NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President Eichstaedt 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, Director of Administrative Services Julie Blue, and Engineering Administrative Assistant Rebecca Sylvester, serving as District Secretary. AGM/Director of Engineering Eric Miller and Executive Assistant/District Secretary Eileen Mulliner were absent.

Staff members Tim Kennedy, Director of Operations, Chris Kehoe, Director of Utilities, Pablo Ramudo, Director of Water Resources, Karen Clyde, Ryan Grisso, and Vincent Verissimo were also in attendance.

Claire Garvie and Camille Meier of Kiosk were also in attendance.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tony Williams gave a brief update on the Potter Valley Project, saying that the NEPA scoping comment period had closed and the next major step will likely be a draft environmental impact statement which is the federal equivalent to an EIR.

Mr. Wiliams offered a congratulations to Director Eichstaedt on becoming a Region 1 Board Member for the Association of California Water Agencies along with current members David Rabbitt of Sonoma County, Ranjiv Kush of Marin Municipal Water District, Bruce Rupp of Humboldt Bay Water District, Dennis Mayo of McKinleyville Community Services District, Kent Nelson of Stinson Beach Water District, and Peter Martin of the City of Santa Rosa Water Department.

Mr. Williams also gave an update on the two letters that the Board authorized back in March of this year supporting ACWA sponsored legislation: Assembly Bill 2180 and Senate Bill 1153. AB 2180 clarified language about Prop 218 and rate setting that will have a positive impact on the District. SB 1153 set boundaries and limitations on any liabilities on a water district in case of a large wildfire event such as the recent Southern California wildfires. Both legislative bills were signed by Governor Newsom on October 1st, 2026, and staff will be tracking how both bills are implemented.

Director Baker asked if David Rabbitt had any plans locally once he leaves office given how positive he has been. Mr. Williams agreed with Director Baker and said that he believes Mr. Rabbitt is ready to retire from politics and return to his professional trade as an architect but that he will be missed.

Director Joly inquired about a timeframe for when staff will report back to the Board with updates about the Lynwood Pump Station Project. Mr. Williams said that staff can provide an update in closed session in November.

OPEN TIME

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

STAFF AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

President Eichstaedt asked if there were any Staff or Director's reports.

Julie Blue gave an update to the Board that during the October 20th meeting, the District's municipal advisory, NHA Advisors, and bond council, Jones Hall, will go over the next steps of bond issuance for capital financing. Subsequently, there will be an item on the November 17th meeting seeking approval of the financing documents. Ms. Blue also said that following the November 17th meeting, the District is on schedule to go with a competitive bond sale on December 2nd with the goal of obtaining the lowest interest rate and bonds will be issued shortly afterwards. Staff will also be providing updates to the Board as the process moves along.

Director Joly pointed out that the Fed is meeting on December 9th, and he expects the interest rates to be raised.

Director Joly spoke about a conversation he had with some Novato residents about the quality of Novato's tap water and, in many cases, how it is better quality than what you get in bottled water. He commented that, more than likely, most don't realize how good our water is. Director Petterle added that bottled water isn't regulated like foods are. Director Fraites spoke about an article he read discussing the levels of microplastics in bottled water.

Director Fraites informed the Board that this is his last term as a Director of the North Marin Water District and that his last official day will be December 4th, 2026. Director Eichstaedt said Director Fraites will be missed, seconded by the other Directors.

Director Eichstaedt shared how special it is for him to be on the Region 1 Board of ACWA and that he looks forward to his time serving with the other board members of Region 1. There were no other Directors reports.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On the motion of Director Joly, seconded by Director Baker, 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

Approve September 15, 2026, Board Regular Meeting minutes

Approve Text for Fall 2026 Novato “Waterline”, Issue 57

Approve Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Proposed Bylaws Amendments.

ACTION CALENDAR

APPROVE: 2026-2030 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AND PLAN

Ryan Grisso gave an overview of the item including a background of the 2019 Communications Plan and how it was used to build the proposed plan. He also mentioned the draft Rapid Response to Misinformation procedure was included as an attachment to the memo.

Claire Garvie of Kiosk presented the 2026-2030 Communications Strategy and Plan and highlighted how this current plan builds off the foundation of the earlier plan and focuses on progress over the next 5 years along with alignment with goal four of the District’s 2025 Strategic Plan.

Directors Joly, Eichstaedt, Fraites, and Petterle had some questions and comments regarding customer feedback surveys, where customers can find information, Spanish translation, water awareness, and customer education which were addressed by Ms. Garvie, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Grisso.

Ms. Garvie reviewed that this plan is already included in the current approved budget and that external support is estimated at $90,000 annually. The Board was shown current social media short form videos as a part of the Educational Campaign on water awareness. Mr. Grisso shared that staff intends to provide the Board with updates on the progress of the Communications Plan at least twice per year.

The Board thanked Kiosk and Director Petterle noted their substantial impact on its success with communication and customer education

On the motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the 2026-2030 Communications Strategy and Plan by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

APPROVE: BASE SALARY SCHEDULE REVISION

Tony Williams gave a summary of the item, noting that with the creation of the Water Resources Department the Water Quality Supervisor is replaced with a Laboratory Supervisor position. This is a new position within the salary schedule which requires the Board to approve the salary. Mr. Williams stated that the Lab Supervisor’s position does not affect the number of FTEs since this will be replacing the current position on the salary schedule.

Directors Joly and Eichstaedt asked staff about the total number of full-time staff, the impact of staff salaries on the District's annual expenses, the recruitment of Laboratory Supervisor and average tenure of staff, and staff provided responses.

On the motion of Director Joly, seconded by Director Fraites, the Board approved the Base Salary Schedule Revision by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATION ITEMS

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING AGENDA

Tony Williams spoke on the TAC meeting and highlighted agenda items three, water supply conditions and six temporary urgency change orders. Mr. Williams provided an overview of the current water supply conditions at Lakes Mendocino and Sonoma.

There was a discussion about another item on the TAC Agenda related to El Nino preparations and what steps the District is taking and Mr. Williams noted that staff have been evaluating facilities and taking steps to prepare for the winter.

Mr. Williams went on to speak about agenda item six of the TAC meeting about the Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) Board's intent to kick off their CEQA process for the New Eel Russian Facilities (NERF). He noted that Sonoma Water will formally respond to the Department of the Interior's letter that was included in the meeting agenda due to mischaracterizations.

NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (NBWA) MEETING AGENDA

Director Fraites recapped the NBWA meeting that was held the previous week on October 2nd. During the meeting, Nuin-Tara Key, Chief Operating Officer, California Forward, spoke on the organization's funding efforts to address climate change and coordinating water resources. During the presentation, members of the association learned that there isn't dedicated state funding for these efforts. Director Fraites encouraged those in attendance to read more about California Forward and the work they do.

NEWS AND MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements – Dated September 17 and 24, 2026, October 1, 2026; Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for August 2026; NOAA Seasonal Precipitation Outlook, October-December 2026; Supplemental Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report for The Atmospheric River Capture Project, September 18, 2026; and Potter Valley and New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF) Scoping Comments of the United States Department of the Interior — Proposed Surrender, Decommissioning, and Non-Project Use

of Project Lands .

The Board received the following News Articles: Marin IJ – Water district plans for rate hike; and Marin IJ – Readers' Forum: Brian Jaffe is the right choice for Larkspur City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

President Eichstaedt adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Submitted by

Rebecca Sylvester
Engineering Administrative Assistant