

**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

April 26, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Petterle announced that due to the Coronavirus outbreak and pursuant to the Brown Act as modified by Assembly Bill 361, this was a virtual meeting. President Petterle called the special meeting of the Board of Directors of North Marin Water District to order at 6:00 p.m. and the agenda was accepted as presented. President Petterle added that there was not a public location for participating in this meeting, but any interested members of the public could participate remotely by utilizing the video or phone conference dial-in method using information printed on the agenda.

President Petterle welcomed the public to participate in the remote meeting and asked that they mute themselves, except during open time and while making comments on the agenda items. President Petterle noted that due to the virtual nature of the meeting he will request a roll call of the Directors. A roll call was done, those in remote attendance established a quorum. Participating remotely were Directors Jack Baker, Rick Fraites, Jim Grossi, Michael Joly and Stephen Petterle.

President Petterle announced that in the event of technical difficulties during the meeting, the District Secretary will adjourn the meeting and the remainder of the agenda will be rescheduled for a future special meeting which shall be open to the public and noticed pursuant to the Brown Act.

President Petterle announced that all public attendees will be invited to speak and will need to use the raised hand icon in Zoom or dial \*9 to be called upon.

Mr. McIntyre performed a roll call of staff, participating remotely were Drew McIntyre (General Manager), Tony Williams (Assistant GM/Chief Engineer), Terrie Kehoe (District Secretary), Julie Blue (Auditor-Controller), Robert Clark (Operations/Maintenance Superintendent) and Ryan Grisso (Water Conservation Coordinator). Also participating remotely were West Yost consultants; Rhodora Biagtan, Megan McWilliams, Anita Jain, Charles Hardy, Doug Moore, and Monique Day; in addition to IT consultant Clay Smedshammer (Core Utilities).

President Petterle requested that for those joining the virtual meeting from the public to identify themselves. Attending remotely were Will Houston (Marin IJ), Ken Levin (Point Reyes Station Village Association), DK, Mary and Guy.

**OPEN TIME**

President Petterle asked if anyone from the public wished to bring up an item not on the agenda and there was no response.

**LOCAL WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT STUDY WORKSHOP No. 2**

Mr. Williams introduced West Yost Associates as the presenter for the workshop. Mr. Williams noted that the original intent was to be in sync with Sonoma Water's Regional Water Supply Resiliency study, and NMWD's local water supply study is working in parallel with their study. Mr. Williams apprised that the Board that the purpose of the workshop was to provide the Board and the public with a preview of the 2022 Local Water Supply Enhancement Study findings and recommendations.

Rhodora Biagtan of West Yost Associates began the presentation on the Local Water Supply Enhancement Study Board Workshop No. 2. She gave an overview on the evaluation of water supply alternatives, feasible projects and next steps.

Ms. Biagtan discussed the findings and conclusions of the 2022 Local Water Supply Enhancement Study and the focus was on feasible local projects and potential regional collaboration. The feasible local projects included: improvement of recapture efficiency and pretreatment modifications for Stafford Treatment Plant; installation of a spillway notch slide gate to increase Stafford Lake storage capacity; and diverting captured stormwater into Stafford Lake. Ms. Biagtan stated that some potential regional collaboration projects to consider as part of the SCWA Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study were; aquifer storage recover, indirect potable reuse and desalination. Additionally, she reported on some near-term drought management options which included: maximizing delivery of natural flows in the Russian River; rehabilitation of Kastania Pump Station, Increase Groundwater Production, regulatory flexibility through Temporary Urgency Change Petitions; Water Conservation and Water Use Efficiency. In the conclusion of the presentation next steps and funding strategies were discussed.

Ms. Biagtan also acknowledged staff that aided in the study from; NMWD, Marin County Parks, Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and Sonoma Water.

President Petterle thanked Ms. Biagtan and West Yost for the concise presentation.

President Petterle asked if there were any comments or questions from the Directors.

Director Joly asked about the large increase in potable demands and asked why there was a huge increase from 2020 to 2025. Mr. Williams replied that this information was an excerpt from the Urban Water Management Plan and not from West Yost. He stated that it is staff's best guess about upcoming development in Novato and reflects some of the known projects like Fireman's Fund. Director Joly asked if it included ABAG housing projections. Mr. Williams confirmed.

Director Fraites stated that on the final page, the funding strategy does not show any federal or state funds to tap into. Ms. Biagtan replied that the headings do include subcategories that provide both state and federal funding. Director Fraites stated that he was concerned about funding, adding he appreciated the clarification and the study.

Director Grossi stated that he thought the study was well thought out and thorough and he was impressed by all the information provided in this one study. He added that this is the first step, the big job it to make sure some of these projects happen.

President Petterle asked if there were any comments or questions from the public and there was one anonymous question. An anonymous participant asked about the options presented and inquired about which ones would result in the best quality water and which are the most sustainable. Mr. Williams replied that the option to improve the operation of Stafford Treatment Plant and minimized the water we reject in the drinking water process is huge on a sustainability scale, it has minimal waste and the approach is very efficient. The others as far as the water quality is concerned, is the same quality we already see in the Novato Creek Watershed. Mr. Williams emphasized that all identified feasible projects have equal water quality implications and they all are sustainable. Mr. Clark added that the quality of the treated water won't change.

President Petterle asked if the Directors had any further questions or comments.

Director Fraites stated that he knows desalination is ruled out due to cost, but asked if there are other serious discussions about desalination with the other water contractors. Mr. McIntyre responded that Jacobs Engineering is in contract with MMWD to future evaluation a Marin County desalination option.

Director Grossi stated that he realizes the cost of sediment removal is prohibitive from Stafford Lake, however over time it may be necessary to increase capacity. Additionally, he commented that there may also be some water quality advantages to remove the sediment. Mr. Clark replied that this has been discussed in the past, and staff have also looked to see if they can trap the nutrients in the sediment and look at what the District is doing currently to keep the sediments from building up. Mr. Clark added that this is the question we should ask the consultants in the future, noting there is also a lot more we can do further downstream on the tributaries in the lake. Director Grossi stated that this year at his ranch they cleaned up the pond sediment, noting the cost was less if you do not have to haul it off site. He added there may be a more cost effective way to get rid of the sediment. Mr. Clark replied that the transportation cost alone is expensive. Director Grossi stated that he thought it was still something to discuss and explore. Director Petterle noted that there may be an opportunity to stock pile the soil and make

it available for the park if they are interested. Mr. Williams stated that he and Mr. Clark had discussed this in the past. He added that Marin County Parks staff are talking about a trail project in which they may use sediment from the lake and it would be an opportunity to dispose of the sediment locally. Tony Williams stated that Roger Leventhal at the Marin County Flood Control District said they are facing a shoreline problem along the bay because there is a lack of sediment from the sea level rise. He added that the Regulatory Water Quality Control Board is also looking at the concept of hydraulically dredging.

Director Joly stated that he was glad the NMWD is still tracking desalination, noting it is an expensive proposition, but we need to look at it. He added that he is happy that SCWA and MMWD are potential regional desalination players. Director Joly asked if West Yost could do an addendum to the study to see what new technology is in the forefront to improve water supply in the next decade. Mr. Clark asked for clarification, if he meant extracting water out of the aquifers or out of the atmosphere as part of the study. Director Joly replied that climate change and water supply is a big political issue around the world and we need to see what possibilities are out there to enhance water supply. Mr. McIntyre stated that these are all good questions, and it is good to think outside of the box. He emphasized that during his years of work at NMWD, studies have shown that it is more efficient and cost effective to develop new water supply options on a regional level than local. Mr. McIntyre added that these questions should be given to SCWA who supply the bulk of our water, noting they have future studies planned for long-term water supply improvement projects. Director Joly agreed, stating it is good for all of us and benefits all regions.

Director Fraites stated that he would like to look closer at the Bowman Canyon Dam option. He noted that creating a new reservoir may be dicey, but it is worth consideration. Director Grossi stated that the Bowman Canyon Dam option may also benefit the Flood Control District and that could provide the opportunity for more funding. He added that what is important now is coordinating with SCWA, MMWD and using the Jacobs Study to help us come up with the best cost per acre-foot scenario.

Director Petterle stated that these reports are great for those in the water industry who typically use acre-foot (af) or hundred cubic feet (ccf) for volume measurements. He added that the typical consumer however only understands gallons. Director Petterle stated that the water agencies wonder why the public don't listen and that is partly because of the terminology used. He emphasized that NMWD as an agency should report in terms our customers can relate to. Mr. McIntyre responded that Mr. Williams can review the units concern with Ms. Biagtan before the report is finalized.

A discussion ensued about the Districts existing, comprehensive recycled water network,

Director Joly added that with the supply of recycled water it is almost like adding another Stafford Lake, noting irrigation is our biggest need. Director Petterle asked about using recycled water for a project like Fireman's Fund with 1,100 houses. Mr. McIntyre replied that recycled water use would be feasible at this location since there is a recycled waterline that already fronts the property. Mr. Williams stated that there will be several new projects like the Residence Inn and Landsea Homes that will connect to recycled water, noting there is a lot of opportunities on the Redwood corridor.

President Petterle asked if there were any further questions from the public and there was no response.

Mr. McIntyre asked Mr. Williams what the timeline is for the Board and public to submit final comments. Mr. Williams replied that he heard many good comments tonight. He added that if any of the Board of Directors or public have comments they would like to share, to submit them by May 6<sup>th</sup> and then the final report will be brought back to the Board for acceptance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Petterle adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Theresa Kehoe".

Theresa Kehoe  
District Secretary