

1 NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
2 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
3 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
4 APRIL 18, 2023

5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 President Fraites called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of North Marin Water
7 District to order at 4:00 p.m. at the District Headquarters and the agenda was accepted as
8 presented. Present were Directors Jack Baker, Ken Eichstaedt, Rick Fraites, Michael Joly, and
9 Stephen Petterle. Also present were General Manager Tony Williams, District Secretary Eileen
10 Mulliner, Auditor-Controller Julie Blue and AGM/Chief Engineer Eric Miller.

11 District employee Chris Kehoe (Construction Superintendent), and Robert Clark (Operations
12 and Maintenance Supervisor) were also in attendance. Pablo Ramudo, Water Quality Supervisor,
13 joined later in the meeting.

14 **MINUTES**

15 On motion of Director Joly seconded by Director Baker, the Board approved the minutes
16 from the April 4, 2023 meeting as presented by the following vote:

17 AYES: Director(s) Baker, Eichstaedt, Fraites, Joly and Petterle

18 NOES: None

19 ABSENT: None

20 ABSTAIN: None

21 **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

22 During the General Manager's report, Mr. Williams mentioned one of the miscellaneous
23 items in the agenda packet regarding a presentation on the Potter Valley Project that was given at
24 the last TAC meeting he attended. He noted that there is a new planning group under the Russian
25 River Water Forum and that NMWD is officially in the group. Paul Sellier of Marin Water is his
26 alternate. Mr. Williams will bring more information to future meetings.

27 Mr. Williams said that he and Julie Blue attended an ACWA Region 1 meeting in early April.
28 Brad Sherwood of Sonoma Water also attended and they spoke about the aqueduct and the
29 landslide.

30 Mr. Williams also mentioned that he and staff met with Kyle Ochendusko from the City of
31 Benicia. The City of Benicia experienced a similar landslide situation as the District in which their
32 main raw water supply pipeline broke. Staff and Mr. Ochendusko toured the Redwood Blvd
33 landslide area along the highway.

34 Mr. Williams said that past two written updates on the landslide provided to the Board are
35 also provided in the Miscellaneous portion of the agenda packet so that the public receives the
36 same information. He, Eric Miller, Chris Kehoe, Pablo Ramudo, Robert Clark, and Tim Fuelle

1 continue to meet twice a week to coordinate. Director Joly asked how many gallons a day are going
2 through the aqueduct. Robert Clark answered that we have only run water through pipeline a total
3 of 7 times since the slide on March 21. The first few times only 1 million gallon (MG) were released,
4 and the past couple of times have increased to 5MG. Each time is approximately 7-8 hours but the
5 time varies and staff are present at isolation valves when water is flowing. We are hoping to
6 continue increasing both the amount of time and volume.

7 Eric Miller noted that Caltrans has excavated a test pit but we would like another one closer
8 to the slide toe in order to visually inspect the pipe but there is still too much groundwater. This is
9 being coordinated this week with Caltrans.

10 **OPEN TIME**

11 President Fraites asked if anyone in the audience wished to bring up an item not on the
12 agenda and there was no response.

13 **STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS**

14 President Fraites asked if staff or Directors wished to bring up an item not on the agenda.
15 Director Petterle said that he watched the film 'River's End'. He said it was very educational and
16 highly recommended it. He said it was on PBS, but also bought a DVD to the meeting to donate it to
17 the District's library.

18 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

19 On the motion of Director Baker and seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the
20 following items on the consent calendar by the following vote:

21 AYES: Director(s) Baker, Eichstaedt, Fraites, Joly and Petterle

22 NOES: None

23 ABSENT: None

24 ABSTAIN: None

25 **WATER LOSS COMPONENT ANALYSIS – CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH E**

26 **SOURCE**

27 In 2020, North Marin Water District, along with ten partner agencies, was awarded grant
28 funding under Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014,
29 administered by the State of California Department of Water Resources. A Water Loss Component
30 Analysis (WLCA) was included, which is a comprehensive study to understand and improve water
31 loss in the distribution system. In compliance with the grant terms, a Request for Proposal was
32 prepared and advertised. Only one proposed was received, from E Source out of Boulder,
33 Colorado. Staff reviewed their proposal, which included contacting their references listed for similar
34 work and recommends contracting with E Source to prepare the WLCA study.

1 **ACTION CALENDAR**

2 **RATE INCREASE (PROP. 218) NOTICE TO NOVATO WATER & RECYCLED WATER**
3 **CUSTOMERS**

4 Julie Blue reminded the Board that she presented the 5-year financial plan at the April 4,
5 2023 Board meeting with the proposed rate increases of 9.5% for Novato potable and 5.3% for
6 recycled water and noted that a public hearing would be scheduled for the June 20, 2023 Board
7 meeting. The notice will be sent to Novato water and recycled water customers. She noted that
8 there was an error on the draft notice in the listing of the Board members, but that that will be
9 corrected before it is mailed out. Director Fraites said that he would like to emphasize that Sonoma
10 Water is increasing our rate by 12.5% which is why NMWD is raising their rates and that the
11 increase is not going to salaries. Ms. Blue responded that the notice does mention the rate increase
12 from Sonoma Water. Director Fraites said he would like to have that information stand out in the
13 notice. Director Eichstaedt said that he liked the notice and that it was very informative. There was
14 discussion regarding the comparison chart of other Bay Area water providers and Ms. Blue noted
15 that she and her staff tried to include the most up to date information, including proposed new rates
16 of other agencies. Director Petterle said it looked professional and well done and staff noted that
17 Kiosk provided help with the layout and appearance.

18 On the motion of Director Petterle and seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved by the
19 following vote:

20 AYES: Director(s) Baker, Eichstaedt, Fraites, Joly, and Petterle

21 NOES: None

22 ABSENT: None

23 ABSTAIN: None

24 **RATE INCREASE (PROP. 218) NOTICE TO WEST MARIN WATER & OCEANA MARIN SEWER**
25 **CUSTOMERS**

26 Julie Blue said that a rate increase notice, similar to Novato's, will be going out to West
27 Marin Water and Oceana Marin Sewer customers informing them of a 6% rate increase and a public
28 hearing to be held in June.

29 On the motion of Director Joly and seconded by Director Baker, the Board approved by the
30 following vote:

31 AYES: Director Baker, Eichstaedt, Fraites, Joly and Petterle

32 NOES: None

33 ABSENT: None

34 ABSTAIN: None

35 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

36 **STATUS OF POTENTIAL CROSS-CONNECTION SITUATION AT GATEWAY COMMONS**
37 **NEIGHBORHOOD**

1 Eric Miller explained that in the Gateway Commons neighborhood is a large complex with
2 several buildings wherein each building is a 4-unit condominium, and each unit has their own water
3 meter. Additionally, there is a common laundry room in each that has a separate meter and the way
4 the hot water is plumbed there a potential backflow issue which can be a health issue for the
5 individual units. The District has been coordinating with the Homeowner's Association (HOA) and
6 has offered three alternatives to rectify the situation, however the alternatives are very expensive. A
7 part of the cost is to reconcile water entitlement which appears to be well in exceedance of the
8 original agreement. One of the alternatives is to hook up the development to recycled water for
9 irrigation as the pipeline is nearby and there is an existing stub out. Director Joly asked how many
10 units there are and water entitlement discrepancy, and Mr. Miller responded that there are 280 units
11 and that they have an entitlement of 8 EDUs, but are currently using 92 EDUs being used for
12 irrigation. There is a large amount of lawn and grass areas in the complex and their irrigation use is
13 subsequently very high. Mr. Miller noted that the HOA is having a hard time determining the best
14 alternative but is trying to hire a consultant to help with the alternatives. Director Joly asked what our
15 legal liability was if a resident was actually harmed by bad water quality. Mr. Williams noted that he
16 has been in contact with legal counsel but didn't have an answer to that specific question but will
17 follow up.

18 **NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT 75-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

19 Mr. Williams noted that the official 75-year anniversary date for the District is April 21, 2023.
20 That date, in 1948, was when the State acknowledged the incorporation of the District. He said that
21 a committee consisting of Eileen Mulliner and Karen Clyde have been working with Ryan Grisso on
22 how the District can celebrate this anniversary. He said that we expect to participate in the Novato
23 4th of July Parade and we will be handing out the logoed rubber ducks that have been very popular
24 in the past. He also mentioned that will are planning on putting a 75th year anniversary banner on
25 one of the storage buildings at the Rush Creek Place location that faces the freeway. We have
26 temporarily changed our letterhead using the 75-year anniversary logo and plan to use it as much as
27 possible during 2023. Director Pettele asked that we make sure to follow all local ordinances for
28 signage before installing the banner.

29 **NBWA MEETING – APRIL 7, 2023**

30 President Fraites informed the Board that he attended the North Bay Water Association
31 (NBWA) meeting on April 7, 2023. He noted that there was a presentation on groundwater and sub
32 basins and that Sonoma Valley has a lot of potential for groundwater recharge.

33 **MISCELLANEOUS**

34 The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements Dated April 6, and
35 April 13, 2023, Monthly Progress Report, Russian River Forum Presentation, North Marin Aqueduct

1 – Redwood Blvd Landslide Status 4-7-23 and North Marin Aqueduct – Redwood Blvd Landslide
2 Status 4-13-23.

3 The Board also received the following news articles: Marin IJ – Heavy winter rain could end
4 toxic algae problem – BAY AREA, and Eco-Friendly Garden Tour Advertisement.

5 The Board also received the NMWD Web and Social Media Report – March 2023.

6 **ADJOURNMENT**

7 President Fraites adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.

8 Submitted by

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10 

11 Eileen Mulliner
12 District Secretary
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14