**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

Legal Counsel: Richard Idell

Date: October 11, 2022

Time:  6:00 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 5:59pm.Directors Sangiacomo and Wasem were 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 Wasem made a motion to approve the August 2022 Meeting Minutes. Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

1. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Chair Mulas reported that NBWD has $59,006.77. We have completed all audits through 2021 and are starting the 2022 audit.

Director Wasem made a motion to approve the Financials. Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. The Financials were unanimously approved.

1. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Item 1: Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 22-1 to Appoint a District Treasurer**

Chair Mulas shared that NBWD received a letter from the County of Sonoma asking for intent to execute on one of two options: 1) utilize services of the Sonoma County Treasurer, or; 2) appoint a District Treasurer and post an appropriate bond.

Director Wasem made the motion to appoint Matt Stornetta as the District Treasurer and Further to adopt Resolution 22-1 which memorializes that appointment. Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. Chair Mulas called role.

Chair Mulas: Aye

Director Sangiacomo: Aye

Director Wasem: Aye

Directors Stornetta and Jacobsen were absent.

**Item 2: Report of Counselor Richard Idell**

Counselor Idell had nothing to report.

**Item 3: Report of Director Mike Sangiacomo on Sonoma Valley GSA**

Director Sangiacomo shared that he did not have a lot to report. The Director briefly discussed a pre-meeting with Bill Keene (Administrator of the Sonoma Valley GSA, and Supervisor Gorin to discuss consolidation of all three GSA.

Additionally, Advisor Bundschu and he have been discussing how the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Permit Sonoma will interact.

**Item 4: Report of Director Carolyn Wasem on Petaluma Valley GSA**

In terms of outcomes from GSA meetings, there is nothing to report. Director Wasem did however have a follow-up meeting with the Petaluma Valley GSA Administrator, Sandi Potter. The Director shared NBWD, and the agriculture community’s interests in pushing back, to the extent practical, implementation of costly elements within the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). As all are aware, the Petaluma Valley sub-basin is in a state of equilibrium.

Director Wasem suggested that we (agriculture interests, collectively) commence a robust monitoring of groundwater levels and groundwater quality, interaction between surface water and ground water and salt intrusion, where appropriate. She also suggested that we utilize the Farm Plan created by the Farm Bureau and SAVE to encourage and document conservation and water management.

Ms. Potter was interested in this idea and wants to consider how to potentially move the current discussion of implementation of the proposed GSP to a two-tiered approach: 1) monitoring and conservation, and 2) implementation of the more costly programs if the first tier does not achieve the mandates of the legislation.

Director Wasem will continue to work with Administrator Potter and others to promote that approach.

One other item Director Wasem discussed related to the GSA: is how it will dovetail with the Sonoma County’s Well Ordinance. At the hearing for adoption of the draft Well Ordinance last week (October 4th) a discussion ensued between the Board of Supervisors and staff regarding the process for gaining concurrence from the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) as to the issuance of a well permit and its potential impacts on groundwater and/or the elements of their GSPs.

Supervisor Rabbitt suggested that the process as too convoluted, as Permit Sonoma would treat the GSA as an outside consulting agency, whose determination would be required prior to issuance of the well permit. Not only does that add to the timeline for approval of a permit, but the GSA’s do not have the information necessary to make such a determination. That is one thing that the GSA Boards have learned, there is not enough information to know how the groundwater basins are performing. Advisor Martini will discuss the well ordinance in more detail.

The next meeting of the Petaluma Valley GSA will be held on October 27th.

**Item 5: Report by Advisor Jim Bundschu**

Advisor Bundschu was not present.

**Item 6: Report of Advisor Eugene Camozzi**

Advisor Camozzi was not present.

**Item 7: Report of Compliance Advisor Mike Martini**

Advisor Martini wanted to focus his comments on the well ordinance. He attended the Board meeting re: the Sonoma County well ordinance on October 4h. The challenges associated with the draft Ordinance:

Existing information is not sufficient to adopt a comprehensive public trust well regulation covering all navigable waters within the County. The current draft lacks clear, implementable standards and will result in significant delays and costs for applications and County because any person can appeal, and the County must comply with CEQA.

A science-based program needs to be developed that: (a) identifies public trust resources, (b) assesses potential impacts to public trust resources from groundwater well permits, and (c) and establishes criteria to ensure that well permits do not cause or exacerbate a substantial adverse impact on public trust resources of navigable waters.

In its current form the well program is unduly burdensome for applicants, the ordinance should: (a) retain ministerial permitting approvals for wells meeting objective public trust impact criteria and mitigation and avoidance measures to be developed through the ordinance program; and (b) provide a discretionary permitting option for wells not meeting objective criteria or that decline or are ineligible for mitigation and avoidance measures.

Limits on available information require a tiered or phased approach to program development.

Ultimately, there were too many concerns around adoption of the ordinance as presented by staff. In an effort to stave off litigation, the Board adopted a moratorium, for the next six months, while a new ordinance was developed. To promote a collaborative product the Board will put together a working group. The goal is to have to the Board a new ordinance by early March.

The proposed working group for development of that ordinance/timeline/issues includes:

1. Suggested Membership
   1. Sonoma County Farm Bureau
   2. Sonoma Alliance for Vineyards & Environment
   3. Russian River Property Owners
   4. Consulting Hydrogeologist\* (Matt O’Connor)
   5. Consulting Hydrogeologist\*
   6. Groundwater Sustainability Representative (Sandi Potter)
   7. North Bay Water District
   8. Sonoma Water
   9. North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Matt St John/Climate Specialist)
   10. National Marine Fisheries Service (Dan Wilson)
   11. California Department of Fish &Wildlife (Jessie Maxfield)
   12. Russian River Keepers
   13. The Nature Conservancy
   14. Trout Unlimited
   15. Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)
   16. Well Company Representative
   17. Permit Sonoma Staff
2. Suggested Schedule
   1. October 18th – Appointment by the Board of Supervisors
   2. Meetings Via Zoom 4 PM to 5:30 PM
   3. Regular Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursday
      1. October 20, 2022
      2. November 3, 2022
      3. November 17, 2022
      4. December 1, 2022
      5. December 15, 2022
      6. January 5, 2023
      7. January 19, 2023
      8. February 2, 2023
   4. First Report to Board of Supervisors 2/7/22

Advisor Martini shared that as this effort fully develops, he will report to the NBWD Board.

**Item 7. Report by GinaLisa Tamayo Communications Development**

Communications expert GinaLisa Tamayo was not present.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to discuss, Director Sangiacomo made a motion to adjourn. Director Wasem seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:36

The Next scheduled meeting is November 8th at 6:00 pm. Again, those who wish to attend in person will be able to do so. There will be a zoom option for those that cannot make the meeting in person.

*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.*