

**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 15, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

President Joly 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 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, Tim Fuelle, Lia Solar, and Corey Reed were also in the audience.

MINUTES

On the motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Baker, the Board approved the minutes of the June 17, 2025, meeting by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

President Joly thanked Tony Williams and Ryan Grisso for the efforts in entering the Water District into the 4th of July Parade, he said he and his family enjoyed it very much. He also thanked Eric Miller and his wife, Haylee DeMartini and her daughter, Brian Northen, and Danny McDonald for their participation in the parade.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tony Williams gave a brief Potter Valley Update saying that PG&E is on track to submit their decommissioning plan. He also said that there is a good report from Sonoma Water that the application will include the NERF project. He said a new water diversion agreement (WDA) will stipulate how water will go through the facility. The ERPA Board will consider the WDA at their next meeting, then it will go on to get approval from the Sonoma Water board and the other agencies in the group.

Mr. Williams told the Board that Robert Clark's successor, Tim Kennedy, will be starting on August 18. He said that Mr. Kennedy is from Marin Water and comes highly recommended. Mr. Williams noted that he has T5 and D5 water certification and that he lives in Novato.

Lastly, Mr. Williams reminded the Board that there is a closed session at the end of the meeting.

OPEN TIME

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

STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

Eric Miller said that some volunteer work was done in the small median in the Rush Creek Place cul-de-sac by a local Eagle Scout (Corey Reed's son) along with Corey Reed. They removed the dying plants and installed rock scape. Mr. Miller said he will have the scout come to a future meeting.

Director Petterle said he had read the comments in the Customer Service Report and noted that Gina and Travis were called out and that they, as well as staff, are amazing and he noted that he receives calls from customers complimenting how great our staff is. He thanked Gina and Travis.

President Joly said that he, Director Petterle attended a joint "Board to Board" ad-hoc committee meeting along with Tony Williams, and Ben Horenstein, Larry Russell, and Diana Meier of Marin Water (MW) on July 9. He said it was a good meeting where they explored opportunities of sharing resources, and cost savings, specifically water conservation and co-sharing at regional events such as the county fair. He said that MW did ask about the potential of contracting their lab work for water quality with our lab but that we made it very clear that we do not have the capacity to do that at this point in time. The proposed MW pipeline to Nicasio was discussed as well and Mr. Williams noted that the project involves connecting off the North Marin aqueduct, then down San Marin Drive and down Novato Blvd, and that we have offered the use of District land off Novato Blvd for a pump facility and a turnout at Stafford Lake. The estimated cost of the project is \$167M and is approximately 13 miles long. During the meeting Mr. Horenstein said that construction could start in about 18 months and would be completed sometime in 2028. Director Fraites said he doesn't like the project pipeline going through busy streets and asked if they had looked into other routes, Director Petterle agreed. President Joly said that MW has gone to Washington DC for legislative affairs and said perhaps we could be part of that in the future. He also said that MW has a good land surveying team that helped us during the landslide along the aqueduct. MW representatives suggested meetings every 2 months which would put the next meeting in September. President Joly asked the Board their opinion on that. Director Petterle said he liked the idea of cooperation but feels that should be it carefully evaluated. President Joly asked if he was ok with another meeting and Director Petterle said he was. Director Eichstaedt mentioned Nicasio Reservoir and that he has received several calls about this project and its effect out there. He said we should have some sensitivity to that. Directors Fraites and Baker were ok with another ad-hoc meeting with MW as well.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

BASE SALARY SCHEDULE REVISION

A miscalculation was identified in the application of Operators certificate pay in the salary tiers in the updated salary schedule that was approved by the Board at the June 3, 2025 meeting. The Board approved the revised salary schedule effective July 1, 2025.

ACTION CALENDAR

APPROVE: APPEAL OF REPAIR REIMBURSEMENT DENIAL – 14 CAMPOLINDO RD., POINT REYES STATION

Tony Williams gave an overview of the situation. There had been a main break in Highway 1 in Pt. Reyes Station, and during repairs it was necessary for the construction crews to shut off the water to some of the customers on Campolindo Rd. Subsequently, Mrs. Lynn Axelrod Mitchell's pressure pump, the customer at 14 Campolindo Rd., needed repairs due to the water being shut off. Mrs. Mitchell had the repairs done by Nor-Cal PumpWorks in the amount of \$2,001.43 and requested reimbursement from the District. Because this parcel has a Low Pressure Water Agreement, any liability of the District is waived. Mr. Williams said he initially denied the reimbursement request based on the agreement and Regulation 11. He said that since the early 1960's we have had low pressure services. Mr. Williams said that it is clear in the regulations that the customer is responsible on their side. He also said that if a fire service is needed at the house, that to have the correct pressure can be difficult without a pumping system and tank. He mentioned that in our Regulation 11, which has been modified many times, a waiver of District responsibility has always been a part of the regulation. He said that all the homes in this particular subdivision are low pressure services after Director Eichstaedt mentioned Mrs. Mitchell said she was the only one. President Joly asked if we have had issues with other low pressure services and Mr. Williams said we have not. He said many of our pipes are in a local agency's right-of-way, and this one happens to be in a Caltrans right-of-way. He said the homeowner should have had a pump low-pressure shut off valve. He also said we carry insurance but not for these types of situations, anything under \$100,000 is the District's responsibility. Mr. Williams said his reason for denial was to not set a precedent. There was some discussion about the history of the services in the area. Director Eichstaedt thanked Chris Kehoe and the construction crew, and Tony as well. He noted that he spoke with the customer. He was concerned with the amount of water that was lost and

how that can impact many things. He asked how we capture this in GIS and will there be information for future employees. He also noted how aged the pipes are in the area. President Joly asked if the area is vulnerable and Mr. Miller said that we understand the situation and it is common with many agencies across the country regarding aging pipelines. Mr. Williams noted that we have good as-builts but not necessarily a lot of information about how deep pipes are but that we are improving in that area. He said that it is not clear who originally installed the pipes, it could have been the prior private water provider in the area. Mr. Williams said he understands that there could be issues if there is a main break and water is lost. Director Eichstaedt asked how the information goes in the GIS system and Mr. Williams said we put break information into the GIS system and a database. Mr. Williams said that although he denied the claim on principle, he offered to bring the customer's written request to the Board for an appeal. Director Petterle said he would like to put some money towards this; he understands that the District is not obligated to but that this customer is in need. He said he is not adverse to the District paying the customer \$500 to help her. Director Eichstaedt said he agrees but is conflicted. He said he feels we have regulations regarding this but he likes the idea Director Petterle suggested. Director Fraites said he agrees with the position that Mr. Williams took, and Director Baker agreed with that as well. He said we should stick with our policies and regulations. President Joly said he liked Director Petterle's suggestion but understands the other directors' position. Director Petterle said we have had some similar situations regarding leaks and have made some exceptions in the past. He said he would like to motion that we understand that we do have an agreement and have protected ourselves and are not obligated to make a payment but as this is a long time customer he would like the District to contribute \$500. President Joly said the original motion is to deny the request for reimbursement but as a gesture of goodwill we would like to offer a \$500 donation. Director Fraites said we should stick to our rules and regulations and doesn't support the payment, Director Baker agreed. Director Petterle said the motion is to deny the request but to make a \$500 donation. He asked if there is anything else we can do for the other customers with low pressure, and Mr. Williams said we can look into it. President Joly noted that we just approved a rate increase with no complaints from customers, which is why he agreed to the payment. Chris Kehoe said that we should as part of the \$500, encourage the customer to install a pressure switch so the system can accommodate in the future.

On the motion of Director Petterle, and seconded by Director Eichstaedt, the Board approved the Appeal of Repair Reimbursement Denial – 14 Campolindo Rd., Point Reyes Station by the following vote:

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

NOES: Director(s) Baker and Fraites

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

**APPROVE: AUTHORIZE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE FOR NEW WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN MARIN WATER AND SONOMA WATER**

Tony Williams gave an overview of the item. He said that Sonoma Water and Marin Water, who is not one of the eight water contractors, have drafted a new agreement that will take the two existing agreements between them and combine them into one agreement that would expire in 2040. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) leadership as well as Mr. Williams, who is the District's TAC member, have reviewed the draft agreement and have recommended approved to the TAC. President Joly asked about the 75,000 acre feet per year limit on SW's water rights and asked if that is the total that MW can take from the Russian River, and Mr. Williams said it is. President Joly also asked who oversees this and Mr. Williams answered that the State Water Board does. Director Petterle expressed concern that this agreement will not impact our water supply and Mr. Williams said he does not believe it will.

On the motion of Director Fraites, and seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the Authorize Affirmative Vote for New Water Supply Agreement Between Marin Water and Sonoma Water by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

**APPROVE: NOVATO BLVD. CONSTRUCTION PHASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF
NOVATO**

Eric Miller spoke and said an item on this subject was brought to the Board in May and gave an overview. He said we are partnering with the City of Novato for cost savings but the City will be taking the lead and we will pay our part at the end, and that this is in the terms of the agreement. President Joly asked if our rights are protected and Mr. Miller said they are, and that we have the first right of refusal. Director Fraites asked what the duration of the project will be, Mr. Miller said it could be 2 years. He said the City's schedule is to start in the Spring of 2026, but this is not definite. He said the pipeline is about 3/4 miles long and that our 6" waterline will be abandoned in place and a new 24" line will be installed.

On the motion of Director Baker, and seconded by Director Fraites, the Board approved the Novato Blvd. Construction Phase Agreement with the City of Novato by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATION ITEMS

ADMINISTRATION & LABORATORY – OPEN HOUSE

Eileen Mulliner said that the date for the Open House has been set for Friday, September 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. She said it is still in the planning stages with an invite list being put together but there will be the unveiling of the dedication plaque, live demonstrations, and guided tours of the Administration and Laboratory buildings, and the demo gardens. Director Baker asked if there will be refreshments, Ms. Mulliner confirmed there will be. President Joly asked to see the invite list when it is completed and also asked how the information that there will be an Open House will be put out to the community. Ms. Mulliner said aside from invites going out, that the information will be pushed out on our social media and on our website as well.

ADMINISTRATION & LABORATORY BUILDING – DEDICATION PLAQUE

Eric Miller gave a presentation showing the new draft for the wording of the dedication plaque as well as the two options for location. He said the plaque will be brushed stainless steel with black etched wording. Director Eichstaedt asked if we have had Kiosk review the wording for suggestions. Mr. Miller said we have not but that we can send it to them to review. There was a great deal of discussion regarding the wording with no resolution. Mr. Miller will be sending it to Kiosk for their suggestions. The Board discussed location and ultimately decided on the left side of redwood wall in the lobby.

5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Tony Williams said that he would like to schedule a Board workshop meeting which will be informal enough to allow open discussion but still adhering to the Brown Act. He suggested several dates and the date decided on by the Board is July 30, at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Williams said an agenda for the special meeting will be posted.

NBWA MEETING AGENDA, JULY 11, 2025

Director Fraites reported on the July 11 NBWA meeting. He said that the news isn't good for the fish in the San Joaquin Valley rivers. He said that certain fish populations have been reduced to very low levels due to non-native fish being introduced some time ago. He said the Chinook Salmon have disappeared. Director Fraites noted that Director Baker also attended the meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

President Joly inquired about a \$143,882 payment to Marin County Flood Control. Mr. Williams said it was for a study of the Stafford Dam and creek and this was a final payment. He also noted the Board approved this work as part of an amendment of a long standing agreement with the Flood Control District.

The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements – Dated June 19, 26, July 3, and 10, 2025, Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for May 2025, Monthly Progress Report, NOAA Seasonal Drought Outlook – June 30, 2025, Trump Administration Releases Detailed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget – ACWA, Water Supply Roadmap – Sonoma Water, State of the Water Industry 2025 Executive Summary – AWWA.

The Board also received the following articles: Marin IJ – County to buy site for housing – POINT REYES STATION.

The Board also received the NMWD Web and Social Media Report – June, 2025.

Regular Board meeting recessed at 5:50 p.m. before entering closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

President Joly President Joly convened the Board into closed session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss real property negotiations in accordance with California Government Code Section § 54956.8 concerning property associated with APNs 160-274-07 and 160-020-15. In addition to the five Board Directors, Tony Williams General Manager, Eric Miller AGM/Chief Engineer, Criag Judson, District Counsel (via telephone), and Eric Lueder of Associated Right of Way Services, Inc. were present.

OPEN SESSION

Upon returning to regular session at 6:24 p.m., President Joly stated that no reportable action had been taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

President Joly adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Submitted by



Eileen Mulliner
District Secretary