**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).

PVGSA Advisor: Eugene Camozzi SVGSA Advisor:  Jim Bundschu

SGMA Compliance Advisor: Mike Martini

Technical Advisor: GinaLisa Tamayo

Legal Counsel: Richard Idell

Date: December 12, 2023

Time:  4:00 pm Location:   22950 Broadway, Schell-Vista Station #1 Sonoma, Ca

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

Acting Chair Craig Jacobsen called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.Directors Matt Stornetta and Mike Sangiacomo and Carolyn Wasem (via zoom) were present. Legal Counsel Richard Idell, Advisor Jim Bundschu, Advisor Eugene Camozzi, Advisor Mike Martini (via zoom) and Advisor GinaLisa Tamayo (via zoom) were present.

1. **CLOSED SESSION**

There were no closed session items.

1. **PUBLIC COMMMENT PERIOD**

There were no public comments.

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

Acting Chair Jacobsen asked for approval of the minutes for the previous meeting. Director Stornetta made a motion to approve the November 2023 Minutes. Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. The November 2023 Minutes were unanimously approved.

1. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

As Chair Mulas was not present, Director Sangiacomo reported that NBWD has $48,256.01 in the bank, with one deposit in que for participation in the CTS Safe Harbor. Director Stornetta made a motion to approve the December Financials. Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. The December 2023 Financials were unanimously approved.

1. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Item 1. Report by Counselor Richard Idell**

Counselor Idell reported that his major discussion point is related to the election of NBWD officers. After reaching out to several firms with the expertise and experience to conduct elections, NBWD received an estimate for conducting the election that totaled $3,500.

Acting Chair Jacobsen asked if the Board could pick a date for the election? He further asked if the election had ever gone through the ballot process?

Counselor Idell encouraged the Board to select a date for the election. The Board can make a decision at a later meeting. And, in terms of historic elections, Counselor Idell was unaware of board selection via ballot.

Advisor Martini suggested that we get the election over with sooner rather than later. Counselor Idell responded that he would follow up with Phil Williams regarding required timelines.

**Item 2: Report of Director Mike Sangiacomo**

Director Sangiacomo informed the Board that the Sonoma Valley GSA had met on October 30th. The next GSA Board meeting will be held on January 29th.

However, the Director wanted to highlight to other board members Supervisor Susan Gorin’s *Close to* *Home* article.

The main point of the article is that the Sonoma Valley GSA is developing a monitoring of groundwater program to understand seawater intrusion issues as part of its groundwater sustainability plan. One of the critical aspects for successful monitoring is a network of wells and sites for installing those wells. The level of success will rely partially upon the landowner community and their participation in monitoring.

She also referenced a program that the Valley of the Moon Water District is developing for storing potable, drinking water underground.

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

Director Wasem informed the board that the last Petaluma Valley GSA (PVGSA) meeting was held on October 26th . The next GSA Board meeting will be held on January 25th.

However, based on the desire of the GSA Board to move forward with on farm recharge projects, Director Wasem will be putting together a “permit” flow chart to inform project proponents as to what agencies will be required for participation in a programmatic on farm recharge program**.**

**Item 4: Report of Advisor Jim Bundschu**

Advisor Bundschu reported that the last meeting of the Advisory Committee was held on September 19th. The next meeting will be held on February 20th.

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

Advisor Camozzi shared that the last advisory committee was held on September 20th. The next meeting will be held on February 28th.

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

Advisor Martini discussed expansion of the NBWD. The Advisor suggested that annexation will drive expansion of the district. The rules for expansion include the option for a landowner to join the district ,as long as the landowner’s property is within 2 miles of the next nearest landowner within the existing footprint of the district.

To expand the district through annexation, the board would want to get as many interested parties as possible at one time. Once the district makes its way up to the Santa Rosa Plain, it would not be difficult to expand into Alexander Valley and northern Sonoma County. If this board wants to be more engaged and be the voice for agriculture this is one process to achieve that. The next steps for the board, per Advisor Martini’s recommendations, include:

1. Move forward with the election of the new NBWD Board as soon as possible.
2. Identify a funding mechanism and an assessment that will be palatable to the existing landowners within the district.
3. per acre
4. per parcel
5. per irrigated acre
6. Secure approval for the assessment
7. Solicit willing landowner to join the district

Advisor Martini added that he had met with Mike Mulas, Mike Sangiacomo, Peter Kiel and Richard Idell to test the interest in this approach. There was interest. But none of this will be easy, it will still be a difficult LAFCO process.

Advisor Martini discussed the path that the San Antonio Water District (SAWD), that was formed in Santa Barbara County, for the express purpose of complying with the Groundwater Sustainability Act and represents agriculture interest only took to achieving district status.

Advisor Martini cautioned that it is important to note that these individuals, big landowners with row crops as well as grapes, spent a great deal of money to create a functioning district. The SAWD created a non-profit, called Friends of the San Antonio Basin. The SAWD then funded a non-profit to hire the right people to accomplish district formation. Not only was the formation of the SAWD expensive; the ongoing administration and implementation of the needs to comply with the GSA legislation are expensive.

Advisor GinaLisa pointed out that the local Sonoma County agriculture community has not taken this approach thus far. And there may be some hesitation given the cost of that effort.

Advisor Martini added that he believes that the Russian River Property Owners (RRPOA) (charged with creating a water district for agricultural interests in Alexander Valley) want to slow down the effort of district formation. That is why this agreement between the RRPOA and the NBWD is important. Given the timeline for decisions related to Potter Valley and future diversions from that project are being made now. A seat at the Potter Valley table is important to all of Sonoma County agriculture.

Director Sangiacomo posed the question: Could an existing water district be on that decision making body if water generated from the Potter Valley project were distributed by the existing district? Say for an example the Valley of the Moon. Because it is in Sonoma Valley and the Valley of the Moon delivers water within that footprint, is that enough of a nexus? To take that one step further, water available through the Potter Valley project may be part of the water budget for the NBWD. It might be worth the board’s time to get an answer to that question and understand/establish a nexus.

Counselor Idell responded that NBWD would have to be careful and thoughtful as any actions considered interference with the Valley of the Moon would not be well received.

Circling back to the San Antonio basin effort, Advisor Martini reported that the process for formation of that district was painful. But was made less painful due to the fact that most properties within that district are very large.

Advisor Tamayo suggested that if this was a conversation we wanted to pursue, the board should ask the Wallis Group details for district expansion.

Counselor Idell concluded the conversation by informing the board that he would have a conversation with Peter Kiel re: connection for NBWD to participate in the Potter Valley discussions and report back.

**Item 7: Report of Technical Advisor Tamayo**

Advisor Tamayo reported that the NBWD received a comment from a citizen re: cost for irrigated acreage fees associated with participation in the district and asking when they should expect a bill.

In response, Advisor Tamayo shared that the NBWD would have to go through an election process prior to any assessment for NBWD.

Advisor Tamayo reported that she will be collecting reporting information for the year-end report for California tiger salamander (CTS) Safe Harbor agreement with the USFWS.

Finally, Advisor Tamayo reported that she had never received anything addressed to the district re: LAFCO and challenges with implementing the Safe Harbor agreement.

A note was made that John Bishop from the Sonoma County Agriculture Commissioner’s office was present, via zoom, for part of the meeting.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to discuss, Director Stornetta made a motion to adjourn at 4:48 pm. Director Sangiacomo seconded.

The next meeting will be held January 9th, 2024, at the Shell-Vista Fire Station.

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