

**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DECEMBER 17, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

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

District employees Chris Kehoe, Construction Superintendent, Robert Clark, Operations and Maintenance Superintendent, Karen Clyde, Jose Ochoa, Lia Solar, Connie Filippi, Pablo Ramudo, Jeff Corda, Avram Pearlman, Corey Reed, and Marc Reischmann were also in attendance.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Oaths of Office was administered by Executive Assistant/District Secretary Eileen Mulliner to Directors Joly, Baker, Eichstaedt, and Petterle.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

Election of President

On motion of Director Fraites, seconded by Director Petterle, the Board elected Director Joly as President of the Board for the ensuing year by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Director Joly

Election of Vice-President

On motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Fraites, Director Eichstaedt was elected Vice-President of the Board for the ensuing year by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Director Eichstaedt

Establishment of Meeting Times and Place

On motion of Director Fraites, seconded by Director Petterle, the Board set the time and place of regular meeting to be generally the first and third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the District office by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Establishes the Manner of Calling Special Meetings

On the motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Baker, the Board approved special meetings of the Board to be held as provided that in Section 54956 of the Government Code by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Confirm Board Meeting Schedule for 2025

Director Petterle asked that the second meeting in February, the 18th, be added to the calendar and the other Directors concurred. On the motion of Director Fraites, seconded by Director Petterle, the Board accepted the proposed meeting schedule for the 2025 calendar year, with the understanding that the calendar may be adjusted as needed, by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Appointment of District Officers

On the motion of Director Joly, seconded by Director Fraites, the following District officers were appointed for the ensuing year: Tony Williams, General Manager; Eileen Mulliner, Executive Assistant/District Secretary; Julie Blue, Auditor-Controller; and Eric Miller, Assistant General Manager/Chief Engineer by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Director Eichstaedt suggested moving to Item #8, Approve Resolution of Appreciation for Brad Stompe, up to accommodate those in the audience who had come for that particular item. The other Directors agreed.

APPROVE: RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR BRAD STOMPE

This item was moved up in the Agenda order by President Joly at the suggestion of Director Eichstaedt. Director Petterle commented that when he was at MMWD as well at the County of Marin, he knew of Brad and said that he is highly respected here and in the other organizations he has been involved with. Director Baker said that Brad is very responsive, friendly, knows what he is talking about, is very sharp, a hard worker, and will be tough to lose as a District employee. He said

he hopes to see him occasionally and wished him well and that he will be missed. Director Fraites noted that the Stompe name is well known in Novato and that Brad has done a fantastic job at the treatment plant, one of the main reasons we are so respected. He thanked Brad for all his time and congratulated him. Director Eichstaedt noted that Brad has done so much and has attained such high levels of certification and the District has been fortunate to have had him. He thanked Brad for his service and maintaining the quality of NMWD's water. Director Joly agreed with the other directors and said that Stompe is a quality name in Novato. He said Brad ran the treatment plant superbly and thanked him.

Brad addressed the Board and said he was humbled by their words. He said a part of his heart and soul will stay with the District. He also said that he is leaving the plant in confident hands, it's a good crew. He noted that Jeff Corda is ready to take over.

Former General Manager, Chris DeGabriele spoke saying he had the privilege to hire Brad, first as a temp, then as a full-time employee. He said that treatment plant operators are a special breed, multi-faceted and take their job seriously. He said you don't often hear about when major issues come up because they get handled. He said he had the good fortune to have Brad on board during his career at the District.

Robert Clark spoke and said the three people that he gleaned information from when he started were Chris DeGabriele, Drew McIntyre, and Brad Stompe. He said he has worked close with Brad and followed him a lot where there were major issues. He said that Brad helped create what we have today so that when new people come on board we can move into the future. He said that Brad championed the fish population in Stafford Lake. He thanked Brad for all his work at the District.

Tony Williams said he turned to Brad when he first started at the District because he knew Brad would have the answers and he thanked Brad. He further said that Brad has maintained relationships with Marin Water, Sonoma Water, County of Marin, and City of Novato, which is key for our business.

Jeff Corda spoke and said that he has worked with Brad for 19 years. He said Brad brings a sense of calm to any situation and appreciated the time Brad has taken with him.

President Joly proceeded to read the Resolution of Appreciation out loud.

On the motion of Director Petterle, and seconded by Director Fraites, the Board approved the Resolution of Appreciation for Brad Stompe by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Tony Williams noted on the committee appointments list that for the North Bay Water Reuse Authority committee, an alternate is not necessary as the General Manager can attend as the alternate. Director Eichstaedt said he was okay with being the alternate to Director Baker for that committee. Director Eichstaedt was added as an alternative for the NBWRA committee.

On the motion of Director Baker, seconded by Director Petterle, the Board accepted the proposed 2025 Board of Directors Committee Appointments, including the addition of Director Eichstaedt as NBWRA Alternate by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

MINUTES

On motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Baker, the Board approved the minutes from the December 3, 2024 meeting by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tony Williams said that he participated in an interview panel at the City of Petaluma for a new position there. They have restructured their public works department and have created a new Water Resources and Utilities Department and this position is for the head of that department.

Mr. Williams said that he met last week with Claire Garvie of Kiosk Communications to discuss the interviews that Kiosk has done with staff and the Directors in relation to the interim strategic plan. He said she will attend a future Board meeting to give a summation of the interviews. He said he will be meeting with her again later this week.

Mr. Williams gave a brief report on the storm event that occurred last weekend. He said there were significant power outages in all service areas. He said it is common to lose power in West Marin during storms, but power was also lost through most of Novato during this storm. Crews powered up the tanks and pump stations but later Saturday night there were some main line breaks. One of the breaks was a PG&E gas line and gas leaked into some water services. Currently, there are two commercial water services that have temporary water service due to the gas leakage. He mentioned that Jeff Watkins was on-call and was able to restore water but there were still some impacts. He said there was a second main break in the middle of the night, an AC main, that affected about 10 homes, some of which incurred major water damage to their homes. The on-call

and other crews were working on repairing the main break. He did say one good thing that came of the storm was that Lake Sonoma increased by 18,000 acre-feet and noted that Stafford Lake started spilling on Sunday morning.

Mr. Williams said that prior to the Board meeting he was in another meeting that discussed that another atmospheric river will be coming this weekend. The County OEM will call on Thursday to discuss potential impacts.

Jeff Corda spoke and said that during the prior weekend storm, all communication was down which made it very difficult for those working on the breaks. He said that due to the power outage, Marin Water lost the use of their treatment plant and that Sonoma County lost communication as well. He said that our system held up pretty well. Pablo Ramudo added that in relation to the gas leakage issue, that Novato had its first 'do not drink' issued for the affected customers. He said we are doing rush testing to get an all clear and he will bring an update at a future meeting. Director Joly thanked Jeff and all those involved for their work during the storm. Julie Blue added that she is working with Chris Kehoe to make sure our insurance compensates the customers whose homes were affected by the flooding.

OPEN TIME

President Joly asked if anyone in the audience wished to bring up an item not on the agenda.

Jeff Corda spoke to the Board, noting that he is the Chairman of the NMWD Employee Association. He said he is grateful the Board has taken into consideration salary increases. He said because the word has gotten out that we pay competitive wages due to these increases we have had many T2 certified applicants. He said in the 18 years he has worked at the District, the management group we currently have is the strongest we have had. He said it is refreshing to have projects getting done and to have everyone working together and more efficiently than ever before. He thanked the Board and management. The Board thanked Mr. Corda.

STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS

President Joly asked if there were any staff or director's reports.

Director Eichstaedt thanked the employees involved for their service and response to the previous Saturday's storm events. He said he was contacted by a neighbor who had contacted Robert Clark about a leak on Balboa in West Marin and Mr. Clark got right back to him. He said the fire department heard about the leak and responded then alerted our on-call employee and that the District crew responded quickly to make repairs.

President Joly said, in reference to the Employee Association, that he feels the voters are happy with the Board.

President Joly inquired about the Admin & Lab Building project and asked if Eric Miller had an idea of when the first Board meeting would be held in the new building. Mr. Miller said he was

hesitant to give a possible date and that he hopes to have a more solid report at the next meeting, on January 21, 2025.

Director Eichstaedt asked if there was any update for the Lynwood Pump Station project. Mr. Miller responded that AT&T has acknowledged the District's inquiry into Site #12 (owned by AT&T), but that they are still processing the inquiry internally and that no official response has been provided. Mr. Miller said that he will report back when he has more definitive information. President Joly mentioned that the District website has the most current project information.

ACTION CALENDAR

APPROVE: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT – NMWD LOCKER ROOM REMODEL

Eric Miller spoke and told the Board that the current locker room located in the Construction and Maintenance building is in a state of disrepair. Over the years it has had many 'fixes' done to try and maintain it. He said instead of continuing to perform 'band-aid' repairs, we have hired an architect who spoke with employees to understand their needs in the locker room. He said the budget placeholder last year was an estimate and that updated costs are nearer to \$250,000. He said that the bids received to remodel the locker room are competitive with each other and represent realistic costs. Director Eichstaedt asked about temporary facilities for the crews and Mr. Miller said there will be enhanced portable bathroom facilities provided during construction. He was asked what the accommodations would be for women should we have any on the crews and Mr. Miller said the doors are lockable to provide privacy. He also noted that we will have a shower and locker room in the new Admin & Lab building that can be used as well. President Joly said he thinks this is money well spent. He also asked if everyone on the crew provided input and Mr. Miller said 10 out of the 12 construction crew members provided feedback.

On the motion of Director Eichstaedt, and seconded by Director Petterle, the Board approved the Construction Contract for the NMWD Locker Room Remodel by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

APPROVE: LAFCO APPLICATION SUBMITTAL – WEST MARIN SERVICE AREA DETACHMENT

Eric Miller said that this action item is a follow-up to the public meeting hosted by LAFCo back in October and that an application submittal to LAFCo is needed to officially process changes to the District's service territories in West Marin and Marshall. He said that one of our surveying consultants, Cinquini and Passarino, is preparing the official metes and bounds description to include in the application submittal, and that the LAFCo Board will consider the territory adjustments at their regularly scheduled meeting in February. If approved by the LAFCo Board, he said that the

State Board of Equalization will likely make it official by the beginning of the next fiscal year. Mr. Miller said there will be no changes to the number of District customers as we do not currently provide any services to parcels in the areas proposed for removal from the District territories.

On the motion of Director Eichstaedt, and seconded by Director Petterle, the Board approved the LAFCo Application Submittal for the West Marin Service Area Detachment by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATION ITEMS

FY 2023/24 END OF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT – WATER QUALITY

Pablo Ramudo summarized the Water Quality FY 2023/24 End of Year Progress Report and gave a presentation which focused on the regulatory changes that have occurred. There was some discussion regarding the lead and copper rule and he explained that several employees, as well six interns, Adrienne Johns, Juan Tres, Ani Ladd, Zoe Ladd, Neida Capetillo, and Will Obata, who were hired for the summer, have worked for many months checking every NMWD service to verify if there is a lead service line connecting the house to the meter. He said there are approximately 300 services left to check. Mr. Ramudo recognized the District Construction Department, Pete Castellucci, Robert Pierce, Brandon Pirinjian, and Jeff Watkins, and noted that many of them worked overtime on weekends to complete the inspections on time. He also recognized Marc Reischmann, Jose Ochoa, and Susan Dove for their assistance in structuring the report. He recognized Rich Roberto who helped the interns locate services, Darrell Bynum for his help in doing most of the Pt. Reyes inspections, and Jenny Pecunia and Haylee DeMartini for their help in organizing the paper records. The Board thanked Mr. Ramudo and his staff as well as all the employees who assisted.

NBWA MEETING – DECEMBER 6, 2024

Director Fraites reported that the December 6, 2024 meeting was held at the Point Blue Conservation Science offices in Petaluma and that Dan Cayan, Research Meteorologist at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, spoke on climate change in the northern region and the changes in the coming decades. He said it isn't good news and that 2023 was the warmest on record due to greenhouse gases. He also noted that precipitation may increase but more sporadically in California. He said, too, that the drying during summer and early fall has intensified.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements - Dated December 6,

and 12, 2024, Monthly Progress Report, Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for October 2024, 2025 WAC/TAC Meeting Schedule, and Marin County Board of Supervisors – Staff Report re Certified Election.

The Board received the following newspaper articles: Marin IJ – Marin storms finally leave, replaced by frigid mornings – COUNTY DRENCHED.

The Board also received the NMWD Web and Social Media Report for November, 2024.

President Joly thanked the District Secretary and Mr. Williams for the holiday luncheon. He also noted that Robert Clark did a good job at the Novato Business Group Breakfast.

ADJOURNMENT

President Joly adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Submitted by



Eileen Mulliner
District Secretary