holding an in-person with live streaming event.

Marketing, promotion, event communications, registration, and venue coordination efforts were historically contracted with the Napa RCD. For this event, these services will be managed by NBWA (West Yost) staff. Therefore, the funds earmarked for these services (\$12,790) will be amended to West Yost's current year agreement. The Napa RCD is also still contracted to support the event with pre-planning as well as logistics during the day.

Through Chair Mariani, Andy asked if the Board had questions or concerns with the conference expenses plan. No questions or concerns.

8. **Board Information Exchange**

Director Schribbs: SFEI is starting to work with Friends of the Petaluma River leadership and town. We just had our first public meeting, well over 100 people showed up to talk about what's happening in our watershed, and what SFEI is going to be doing in the project. We're moving forward with lots of community interest.

Director Fraites: Construction on our headquarters is still progressing. We've had, again, supply issues. We hope to have it finished and be moved in this year. We settled our labor negotiations with our employees and staff and can hold to that agreement for the next 4 years and 10 months.

Director Gregory: First Linear generator to run on methane from anaerobic digestion at a wastewater treatment plant is on site and is being debugged. Should be up and running this month. He would like to give the Board a tour soon.

Director Gorin: I serve on BCDC and the executive director is reaching out to all of the Mayor and Council Members Association for the various counties surrounding the bay for presentation on rising tides, and how to involve how to consider climate change and rising tides in your planning efforts. Whether you're updating your general plan or other planning activities, I would encourage Andy to invite a representative from BCDC to give a presentation to all of us.

Director Patterson: We recently got notice that FEMA is paying for the cost up-to-date with the collapse of the One Water pipeline to the City of Benicia, which has affected 680 as well, and the recent work on that slope. The next step is getting design approval for the construction, and we're well on the way to that. It's a collaboration with a City of Fairfield because it's also their jurisdiction. It's a massive project and it's really interesting to see what you do with the main water line to an entire city.

The Solano County Water Agency asked for clarification of water rights regarding the Flannery project, which is known as California Forever Tomorrow. If you have any questions about that, I'd be happy to answer them.

Director Meigs: They we collaborated with local healthcare professionals and all of our staff took CPR and first aid training.

9. **Announcements/Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 am

April 19 - 2024 NBWA Conference: Imagine Our Future North Bay

Next Board Meeting: May 3

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA