**NORTH BAY WATER DISTRICT**

**22950 BROADWAY, SONOMA, CA  95476**

Board of Directors

Mike Mulas, President, and Chair (Sonoma Valley); Craig Jacobsen, Vice-President (Petaluma Valley); Carolyn Wasem, Secretary (Petaluma Valley); Matthew Stornetta, Treasurer (Sonoma Valley); and Mike Sangiacomo (Sonoma Valley). Craig Jacobsen (Petaluma Valley) was not in attendance.

PVGSA Advisor: Eugene Camozzi SVGSA Advisor:  Jim Bundschu

SGMA Compliance Advisor: Mike Martini

Technical Advisor: GinaLisa Tamayo

Legal Counsel: Richard Idell

Date: May 9, 2023

Time:  4: 00 pm

Location:   22950 Broadway, Schell-Vista Station #1 Sonoma, Ca

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chair Mike Mulas called the meeting to order at 4 :03 pm.Chair Mulas and Directors Carolyn Wasem, and Craig Jacobsen were present.

Advisors Richard Idell, Mike Martini, Jim Bundschu, and GinaLisa Tamayo were also present.

1. **CLOSED SESSION**

(Prior to holding any closed session, the Board of Directors shall disclose, in an open meeting, the item or items to be discussed in closed session.)

There were no closed session items.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no public comments.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Director Jacobsen made a motion to approve the March Minutes, Director Wasem made a second. The April 2023 Minutes were unanimously approved.

1. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Chair Mulas reported that NBWD has $53,206.95 in the bank. He further noted that there was one outstanding invoice.

Director Wasem made a motion to approve the financial report. Director Jacobsen seconded the motion. The Financial Report was unanimously approved.

Advisor Mike Martini discussed the Safe Harbor and the success of the Farm Bureau presentation of the terms and benefits of enrolling in the program. He estimated that over two dozen individuals were in attendance. The response from the meeting was that there would be 15 to 20 enrollees coming in the door shortly to participate in the program. Director Wasem indicated that Jackson Family Wines would be enrolling 16 properties shortly as well.

1. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Item 1. Report by Counselor Idell

Counselor Idell shared that he had nothing of significance to report. In terms of questions related to the California tiger Salamander Safe Harbor Agreement, he noted that Chair Mulas, as Chair of the NBWD Board of Directors will be the appropriate individual to sign the certificate of inclusions as they are processed by the Farm Bureau.

Item 2. Report of Director Sangiacomo

Director Sangiacomo was not present.

**Item 3: Report of Director Carolyn Wasem**

Director Wasem shared that there was little to report as the last meeting of the Petaluma Valley GSA was held in March 2023.

As discussed earlier the well ordinance presentation took up a substantial block of time. While mentioned last month, the Petaluma Valley GSA was awarded nearly $7 million dollars in a grant from the State of California for its sustainability efforts. The major components of the grant funding include the following:

1. Grant Administration
2. Aquifer System Characterization and Beneficial User Impact Assessments
3. Planning for Demand Management Programs
4. Project Planning
5. Urban Recycled Water Use Expansion

It is important to note that while the Santa Rosa Plain GSA and the Petaluma Valley GSA received funding from the grant, Sonoma Valley GSA did not receive funds. The applicants for the fund are appealing the decision not to fund SVGSA.

Finally, it is important that everyone is aware of the Governor’s Executive Order that is meant to streamline permitting processes for groundwater recharge projects. Most pertinent to agriculture, and its efforts to recharge groundwater, elements included in the Order:

1. Diversion offlood flows for purposes of recharge will occur between March 10th and June 1st.
2. Diversions will cease when flood risks have abated.

**Item 4. Report by Advisor Jim Bundschu**

Advisor Bundschu shared that there was nothing to report as the last meeting of the last Advisory Committee meeting was held on February 14th. The next Advisory Meeting will be held on May 16th.

As reported a month ago, the February meeting was taken up with discussions re: precipitation and water supply assessments for the last 40 years. Sonoma Water also provided an update on the implementation of the GSA plan.

An issue I have been hearing about related to the GSA is that people are getting their bills associated with the Groundwater Users Registration Program, many users feel that the assessment of their water use is not accurate. They are responding and getting them reduced. Longer term, I believe that they are going to find that they vastly over-estimated agriculture water use. I do not know how that will be resolved in terms of a reliable source for funding the GSA programs.

Regarding the fees, we were told that the GSA would send out corrections as they receive input and confirmation.

Advisor Bundschu discussed the role of Permit Sonoma has in the GSA plan implementation process. Permit Sonoma is very engaged on the land use side. The GSA has undertaken a number of projects including monitoring streams and well. They are spending substantial amounts of money. Permit Sonoma will be doing, or requiring similar work associated with building permits.

Advisor Martini responded that Permit Sonoma, given their role as lead in the CEQA process for projects, are required to undertake such efforts. As an example: wells next to streams may impact public trust, and in many cases the data to support issuance/denial of a permit does not exist, so Permit Sonoma will have to take on the work themselves or have the project proponent hire outside experts to inform the process.

Advisor Martini continued the discussion re: public trust areas. As part of the well ordinance process, there was an understanding that there were many data gaps. So, using the expertise of a handful of experts, public trust areas were identified, based upon models. The models were based upon intersectional areas where recharge rate vs. groundwater extraction could impact flows needed for fishery resources. That is how the setbacks were determined.

For existing wells and replacement at similar extraction rates those permits will be ministerial and therefore involvement from Permit Sonoma will be minimal. Those project proponents – existing well and outside of public trust areas may have to conduct conservation actions, but mandates will be minimal. The reporting of water use will be provided by the individual pumper.

**Item 5. Report by Advisor Eugene Camozzi**

Advisory Camozzi was not present.

**Item 6. Report by Advisor Mike Martini**

Advisor Martini shared that he wanted to report on two items:

Adoption of well ordinance occurred in March. All the contentious issues related to groundwater pumping were raised at the first meeting. The second reading of the well ordinance went on for 45 minutes…there were at least 20 people (nearly all from the environmental community) present expressing concerns about adoption of the ordinance as they viewed it as flawed.

In terms of the actual vote, Supervisors Coursey and Gorin voted against adopting the Ordinance. Both viewed the draft Ordinance as maintaining the status quo. Both were pushing for metering of all wells. However, the other three Supervisors were not interested in taking that action.

A piece of good news re: the Ordinance is that Dry Creek and Alexander Valley floors are exempt. That is due in large part to the fact that most of the wells on those valley floors are regulated by the California Department of Water Rights.

The second item Advisor Martini reported on: the Winery Events Ordinance. Our voices were heard as the wine community was engaged in the adoption and showed up in force. The most important outcome of the Winery Ordinance process was that three of the Supervisors were vociferous in their support of protecting wine business activities. From the majority of Supervisor’s perspective, the County had sufficient regulatory authority as the permit was issued. Capacity of the permitted winery should be the driver for allowed activities.

Finally, the Alexander Valley (Russian River Property Owners Association) is still working on moving a water district forward. There are a number of issues that need addressing, including implementation of the Voluntary Water Sharing Agreement, access to water as the Potter Valley Project decisions are made and of course maintenance of the Russian River through Alexander Valley.

Discussions continue re: contracting with NBWD to gain immediate standing. Will provide more on that as decisions are made.

**Item 7. Report by GinaLisa Tamayo**

Advisor Tamayo discussed the best approach for securing Chair Mulas’s signature on the Safe Harbor Agreements. Docusign would be the most efficient, if NBWD has that available.

Advisor Tamayo will follow up with the Farm Bureau as to their access to Docusign and the potential for its use. Once that is determined Advisor Tamayo will work with Chair Mulas to streamline the process.

**Item 8. Adjournment**

Seeing no additional business, Chair Mulas asked for a motion to adjourn. Director Wasem made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Jacobsen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

The next meeting is June 13th….at 4:00 pm.