

# North Bay Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

August 30, 2024 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Zoom was available for those to attend virtually  
[www.nbwatershed.org](http://www.nbwatershed.org)

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

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Leon Garcia – City of American Canyon	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
John Shribbs – City of Petaluma	Oriana Hart – City of Petaluma
Kate Hagemann – City of San Rafael	Chelsea Thompson – City of Petaluma
Ron Wellander – City of Sonoma	Susan Stompe – Public
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Kate Powers – Public
Ryan Gregory – Napa Sanitation District	Julia La Rue – Public
Larry Russel – Marin Municipal Water District	Crystal Martinez – Aid to Supervisor Mary Sackett
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Philip Chapmen – Public
Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District	Ann Thomas – Public
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	Mark Milan – Public
Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency	Stephanie Bastianon – Guest Presenter
	Janelle Sellick – Guest Presenter

Twelve NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 23-member agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public. Meeting participants attended remotely in-person and via Zoom.

1. **Welcome and Call to Order – Roll Call and Introductions** – Chair Mariani called the meeting to order at 9:34 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. None opposed—Unanimously approved.

Chair Mariani asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes for the July 12 and July 17 (special meeting) Board meetings. Chair Mariani provided edits to the July 12 summary. No comments. None opposed—Unanimously approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

No comments on the May Treasurer's Reports. Director Garcia moved to approve the June Treasurer's Report; Director Patterson moved. Director Clark seconded—Unanimously accepted.

4. **Guest Presentation – Revitalizing North Bay: Community-Driven Waterfront Access Initiatives**  
*Stephanie Bastianon, Executive Director, Friends of the Petaluma River, and Janelle Sellick, Executive Director, American Canyon Community & Parks Foundation*

Stephanie from Friends of the Petaluma River and Janelle from the American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation discussed their respective organizations' efforts to manage and enhance public waterfront facilities. Stephanie provided an update on the Petaluma River Greenway project, a plan to permanently protect a large swath of open land along the upper Petaluma River, aiming to create public access for recreation and open space, restore the area, and provide climate change resilience. She also presented an early concept map for a parcel study funded by Sonoma Water and announced that they have been awarded a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to plan and engage the community for a project involving 45 parcels along the Petaluma River.

Janelle provided an overview of the American Canyon Community Parks Foundation and their flagship Napa River Ecology Center project which launched about three years ago and aims to repurpose an existing 5,000 square foot building and three acre parcel along the Napa River Wetlands into an environmental education and restoration center, featuring new walking paths, wetland viewing areas, an outdoor classroom, and a wildlife viewing deck. The site will also serve as a launch pad for wetlands restoration efforts and provide opportunities for workforce development. The project, estimated to cost \$8 million, has received \$4.7 million in funding so far, with the city committing \$1 million and the remaining gap to be filled. The foundation hopes to break ground in fall 2025. The group expressed their support for the project, highlighting its significance as a recreational and educational space for the community, especially for schools in the area, and its potential to relieve the impact on residential neighborhoods and offer a new area for visitors.

The full presentations in PDF format and can be found at  
<https://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-21/>

5. **Executive Director Report**

*Andy Rodgers, Executive Director*

Andy provided updates and solicited board input on activities since the July 17 Special Board meeting, including association administration updates, and other activities, programs, and communications.

**Workforce Initiative and Sustainable Watershed Management Program**

Andy mentioned the July 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting held at the Napa Sanitation District, a presentation on Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) Study Overview, and a special board meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup> for approving the transition of Treasury services to Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA). He discussed the workforce initiative, NBWA staff and member agencies are collaborating in a north bay region focused meeting series led by BAYWORK. This forum has been meeting since the NBWA April 19 conference. NBWA has participated in at least four of these meetings to leverage resources. Andy invited member staff to join the meetings if they were interested; the transition progress to CMSA.

Andy outlined plans for a small grants and scholarship program promoting sustainable North Bay watershed management, enhancing collaboration among agencies, nonprofits, and community organizations. The subcommittee met August 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the program which aims

for environmental, health, infrastructure, and workforce benefits. Andy proposed grants up to \$25,000+ in various categories, including urban tree planting, restoration, and beaver analog projects. He suggested a timeline for the subcommittee to evaluate and recommend projects to the board before the fiscal year-end, with categories and timeline under review.

### **Logo Refresh and Symposium Opportunity**

Andy proposed a refresh of the group's logo and the potential for a new initiative to benefit the region. However, Megan preferred the current logo, leading to no final decision. Andy emphasized the need for a more visually appealing and symbolically rich logo for the association. Board members suggested a potential design contest to attract young talent and save costs. Andy will discuss the logo with Data Instincts and present to the board options and costs at a future meeting.

### **Sponsorship, Upcoming Activities, and Restoration Projects**

Andy proposed a sponsorship invitation for the 2024 Napa County Watershed Symposium. Of the options presented, the group preferred the \$3,000 level. None opposed—Unanimously approved.

Other high level updates Andy provided are:

### **Updates since last meeting**

- Held NBWA Board meeting – July 12. Thank you, Napa San!
- Held NBWA Special Board meeting – July 17
- Attended CASQA legislative subcommittee meeting - July 24
- Met with North Bay Workforce Development collaborative - July 11 and 25

### **Administrative Activities**

- Fiscal Year End - MMWD
- Managed completion of NBWA administrative agency transition from MMWD to CMSA. Thank you to CMSA and all members for supporting this process!
- Calendar scheduling
- Coordinate with Board Chair and Treasurer
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants
- Updated website and meeting packet information

### **Communications**

- Coordinate field tour & presentations (Thank you, Director Gregory and Napa San!)
- Plan fall field trip
- Draft quarterly newsletter content
- Prepare content/oversee delivery of NBWA social media program
- Draft candidate options for NBWA logo refresh

### **Committees**

- Poll for participation on Resiliency Workforce Development committee
- Host first Small Grants and Scholarship committee on August 29

The full presentation is in PDF format and can be found at  
[www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-31](http://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-31)

## **FY 2024-25 Board Meetings**

First Friday of every month - Except of course for holidays!

- October 4
- November 1
- December 6
- January 3 (skip?)
- February 7
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6

## **Social Media July Analytics**

- Staff continued to post frequently at an average of 2x a week.
- Engagement increased on all platforms due to spending time engaging with NBWA members' post. Staff will continue to tag relevant agencies, partners, and guest speakers to foster collaboration.
- Send us your posts to re-share!  
[www.instagram.com/nbwatershed](https://www.instagram.com/nbwatershed)  
[www.facebook.com/nbwatershed](https://www.facebook.com/nbwatershed)  
[www.linkedin.com/company/nbwatershed](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nbwatershed)

## **6. Board Information Exchange and Updates**

Director Schribbs: He mentioned there was a workshop recently about the sediment study done in the three-zone area [in Petaluma]; looking at the waters coming in and particularly focusing on Adobe Creek and how much sediment comes in when it comes in, where it gets deposited, and how the creek is already changing.

Director Clark: Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District is engaging with youth to encourage them to think about careers in water/ wastewater. They are building a state-of-the-art laboratory that will also serve as an educational venue.

Director Patterson: Jeremy Lowe from SFEI recently presented to the Solano County Water Agency regarding some of the benefits of the North Bay Watershed Association and the Bay Shore Resiliency Project. The County received funds for planning research and some other funds to begin.

On September 18, 2024, there is a celebration for the completion of the Delta's Largest-ever Tidal Wetland Restoration Project.

Director Meigs: There has been an update to FOG (Fat, oils, and grease). There's now a new one called FOGG—the extra G is for gloves. They are finding a lot of gloves in the lines and she and her team are promoting proper disposal of gloves.

## **7. Announcements/Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 am

Next Board Meeting: October 4

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA