

North Bay Watershed Association

Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

December 6, 2024| 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Point Blue Conservation Science
3820 Cypress Drive, Suite 11, Petaluma, CA 94954

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	Chelsea Thompson – City of Petaluma
Kate Hagemann – City of San Rafael	Tony Williams – North Marin Water District
Pat Eklund – City of Novato	Jack Gibson – Director Emeritus
Ron Wellander – City of Sonoma	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Crystal Martinez – County of Marin	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
John Shribbs – City of Petaluma	
Susan Gorin – County of Sonoma	Dan Cayan, Scripps – Guest Presenter
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Jennifer Dyer – Point Blue Conservation Science
Ryan Gregory – Napa Sanitation District	Stephen Keese – Public
Larry Russel – Marin Municipal Water District	Kate Powers – Public
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	Leon Garcia – Public
Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District	Susan Stompe – Public
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	Steven Lee – Public
Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency	

Fourteen NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 25-member agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public. Meeting participants attended in-person and remotely via Zoom.

Chair Mariani called the meeting to order at 9:32 am and took roll call.

Eri Sawairi, STRAW Bilingual Conservation Educator (Spanish/English), gave a brief introduction on Point Blue—Conservation Science. The organization is going to celebrate their 60-year anniversary in 2025. It started in West Marin as the Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

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 November 8 Board meeting. No comments. None opposed—Director Patterson moved. Director Meigs Seconded. Director Eklund abstained. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

No comments on the November 2024 Treasurer's Report. Director Boorstein moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Director Meigs seconded—Unanimously accepted.

4. **Guest Presentation—Climate in the North Bay Region: Indications of Changes for the Coming Decades**

Dr. Dan Cayan, Research Meteorologist, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego

Dr. Cayan explored his extensive research on climate variability and changes over western North America. He focused on the 21st Century climate assessments for the State of California, and discussed the likely changes and uncertainties that may impact California, particularly the North Bay region.

Dr. Cayan presented data showing temperatures in the North Coast have warmed by around 1.5-2°F since World War II, consistent with global warming trends. He highlighted that the planet is committed to further warming due to long-lived greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. He also shared data indicating the growing season in Napa has advanced by about a month since the late 1950s due to warming temperatures.

Dr. Cayan discussed the impacts of climate change in California, including warming temperatures, more frequent and intense heat waves, subtle increases in precipitation with heavier storm events, loss of snowpack, drier landscapes increasing wildfire risk, and rising sea levels. He presented projections from climate models showing these trends continuing, with the extent depending on future greenhouse gas emissions scenarios. The warming and associated changes are already underway and expected to intensify, posing challenges for water resources, agriculture, ecosystems, and coastal communities.

The discussion revolved around the accuracy and limitations of climate models. Dr. Cayan clarified that the models are not monolithic and have evolved over generations, with the latest generation being the mainstay for the current international climate change assessment. He acknowledged that all models are wrong, but some are useful. He also mentioned that models are increasing in their fidelity with nature, but there are still aspects that are not totally correct. Dr. Cayan addressed the concern about models being overly conservative, stating that they are not only responding to land temperatures but also to ocean temperatures. He also discussed the concept of tipping points, including the amount of ice stockpiled in high latitudes and its implications on global sea levels. He concluded by emphasizing that even a 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit rise by 2045 is enormous and takes us into uncharted territory.

In the meeting, Board members and Dan discussed the potential impacts of sea level rise on the San Francisco Bay area. With members expressing interest in more detailed information on sea level rise projections for the area. Dan provided information on sea level projections and the influence of global sea level rise changes. He also highlighted the importance of being prepared for high tides and big storms, as seen in the 1983 event.

The full presentation is available in PDF format here <https://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-24/>

5. Consider Resolution Commending Marin Municipal Water District

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

A draft Resolution No. 24-01 commending Marin Municipal Water District for 24 years of in-kind treasurer services supporting NBWA was provided in the meeting packet.

Director Patterson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-01. Director Shribbs seconded—
Unanimously accepted.

6. Consider Approval for NBWA Reserve Policy

Andy presented a second draft policy for the reserve balance. The policy would be revisited annually, with the targets or replenishment adjusted as needed. The board would also define what constitutes an emergency, with examples from member agencies. The policy would allow for up to two emergency events per year, with the board chair and executive director consulted for urgent action. The board would review the use of funds and develop a plan to restore the reserve to its target minimum amount. The board, working with the executive director, would decide on the replenishment plan.

Director Patterson moved to approve Resolution No. 24-01. Director Meigs seconded—
Unanimously accepted.

7. Executive Director Report

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Andy provided updates and solicited board input on activities since the November 8 Board meeting, including association administration updates, and other activities, programs, and communications.

High level updates Andy provided are:

- NBWA Board meeting and walking tour of headquarters and facilities on November 8. Thank you, Ross Valley Sanitation District!
- Significant weather event and Thanksgiving holiday!
- Attend CASQA EPC meeting on November 14
- Attend IRWM Roundtable of Regions meeting on December 4

Administrative Activities

- Calendar scheduling
- Coordinate with Board Chair and Treasurer
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants
- Updated website and meeting packet information

Communications

- Manage/progress NBWA social media program
- Meet with SSU CEI faculty to progress ideas from NBWA conference
- Research, outreach, and communications with members and subject matter experts regarding development for future Board topics

Committees

- Small Grants and Scholarship Subcommittee meeting on November 12
- Research and communicate with potential grant and scholarship partners
- Research member funding opportunities i.e. CalSIP and status of Prop 4

Andy provides an overview of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program and the need for the region to stay engaged as the program evolves. He also mentioned upcoming presentations on clean fleet programs from the Air Resources Board and local air districts. Additionally, Andy discussed the small grants and scholarship program subcommittee's work on developing recommendations for the budget and program structure.

The board decided to skip the January social gathering to save funds.

Director Eklund mentioned her involvement in the Bay Conservation Development Commission and the need for cities and counties to develop regional shoreline adaptation plans. She also highlighted the role of water and sanitary agencies in these plans.

Director Shribbs shared his experience at the Napa watershed meeting, emphasizing the importance of flood management and the need for a shift in land use from agriculture to open space. The conversation ended with plans for future discussions and the sharing of resources and information.

The full presentation is available in PDF format here

<https://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-24/>

FY 2024-25 Board Meetings

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

- February 7
- March 7
- April 4

8. Board Information Exchange and Updates

Director Gregory will be stepping down as a Napa County Supervisor at the end of 2024. He mentioned their floating solar project cleared many permitting hurdles recently. They hope to start building next year. It will be the biggest floating solar installation in the western half of the country. They have hundreds of acres of ponds, if they're going to sell the energy to the grid it would bring a lot of value and save a lot of water.

Director Gorin expressed appreciation for the board's work as she prepares for retirement.

Director Shribbs mentioned applying for a Board position with the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. He applied for the North Bay and Open Space positions.

Director Meigs: RVSD is focusing quite a bit on creek crossings, and have completed 65 inspections. They are also looking at pipes and how old they are. Grant money is being looked into from the State. They have received Grant money in the past to help restore various creeks and monitoring more of the fish. with holidays. They started a campaign regarding FOG in anticipation of more spills and clogs, etc. over the holidays. She shared the link <https://youtu.be/0kxzqrwWGP0?si=ROuBa69G2kqgQUB>

Director Patterson: She recommends the book

[California Against the Sea: Visions for Our Vanishing Coastline, Author: Rosanna Xia](#)

Solano county is required through State legislation and with BCDC to do a Bayshore resiliency plan and each of the communities are involved in that, along with Benicia.

Director Eklund: The Bay Conservation Development Commission made a few changes to the document that outlines how cities and counties are to develop their regional shoreline adaptation plan—it was unanimous and requires cities and counties to develop a plan. She thinks NBWA should be involved in this and encourages a discussion at a future meeting.

Director Mariani: She attended the Napa Watershed Symposium. Some highlights include:

California's State Water Resources Board scientists informed the group about ongoing and future water initiatives. A key focus is on repurposing farmland for flooding during the winter, particularly in the valley, due to the anticipated severe flooding. A program is being developed to support these efforts. Discussions were held about vineyards adopting dry farming practices in Napa Valley to combat high temperatures, which can devastate grapevines. Efforts are underway to save the wine industry, with policy changes being discussed to prioritize open space and resources over agriculture. There were many other topics and discussions of interest.

One thing she saw that she recommends for NBWAs next conference: concluded the day with a "whirlwind tour," featuring agencies and organizations. At the Symposium, each had one slide and one minute to speak, fitting all presentations into 30 minutes. This approach, first seen at the pre-COVID Symposium, kept everyone engaged until the end. Afterwards, attendees enjoyed \$5 off at the wine bar. This setup was effective in retaining the audience, with presenters practicing beforehand to ensure smooth transitions. Each speaker highlighted an exciting achievement from the past year, making the session both efficient and fascinating.

Director Hageman: San Rafael is working on their adaptation plan and one of the requirements, when we get to that stage of the formal plan, does require coordination with our critical facilities, our wastewater treatment plants—we are working on that right now.

9. Announcements/Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 am

Next Board Meeting: February 7

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA