

North Bay Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

April 4, 2025| 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

City of American Canyon - City Council Chambers
4381 Broadway, Suite 201, American Canyon, CA 94503

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	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Pierre Washington – City of American Canyon	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Pat Eklund – City of Novato	
John Shribbs – City of Petaluma	Ryan Dunbar – City of Petaluma
Kate Hagemann – City of San Rafael	Jack Baker – North Marin Water District
Crystal Martinez – County of Marin	Stephen Keese – Marin Coalition/Public
Amber Manfree – County of Napa	Drew Gantner – (Guest Presenter) Solano County Water Agency
Rebecca Hermosillo – County of Sonoma	Susan Stompe – Marin Conservation League/Public
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Chris Lee – Solano County Water Agency
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	
Marjorie Mohler – Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	
Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District	
Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District	
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	
Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency	
Brad Sherwood (Vice Chair) – Sonoma Water	

Sixteen NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 23-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 9:30 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.

Chair Mariani asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes for the March Board meeting. Edits were provided to staff. No additional comments. Director Washington moved to approve the agenda and March minutes. Director Shribbs seconded. None opposed—
Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Director Patterson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Director Manfree seconded—
Unanimously accepted.

4. Guest Presentation— Golden Mussel Prevention Program for Lake Berryessa

Golden Mussel Invasion and Control: Drew presented on the invasive golden mussel, discussing its life cycle, population dynamics, and potential impacts on local ecosystems. He highlighted the challenges of control and predation, noting that even predation may not be effective due to the mussels' ability to survive digestion. The discussion also touched on the risk of mussel invasion in the Petaluma River, with concerns raised about the potential for boats to inadvertently transport the mussels. The environmental conditions in the region were compared to those in Brazil, with temperature and salinity tolerance being key factors.

Drew discussed the threat posed by golden mussels to California's lakes and reservoirs. He highlighted their ability to survive in a wide range of calcium and pH levels, making them a significant threat to any lake in the state. Drew explained the lifecycle of these mussels, emphasizing their rapid reproduction and ability to establish populations in various water bodies. He also discussed the ecological, water infrastructure, and recreational impacts of these mussels, including their potential to cause fisheries crashes, clog water conveyance systems, and damage boats. Drew concluded by sharing examples of the damage these mussels can cause to water infrastructure, such as trash racks and pipes.

Quarantine System for Lake Berryessa Boats: Drew discussed the implementation of a quarantine system for boats at Lake Berryessa to prevent the spread of invasive golden mussels. The system involves attaching a red quarantine seal to boats for 30 days before they can launch at the lake. A decontamination program is also in place for boats that wish to bypass the quarantine period. The system has been adopted from other regions and is being implemented in collaboration with concessionaires at the lake. Other nearby lakes are also considering similar measures, but coordination between different agencies managing the lakes is necessary.

Golden Mussel Infestation Combat Strategies: Drew discussed various methods to combat the golden mussel infestation, including biological agents, copper treatments, and UV treatments. Director Mohler, a pharmaceutical scientist, suggests reaching out to entomology departments for biological solutions. Drew mentioned a product called Zequanox, which selectively targets mussels, but notes the challenges of large-scale application and cost. The discussion also covered coordination among agencies, funding issues, and legislation needed to address the problem effectively. Drew explained that golden mussels are not yet permanently listed as a restricted species in California, which limits funding opportunities and control measures. The group considered launching a regional campaign to address these issues, potentially through organizations like NBWA or IRWM. NBWA will investigate creating an Ad Hoc for next steps and strategy. Any member interested in participating, please reach out to NBWA staff northbaywa@gmail.com

The conversation ended with questions about the Delta's management and its potential role in controlling the mussel invasion, the need for a reciprocity system between lakes for boat inspections and seals, the importance of public education, and the difficulties in managing recreational access while preventing the spread of invasive species.

The full presentation can be viewed at www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-28/

5. **Executive Director Report**

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Andy provided updates and solicited board input on activities since the March 7 Board meeting, including association administration updates, and other activities, programs, and communications.

High level updates provided:

- NBWA Board on March 7. Thank you, Novato Sanitary District
- Attend IRWM Roundtable of Regions meeting on March 19.
- Attend IRWM Coordinating Committee meeting on March 24.
- Held new NBWA Director orientation on March 25.
- Attend CASQA legislation subcommittee meeting on March 26.

Administrative Activities

- Develop restructured FY 2025/26 workplan
- Coordinate April, May, June board meetings
- Final preparations for Small Grant and Scholarship launch!
- Coordinate with officers and Treasurer
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants
- Updated website and meeting packet information

Communications

- Manage/progress NBWA social media program
- Prepare and distribute pre-meeting packet
- Research, outreach, and communications with members and subject matter experts regarding development for future Board topics

Committees

- Plan for Administrative Steering Committee meeting – May or June 2025
- Preliminary planning for 2026 conference committee meeting and process
- Research and communicate with potential grant and scholarship partners

Small Grants and Scholarship Program

Andy and Sabrina Marson provided insight into the launch of the program, including outreach plan and next steps. Staff will work with the subcommittee on applications submitted, and bring recommendations to this board at future meetings. Application form can be found at www.nbwatershed.org/small-grants-and-scholarship-program

1 & 2 Quarter 2025 Outlook: Positioning for Next FY

- Prepare to plan 2026 Biennial Conference
- Continue to participate in and influence regional resiliency and collaborations
- Watershed networks
- Funding – plan to convene JTC
- Support workforce development
- Launch Small Grants and Scholarship Program!
- Support positioning north bay members to leverage regional collaboration for competitive funding advantage
- Advance plan for convening North Bay Environmental Education Roundtable

- Finalize FY2025-2026 Work Plan
- Develop draft plan to expand NBWA membership in region

FY 2024-25 Board Meetings

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

- May 2 - North Marin Water District
- June 6 - *TBD* Social and 25-year celebration
- July 11 - Board Meeting
- August 1 - Board Meeting
- September – SKIP Month
- October 3 - Board Meeting
- November 7 - Board Meeting
- December 5 - Board Meeting

6. Overview of Draft NBWA FY 2025/26 Workplan

Andy provided an overview of a draft FY 2025/26 workplan including a reorganization of tasks, calculation and incorporation of annual member dues in accordance with the MOU.

The board approved a new work plan and budget for the next fiscal year including unfreezing member dues to comply with the MOU, as well as approved an amendment to the agreement with West Yost. The work plan restructures some existing tasks to better align with current activities and accounting needs. The total budget remains unchanged at \$221,784, but an additional \$19,500 is allocated to the West Yost agreement to support new initiatives like the small grants program, conference follow-up, and funding opportunity support. Member dues will be adjusted based on agencies' operating budgets as originally outlined in the MOU. No comments or questions.

Director Clark moved to approve. Director Patterson seconded—Unanimously accepted during roll call. The motion passed with a two-thirds majority vote.

Additional details presented can be viewed at www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-28

7. Board Information Exchange and Updates

Director Patterson: Congress Member Garamendi advocates for U.S.-based manufacturing and aims to modernize Richmond and Vallejo. Challenges at the Vallejo site, including issues with the Napa River, have led to Collinsville being proposed instead. However, Collinsville falls under the Delta Stewardship Council's jurisdiction, and shipbuilding there may conflict with the Delta plan's consistency requirements. More updates to come.

Director Manfree: The Napa Flood District is making strong progress on the Napa River Trail. Additionally, the San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC) met yesterday. The Bay Adapt program and the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP) are of particular interest—presentation was well done and reviewing it would be helpful for those interested. One key goal is to connect local governments to these initiatives, and soon they'll launch a GIS-based mapping dashboard to help managers implement the plans.

Also, the Bay Water Trail continues to expand, adding more non-motorized watercraft launch and haul-out sites across the bay. Excitingly, two kayakers recently circumnavigated the bay, marking a new milestone.

Director Meigs: [she brought brochures on PSAs about non-flushable items and FOG (fats, oils, and grease) and will pass them around]. I'm proud of our program, including our

collective PSA initiative, which airs on TV and is funded jointly with several Marin County sewer districts. Visit <https://www.rvsvd.org/297/Videos> to see all videos. It's a great model, and others should consider adopting it.

Director Eklund: At yesterday's meeting, BCDC announced an action plan to advance wetland restoration using dredged material and sediment—a crucial step in addressing sea level rise. Another major initiative underway is the regional shoreline adaptation plan, which cities and counties are required to develop. To ensure success, it's important to engage agencies like water and sanitary districts, as we're all involved in this effort. For Marin and Sonoma, I'll be speaking with cities and counties about how we can collaborate with other agencies. [She] recommends inviting someone from BCDC to give a presentation

Stephen Keese (Public): Edmond Conley, chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee 4, oversees the details of Proposition 4. At yesterday's Marin Coalition meeting, he invited anyone with ideas or funding requests to contact him.

8. Overview of Special Tour: Napa River Ecology Center at the American Canyon Wetlands

Janelle Selick, Executive Director of the Napa River Ecology Center and the American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation, presented an overview of their new center, which will provide environmental education and public access to wetlands. The board will tour the site after the meeting.

Janelle discussed the development of the Napa River Ecology Center as a strong public-private partnership with the City of American Canyon. The foundation, which has been addressing gaps in environmental and watershed education for the past 10 years, serves over 3,000 students and families annually, providing hands-on learning experiences.

Recognizing the high demand for educational programs and the limitations due to the lack of a facility, the foundation began searching for a suitable location five years ago. The American Canyon wetlands emerged as the ideal site due to its biodiversity and accessibility. After securing agreements with the city, the foundation moved into the site and began transforming the former industrial space into a center for education and conservation.

The center offers indoor and outdoor classrooms, pollinator gardens, raised bed gardens, and a nature-based playground. A wildlife viewing deck and new public access trails further enrich community engagement. The project aligns with the city's Wetlands Restoration Plan, supporting conservation efforts and identifying optimal locations for a kayak launch. Ultimately, the center aims to become a hub for discussions on climate resilience, education, and conservation efforts while fostering community involvement in protecting natural resources for future generations.

The \$9 million project has secured \$6.5 million in funding from state, federal, and private sources. With 100% design plans completed and environmental permits underway with ESA, the project is nearing shovel-ready status after years of development. Exciting progress is being made toward its completion.

9. Announcements/Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA

Next Board Meeting: May 2