

1 **NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT**
2 **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**
3 **OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
4 **October 17, 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, Assistant General Manager/Chief Engineer Eric Miller, and Auditor-Controller Julie Blue.

11 District employees Chris Kehoe, Construction Superintendent, and Robert Clark, Operations
12 and Maintenance Superintendent, were in attendance.

13 **MINUTES**

14 On motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the minutes
15 from the October 3, 2023 regular meeting as presented by the following vote:

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

17 NOES: None

18 ABSENT: None

19 ABSTAIN: None

20 **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

21 Tony Williams reminded the Board that NMWD signed an MOU with the Danish Consulate
22 and they have recently formed some working groups. He said that Pablo Ramudo is on the Water
23 Distribution Group, Eileen Mulliner is on the Digital Water Governance Group, and he is on the
24 Steering Committee Group. The majority of the meetings will be via Zoom, with a planned in-person
25 meeting next summer.

26 Mr. Williams reminded the Board of the meeting he and Pablo Ramudo had with the State
27 Water Board in late September, and a letter regarding this is in the Miscellaneous. He also said that
28 the final comment letter regarding proposed water conservation regulations is also in Miscellaneous.

29 Mr. Williams said that the West Marin Services Ad-hoc Committee met on October 13 which
30 included some members of the Oceana Marin area community attended but nothing to report at this
31 time.

32 Mr. Williams mentioned to the Board that Will Houston, our beat reporter from the Marin IJ,
33 has left the IJ and our new beat reporter is Adrian Rodriguez. He said that he knew Mr. Rodriguez
34 from when he worked at the County of Marin.

1 **OPEN TIME**

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

4 **STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS**

5 President Fraites asked if staff or Directors wished to bring up an item not on the agenda.

6 Eric Miller gave a brief Redwood Blvd landslide update. He said the retaining wall on the
7 upper side of Redwood Blvd is substantially complete. Once Caltrans moves the bike path after
8 paving the roadway, we will be able to inspect our aqueduct, possibly the first week of November.
9 He noted that Caltrans said that since the weather had been wet and cool in the mornings, paving
10 may not be able to be done right away. He said we will want to shut Stafford Treatment Plant down
11 soon so we do need to inspect the aqueduct to make sure it doesn't have any damage.

12 Director Baker said that he will be attending the quarterly WAC/TAC meeting on November
13 6. He also mentioned that he had received a letter from a surveyor that he knows and highly
14 recommends him. Mr. Williams asked for, and Director Baker agreed to provide the letter once the
15 meeting ended, since he had the letter with him.

16 **ACTION CALENDAR**

17 **CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR NOVATO RATE STUDY WITH HILDEBRAND**

18 **CONSULTING**

19 Julie Blue gave a brief history of Hildebrand Consulting's work for the District to the Board.
20 She said the rate study will kick off in November for rate implementation next fiscal year. Director
21 Joly asked for a short memo explaining the various assumptions from the 2020 study and how
22 various categories have deviated from that and Ms. Blue said she would put one together. Director
23 Joly also asked if the initial rate study meeting with the Ad-hoc Committee could be earlier than
24 January and Julie said that Mr. Hildebrand's schedule is flexible and she will see if an earlier
25 meeting can be arranged. Director Petterle said we could contact those people who attended the
26 rate increase public hearing last year, and Ms. Blue Julie said that we do communicate with the
27 public throughout the rate study process and there is usually a workshop that can be attended
28 therefore those specific people should receive that information. Director Eichstaedt asked about the
29 West Marin rate study and Julie said the process is similar but on a different timeline. The last one
30 was in 2021 and we will revisit it next fiscal year to determine if a rate study is needed.

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

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

34 NOES: None

35 ABSENT: None

36 ABSTAIN: None

1 **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE NEW EEL-RUSSIAN FACILITY TO REPLACE THE POTTER**
2 **VALLEY PROJECT**

3 Tony Williams informed the Board that PG&E has formally acknowledged the New Eel-
4 Russian Facility proposal from the proponents who are currently interested in new facility that will
5 replace the Potter Valley Project. The new facility will include parts of the current facility that the
6 proponents would like to keep for a future diversion.

7 He said that, although we are not signing it, our 75th anniversary logo will be added to the
8 regional letter of support. Director Joly asked why U.S. Senators are not listed on the letter, and Mr.
9 Williams noted that that Congressman Huffman and Thompson have been very involved with the
10 issue for many years. Director Joly asked if the proponents have agreed that Lake Mendocino
11 needs to be kept and Mr. Williams said yes, they do agree. Mr. Williams also said that it is important
12 the proponents include the Round Valley Indian Valley Tribe as they do represent the Eel River side.
13 Director Joly asked if all three of the proponents have equal power and Mr. Williams said that they
14 currently do but the next step is to develop and governance structure if and when the proposal is
15 fully accepted.

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

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

19 NOES: None

20 ABSENT: None

21 ABSTAIN: None

22 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

23 **FY 2022/23 FOURTH QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT - OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE**

24 Robert Clark summarized his FY 2022/23 End of Year Progress Report for the Operations
25 and Maintenance Department. He said the department had several large maintenance projects
26 during the fiscal year, as well as an inspection by the EPA, as previously reported to the Board,
27 which he said overall went very well. He said that as a follow up a study from an outside vendor that
28 we have used before is coming up with an updated risk management plan. Mr. Clark said the
29 Stafford Treatment Plant was started up a littler earlier than usual this past fiscal year which
30 happened to be a good thing since the Redwood Blvd landslide happened during that time and we
31 relied on the water from the lake to provide water to Novato customers. He also mentioned that
32 recycled water use was a little lower than last year and that we did operate our residential recycled
33 water program this year noting also that MMWD didn't. Mr. Clark said that with the West Marin
34 Gallagher Well No. 2 up and running we had an immediate reduction in disinfection byproducts,
35 there was no salinity and we didn't have to use the Coast Guard Wells as a primary source. He also

1 said that we will be replacing Oceana Marin force main pumps which is usually done every four
2 years. He said the pump costs have gone up significantly which was not expected.

3 **OVERVIEW OF NATURAL AND HUMAN-MADE HAZARDS AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON**
4 **THE DISTRICT**

5 Tony Williams gave a presentation to the Board and highlighted the different types of
6 hazards, and which infrastructure was most vulnerable to them. The presentation also focused on
7 Stafford Dam, climate change and our preparedness and mitigation. Mr. Williams went over the
8 different types of hazards, such as natural, atmospheric, and human-made hazards and how they
9 can affect infrastructure. Other types covered were NATECH hazards which are natural disasters
10 triggering technical hazards. The presentation also covered infrastructure hazard mitigation.
11 Director Joly asked if one department was in charge of emergency management and Mr. Williams
12 said that everyone present at the meeting plays a role as well as the safety officer. Director
13 Eichstaedt asked if the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 affected any of our infrastructure and Mr.
14 Williams said he was not aware of any significant damage but noted that a study was done for the
15 dam a few years later looking at a similar size earthquake occurring on the nearest known fault
16 (inactive) to the dam. Director Joly also asked if the consultant, Genterra, will be looking at the
17 Rogers Fault and how it can affect the District's infrastructure and Mr. Williams said they will be
18 doing an overall analysis of the dam's stability.

19 Mr. Williams said that the 2023 Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will be
20 brought to the Board for adoption at a future meeting.

21 Director Petterle asked that, in the event of a catastrophic event, what level of authority does
22 the General Manager have without Board approval. Mr. Williams said that in April 2022 the GM was
23 given certain authority for emergency services as part of the conditions of employment. Director
24 Petterle also asked if that authority can be passed on to the Assistant General Manager if the
25 General Manager wasn't available, and Mr. Williams said he believes this is so but will confirm.
26 Director Petterle asked that if there were massive flooding or an earthquake, what alternatives were
27 available to assemble the District's employees that driver from other counties, and Mr. Williams said
28 this has been a more global issue for all agencies in Marin with staff commuting from other outside
29 areas. He mentioned that the new Administration building will have an Emergency Operations
30 Center (EOC) capability and previously the County expressed interest in using it as an alternate site
31 for the Marin EOC if necessary when transportation networks are affected further south.

32 **NBWA MEETING – OCTOBER 6, 2023**

33 Director Fraites mentioned that he had attended the NBWA field trip to the Montezuma
34 Wetlands Restoration and was very impressed with the project. He shared some of the photos he
35 took with members of the Board.

1 **TAC MEETING – SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 MINUTES**

2 Tony Williams said that the topics that were discussed at the TAC meeting were covered at
3 recent Board meetings.

4 **MISCELLANEOUS**

5 The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements dated October 5 and
6 October 12, 2023, Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for August 2023, Monthly
7 Progress Report, Local Underground Storage Tank Closures Comment Letter to State Water
8 Resources Control Board, Proposed Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation
9 Comment Letter to State Water Resources Control Board.

10 The Board also received the following news articles: Marin IJ - Local water district rips
11 state plan to cut use – NORTH MARIN.

12 Marin IJ – Water District defends rate hikes – MARIN MUNICIPAL, Wet winter welcome, but repeat
13 has risks – FLOOD PERIL, Maven's Notebook – California Water News Central - Making water
14 conservation a "California way of life" Controversial state rules could cost \$13 billion, Maven's
15 Notebook – California Water News Central – Courthouse News Service: State Water Board urged to
16 ditch reporting aspect of urban water conservation regulations.

17 The Board also received the NMWD Web and Social Media Report – September 2023.

18 **ADJOURNMENT**

19 President Fraites adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

20 Submitted by

21 

22 Eileen Mulliner
23 District Secretary
24
25