

**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 20, 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 regular 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 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 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 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. Williams performed a roll call of staff, participating remotely were, Tony Williams (General Manager), Terrie Kehoe (District Secretary), Eric Miller (Assistant GM/Chief Engineer), Robert Clark (Operations/Maintenance Superintendent), and Pete Castellucci (Interim Construction/Maintenance Superintendent). Additionally, District employee Connie Filippi joined the meeting and later during Item #5, Pablo Ramudo (Water Quality Supervisor) joined. Also participating remotely was IT consultant Clay Smedshammer (Core Utilities).

President Petterle requested that for those joining the virtual meeting from the public to identify themselves and there was no response.

MINUTES

On motion of Director Baker seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the minutes with minor edits from the September 20, 2022 Regular Board Meeting by the following vote:

AYES: Director Baker, Fraites, Grossi, Joly and Petterle

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Williams announced that he met with Ben Horenstein, the General Manager at MMWD on September 7th. He stated that they had a very high-level discussion and discussed some of the strategies they are currently looking at which include a regional inter-connection of reservoirs between Nicasio, Stafford and Soulajule. Mr. Williams added that Mr. Horenstein is interested in backfeeding their reservoirs, and they will be more to come as their study unfolds. Mr. Williams noted that they also discussed the idea of creating a Marin water agency group, which would include all water districts in Marin to meet and discuss common interests and future collaborations.

Mr. Williams reported that on September 15th, he and Mr. Miller met with the Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent, Craig Kenkel, Deputy Superintendent, Anne Altman and Brannon Ketcham, Executive Assistant. He noted that they discussed water supply and workforce housing plans. He stated that much of the property they own is not in our district, however there is one served by us in which the ranch houses could be modified. Mr. Williams added that they also discussed potentially teaming up on a regional water supply study, since there are many small water systems in the Seashore and there may be other options they are not considering.

Mr. Williams informed the Board that last Tuesday, September 13th there was a 4.4 earthquake in Santa Rosa followed by a second 4.3 earthquake a minute later. He stated that NMWD's emergency procedures sets a threshold of a 4.5 magnitude quake and an associated shaking level before we respond. Mr. Williams apprised the Board that NMWD is conducting a joint exercise with the City of Novato next month for a dam failure scenario. He added that there will be more details to follow. Mr. Williams noted that as part of the District's Novato Master Plan update for 2023, staff is including a pipeline assessment for larger diameter pipes that cross creeks or other infrastructure that is vulnerable to seismic forces.

Mr. Williams reported that Novato received between 0.76 and 0.83 inches of rainfall in the last few days, mostly on Sunday, September 18th. He added that Point Reyes Station received slightly less at 0.68 inches. Mr. Williams noted that, overall this amount of rainfall is very unusual for September.

Mr. Williams announced that tonight is Pete Castellucci's last Board of Director's Meeting. He stated that on October 3rd, Chris Kehoe will transition to the Interim Construction/Maintenance Superintendent role starting October 1, 2022 through February. Mr. Williams commended Mr. Castellucci for the great job he did in the last five months.

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

Director Joly asked if staff were aware of any well depletions, or any push towards connecting to our water supply. Mr. Williams replied that he has not. He noted that he participates in the Marin and Sonoma Drought Working Group and they would notify us if there were a concern in our area. Additionally, he stated that there has been no notification from the County of Marin.

Director Fraites asked about the residential recycle water program that we provide to the community and asked why that program ended. Mr. Williams replied that the program is still ongoing and has had good response. He noted that the location relocated for convenience reasons to Wood Hollow Drive and it is available to our customers three days a week, adding it has been very successful all summer. Director Fraites stated that he will let the customer know that asked him. Mr. Williams replied that they can call the office and sign up for the program.

Director Petterle asked how MMWD is proposing to connect the pipeline in order to backfeed Nicasio or Soulajule Dams. Mr. Williams replied that from what he gathered from Mr. Horenstein and Mr. Sellier, they would connect via the same route to Stafford Lake, then extend the pipe to Nicasio, then to Soulajule. He noted that they believe it would be a cheaper option that going across the San Rafael Bridge. Director Petterle stated that it would require inertie protection from Nicasio or Soulajule, but would be a simpler option.

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

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.

STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS

President Petterle asked if any Directors or staff wished to bring up an item not on the agenda and there was no response.

INFORMATION ITEMS

STAFFORD LAKE PARK PUMP TRACK PROJECT PRESENTATION – MARIN COUNTY

PARKS

Tara McIntire from Marin County Parks gave a project presentation on the Stafford Lake Park Pump Track. She discussed; the goals, the location of the project, the typical pump track versus an all-season pump track, the key stakeholders, project scope, initial concept design, funding sources, planning, and next steps. Ms. McIntire pointed out where runoff water would flow, noting it would be captured and treated onsite. She reported that the completion of the project is estimated to be by winter of 2024, and thanked those who contributed in public engagement which included; Friends of Stafford Lake Bike Park, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Environmental Roundtable, Dominic Grossi, Novato Fire and North Marin Water District.

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

Director Grossi stated that the property years ago was subject to trades and it was discussed as part of an agreement to move the grazing road back off the park property, noting there was another gate up the road. Ms. McIntire replied that the parcel in question is an overflow parking lot, and the goal was to retain as much overflow parking as they could and still be mindful of the buffers and sensitive areas. She stated that they nudged the road a hair, and the location has worked out well, noting she spoke with Dominic Grossi about this several times.

Director Joly thanked Ms. McIntire for the presentation. He stated that his grandchildren enjoy the park and he wondering if the viewing spaces were situated so he could view both venues, the big track and the kid's track at the same time. Ms. McIntire confirmed, adding there is also another seating area intended to view the kid's track. She also stated that the length of the kid's track was 285 feet after Director Joly inquired. Director Joly asked if there would be any contaminants from the asphalt that could leach into our water supply. Ms. McIntire replied that any runoff water would be captured and treated, which would be more than any other runoff from asphalt in the park right now. Director Joly asked Mr. Ramudo his opinion. Mr. Ramudo replied that there could be potential issues with increasing impervious areas, but it would not be much in this case. He stated that letting the water infiltrate rather than runoff, looks like a good design and he looks forward to reviewing the project so he can make comments on whether there are any effects on the water quality. Director Fraites stated that he is also concerned about the stormwater basins, if there is rain runoff over the asphalt material to the point where it overflows, would they shut down the track. Ms. McIntire confirmed, replying that water collected on the track

would also be unsafe. She noted that the asphalt track will be easier to maintain than the dirt track they have now and they will be able to have the park open more often. Director Grossi stated that it is better designed than the previous track where cars are parked on the asphalt with no catchment or treatment.

Director Fraites asked why the new track was not placed in the existing bike park area. Ms. McIntire replied that it needs a flat area, also when they explored other sites there were more constraints and from an environmental standpoint they would have to clear away trees, which is why they ended up where they are at. She noted that she met with Environmental Roundtable, Graton Rancheria and NMWD to make sure this was a more suitable location, and also give space to separate the use of the park. Director Joly asked if there will be enough parking, as he has noticed it is always very crowded due to the popularity of the park. Ms. McIntire replied that they can still use the backup area for overflow, and other areas used for events could also be utilized. She added that they are also exploring the potential of having some days only for skaters and others for just bikes.

Director Baker asked what the involvement the Graton Rancheria had in the project. Ms. McIntire replied that the tribe was very supportive of the previous bike park and asking their input and feedback is standard procedure for a project like this.

Mr. Clark reported the watershed in this area over the years, with the help of students and teachers, have been restored. He added that we have improved the programs over time, and the catchment basin is maintained and catches sedimentation and this water will be treated before reaching our reservoirs. Mr. Clark stated that it is a good plan for NMWD as well as the park. Director Joly thanked Mr. Clark for his input.

Director Petterle stated that when he had originally worked on the skate park, they had planted blue oak, which was not common in Marin. Ms. McIntire stated that this project has an opportunity to integrate not just native oak, but try some southerly oaks native to California where the weather gets warmer temperatures. She added that there will be a wide range of oaks, including the blue oaks.

Director Petterle stated that it has been part of NMWD's history to support recreation at Stafford Lake. He added that although swimming or boating is not allowed, the District realized the park was being under-utilized. Director Petterle noted that the bike park had some issues at first, but transformed the largest regional park owned in Marin County and it was good to see all the people enjoying it. Director Petterle stated that at the beginning of the pandemic it was hard to find places to hike, because of the restrictions in open space and he provided a summary of a

previous encounter with a family that was using the bike park and the impact it had. He acknowledged the benefit of the bike park, and noted to be able to design it in a way that it was so close to the drinking water supply, but at the same time safeguard that supply was quite an accomplishment. Director Petterle thanked Ms. McIntire for wonderful presentation.

President Petterle asked if anyone from the public would like to speak and there was no response.

FY 2021/22 FOURTH QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT – WATER QUALITY

Mr. Ramudo reported on the fourth quarter Water Quality Report. He reported on the Novato, Point Reyes and Novato Recycled Systems. Mr. Ramudo informed the Board that Stafford Lake was not used as source water this quarter, however staff has been monitoring the lake quality. He stated that the alae in the samples have not been numerous, nor has there been any big blooms; which is unusual for this time of year. In West Marin he reported there was not a lot of salinity intrusion, however demand was low and since they were using Gallagher Well most of the time it did not impact the drinking water. Mr. Ramudo reported the Deer Island Recycled Water Facility was used from May 9th through the 22nd, noting the bulk of our recycled water comes from Novato Sanitary and Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District. Mr. Ramudo also apprised that the Board that during this quarter the lab moved from the Rush Creek Place location to the Buck Center. He added that they had a site visit from an environmental lab accreditation program and received their certificate.

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

Director Grossi asked with the salt water intrusion issues in Point Reyes, if when Gallagher Well No. 2 is online, would we stop using the Coast Guard Wells. He also wanted to know if having both of the Gallagher Wells online will have solved our salinity problem. Mr. Ramudo confirmed that the Gallagher Wells have good quality water, however it is still important to keep the Coast Guard Wells in production, to use in case of an emergency, or in the event of damage to the Gallagher Pipeline could break, or when the Gallagher Wells need to go offline for maintenance. Director Grossi stated that when Gallagher Well 2 is completed the District should hold a community event for the public. Mr. Ramudo reported he was waiting for the final information for the permit, which was for radium contaminants, of which none were found; therefore, he can now sign and send the permit application to the Division of Drinking Water (DDW). Director Joly asked when Gallagher Well No. 2 is estimated to be online. Mr. Ramudo replied that is depends on the California Department of Drinking Water when they review the application. He stated that he expects it could be a week up to a month. Director Joly asked if

we are in the position to accept and settle the \$12,000 fine. Mr. Ramudo replied that there was no public comment revealed to staff. Mr. Williams confirmed, adding that the District expects to get the invoice from the Regional Board soon.

President Petterle asked if anyone from the public would like to speak and there was no response.

ADMINISTRATION & LABORATORY UPGRADE PROJECT – CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Mr. Miller gave a construction update and presentation on the Administration and Laboratory Upgrade Project. He apprised that the Board of the schedule, presented progress photos, discussed unforeseen issues, and reported on the budget status. Mr. Miller stated that he expects the completion of the project could be as early as September of next year. He added that there was a couple of setbacks on the project which included some additional hazmat material removal of lead paint. Additionally, Mr. Miller informed the Board of a fire that broke out near the District office that was caused by a Caltrans crane that hit it a powerline. Mr. Miller expressed gratitude to the Construction and Maintenance staff who were still in the yard and commended them for working together to help contain the fire along with emergency personnel.

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

Director Joly stated that he was near the area when the electricity went out, noting it was smoky and the fire was wild.

Director Baker stated that he appreciated the pictures and suggested Mr. Miller might want to show the pictures earlier in the presentation next time.

President Petterle asked if anyone from the public would like to speak and there was no response.

Director Petterle stated that he would like to visit the building site, noting other Directors may also be interested. Mr. Miller replied that he could get something scheduled.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements – Dated September 8, 2022, Disbursements – Dated September 15, 2022, Monthly Progress Report and Point Reyes Light – Salinity Notice September 8, 2022.

The Board received the following news articles: Marin IJ – Newsom’s water strategy must go further – CALIFORNIA VOICE; Marin IJ – Record for heat falls in county – WEATHER; Marin IJ – Is COVID-19 winding down at long last? Scientists say no – EXPLAINER; Marin IJ – MALT hires new leader after period of upheaval – WEST MARIN; Marin IJ – MMWD criticizes report on its drought response – UTILITY REACTS and Marin IJ – Search for firm supply starts with recycled

water plan – MARIN VOICE.

The Board received the following social media posts: NMWD Web and Social Media Report – August 2022.

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

Director Joly noted Ms. Blue’s section in the Monthly Progress Report. He commended the Customer Service staff for doing a fabulous job at reducing delinquencies. Ms. Blue replied that she is working with the Billing Supervisor to create new procedures, noting they now do a ten day drop off for letters and it has cut down the numbers on the shut off list by one third.

Director Joly asked Mr. Williams if staff are now settled in to the Wood Hollow building, and how the Construction Crew is dealing with the separation. Mr. Castellucci replied that it is not much different for the crew, they still go out to the field each day as usual. He stated that he has to make a trip to the Wood Hollow office each day, but overall it has been a smooth transition. Mr. Williams stated that the NMWD staff are the only tenants on the third floor and everything seems to be working out just fine. Director Joly asked if the lab staff are well accommodated at the Buck Center. Mr. Ramudo replied that there is enough space to do the work and there are also two office cubicles for lab staff at the Wood Hollow office. Mr. Clark stated that senior staff drop in every day at the Rush Creek office, and Mr. Castellucci has done a great job in keeping everyone involved so that no one feels left out.

Director Joly congratulated Mr. Castellucci on a great job in fulfilling his interim Construction Maintenance Superintendent position, noting the crew was well represented.

President Petterle asked if anyone from the public would like to speak and there was no response.

ADJOURNMENT

President Petterle adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Submitted by



Theresa Kehoe
District Secretary