

NORTH BAY WATER DISTRICT
22950 Broadway, Sonoma, CA. 95476

Board of Directors

Mike Mulas, Chair (Sonoma Valley); Craig Jacobsen, Vice Chair (Sonoma Valley); Matthew Stornetta, Treasurer (Sonoma Valley); Carolyn Wasem, Secretary (Petaluma Valley); Mike Sangiacomo (Sonoma Valley)

SGMA Compliance Advisor: Mike Martini

Compliance/Website Advisor: GinaLisa Tamayo

SVGSA Advisor: Jim Bundschu, PVGSA Advisor: Eugene Camozzi

MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 11, 2025

TIME: 4:00pm

Location: 22950 Broadway, Schell-Vista Station #1 Sonoma CA 95476
and 2531 Grace Drive, Santa Rosa, Ca 95404

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. Chair Mike Mulas, Mike Sangiacomo, Carolyn Wasem, Craig Jacobs, Matt Stornetta, were present.

2. CLOSED SESSION

No closed session

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

(At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. For items appearing on the agenda, the public will be invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for consideration by the Board of Directors) No members of the public were present.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chair Mulas asked for approval of the Minutes for the previous meeting. Director Mike Sangiacomo made a motion to approve the Minutes. Director Matt Stornetta seconded the motion. The February 2025 Minutes were unanimously approved.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Chair Mulas reported that the NBWD account has \$20,994.31. Chair Mulas asked for approval of the Financial Report. Director Carolyn Wasem made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. The February 2025 Financial Report was unanimously approved.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Item 1. Update from District Lawyer, Richard Idell

Counselor Richard Idell reminded all the Directors re: filing Form 700.

Chair Mulas shared that he had tried to fill out the Form 700 but was unable to submit. I was told two years ago to annually fill out the Form 700 and keep here at the Water District Meeting offices. A notification would be sent if information is required.

Counselor Idell informed the Directors that he had talked with the County offices and was informed that they do not have NBWD in their system. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are state entities, and the filings have to be linked to an organization. Director Wasem said that Suzi Chang will follow up Mr. Mulas, re: the process.

Item 2: Report of Director Mike Sangiacomo on Sonoma Valley GSA

The Sonoma Valley GSA is meeting on Monday, March 24th. I will have a full report next month.

Item 3: Report of Director Carolyn Wasem on Petaluma Valley GSA

The Petaluma Valley GSA is meeting Thursday, March 27th. I will have a full report next month.

Item 4: Report of Advisor Jim Bundschu

Advisor Bundschu informed the Board that the last meeting of the Sonoma Valley GSA Advisory Board was held on Feb 18. Staff provided an update on progress in achieving GSA Plan implementation. One of the questions that I had for staff and other Advisory Committee members: Who is paying for the plan as it benefits the environment? That is something that the general public should be paying for, but the expense is going to be paid for the most part by the agriculture community.

The Advisory Committee listened to the 2024 Water Report provided by staff. The 2024 water year was considered an average water year. To understand groundwater conditions, data from 75 wells within the basin were considered. Groundwater levels remained fairly constant with the exception of two areas of the deep-water system within the basin. To detect seawater intrusion the GSA collects data for 19 wells (voluntary) and three dedicated monitoring wells. With this data the staff will develop a seawater intrusion management plan.

A working group will meet in March and May – and meet three times in the later part of last year. CDFW, Environmental Defense, Laguna de Santa Rosa, the City of Petaluma, Permit Sonoma, the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Nature Conservancy, NOAA Fisheries, Sonoma Resource Conservation District, and the Ecology Center were party to the review of the surface water/groundwater results. The goal of the plan is to protect fish and plant species that could be impacted by depletion in surface and/or groundwater. The ultimate goal that all parties are promoting: do not over pump

groundwater to deplete surface water. There will be a meeting in April, and they have people that will voluntarily monitor.

For the entire basin, use of groundwater (6,500 af) exceeded what was considered sustainable (5,400 af). Staff presented an update on interconnected surface and groundwater system status. Next steps in developing a plan include:

- Refine sustainable interconnected surface/groundwater system criteria to:
 1. Protect beneficial users
 2. Support policies to preserve ecosystems and water resources
 3. Implement actions to protect interconnected surface and groundwater systems

Next steps for managing groundwater and interconnected surface water:

- a. Additional monitoring wells and stream gauges
- b. Additional seepage monitoring
- c. Field verification of data
- d. Evaluating tracers – such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, temperatures and conditions

Discussions were held with Bill Keene, the GSA Administrator with topics including:

1. Differences between GSA basins across California (cost and plans)
2. Mechanisms to claw back recycled water from Napa
3. Stormwater – what are the plans for expansion?
4. Permit Sonoma and how it interacts with the GSA and specifically well permitting
5. GSA budget related to groundwater pumping costs – a water budget and the expense of pursuing surface water has not been addressed since last year.
6. Groundwater user information – GSA staff have already supported efforts and sought input from people within the basin to sign up to monitor their wells. 82% of respondents said they used groundwater.

In terms of the GSA budget, a quite a bit of our 2024 budget goes to interconnected surface/ground water ecosystems. In 2022 the GSA drilled four wells – three were drilled near creeks. That is where much of the GSA budget is going.

Director Sangiacomo shared that we need to address groundwater depletion. The GSAs require developing an understanding between groundwater depletion surface water depletion.

Advisor Bundschu closed his comments by restating that fish are a part of our society. That means that the cost of this process should be born by all in society.

Item 5: Report of Eugene Camozzi

We had the same meeting discussing the same topics as Advisor Bundschu just referenced. The Petaluma Valley Advisory Committee has two new members Rob Izzo

(Petaluma) and Jordan Mahrt, representing the agricultural community. For 2024, the Petaluma groundwater basin saw above normal for rainfall. The average is 23.5 inches. The Advisory Committee talked about the basin and its constant level. The basin is almost back to normal. The GSA has collected data from 8 smart flow meters. However, three of the eight are not in the basin, but in the larger watershed. Staff reported who was pumping the most water: totaling 2,700 af of water during 2024. The pumping reached 2,900 af during the drought. After two years of avge./above avge. rainfall we have refilled the basin. If you can bring a basin back in two years, we should rely on recharge. Rural residential uses approx. 600 ac ft. We need a baseline so that we can remain in equilibrium. Staff and the Committee, believe that we need to establish a baseline for a normal year.

In terms of budget: the city of Petaluma is only paying \$81,000 into the GSA effort. Supervisor David Rabbitt would like to take the tree basins and make them one to get the money down for administration of the efforts.

Director Sangiacomo said that there is not a meaningful cost savings associated with consolidation of the three GSAs. In the Ad Hoc Committee meeting, members talked about ways to pay long-term for implementing the GSA plans. The county's subsidy is going away at some point. Water users in the Petaluma Valley GSA basin is paying seven (7) times more than Santa Rosa. When you have someone paying 7 times more than others for water – the question is how to equalize that.

Advisor Camozzi commented that everyone always want to pin the declining groundwater tables on agriculture. The staff is reporting that groundwater users (specifically farmers) are pumping from deep water wells and via rainfall, recharging the surface wells. A deep well is considered 500 feet deep with 200 feet deep and above considered a shallow well. The shallow aquifers have recovered and all, but two deep aquifers are recovering.

Director Stornetta asked at what stage are the GSAs in establishing the long-term fees? The budget to support the GSA is derived by number of acres drawing from groundwater. Does Sonoma have a fee assigned?

Director Sangiacomo responded that the Sonoma Valley basin fee is \$140 - \$145 an acre foot of water used.

A suggestion was made that Janet Pauli should be asked to report on the Potter Valley Project at the NBWD next meeting scheduled for the 8th of April. It would benefit the NBWD Board to understand what the loss of Lake Pillsbury and a new diversion will mean for water users downstream of Lake Mendocino.

Item 6: Report of Compliance Advisor Mike Martini

Advisor Mike Martini was not present.

Item 7: Report of GinaLisa Tamayo, Technical Advisor

Advisor Tamayo informed the Directors that she had nothing to report.

Item 7: ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Director Jacobsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Stornetta seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8th.

Board meeting documents are available to review prior to the meeting at the Shell-Vista Station, 22950 Broadway, Sonoma California. Please call or contact Carolyn Wasem for an appointment to obtain a copy.