**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: July 11, 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 4:10 pm.Chair Mike Mulas and Directors Carolyn Wasem, and Mike Sangiacomo were present.

Advisors Richard Idell and Mike Martini 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 Sangiacomo made a motion to approve the June Minutes, Director Wasem made a second. The July 2023 Minutes were unanimously approved.

1. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Chair Mulas reported that NBWD has $ 50,865.61 in the bank. A check of $600 was sent to Streamline for web services and is outstanding. We also paid LAFCO a check for $34. Finally, we received our audit for 2021/2022. Audit is available for review. The Audit is very clean.

Director Wasem and Mike Sangicomo seconded. The 2023 Financials were unanimously approved.

1. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Item 1. Report by Counselor Idell**

Two things on the agenda:

I received approval of languge for FWS - so I will forward modified language to the FB.

Second Item: We need to prepare for the election. All has to be in order. Idell recalled that $10,000 was a ballpark for the election.

Advisor Martini said the Registrar of voters would not put district elections on their general election ballots but will reach out to Deva Marie Proto to confirm the process. Director Sangiacomo thought district elections are allowed. Chair Mulas said he assumed all five directors have to run this time. Counselor Idell said that he would check who needs to be on the ballot.

Director Sangiacomo asked whether the cost would be $10K and advisor Martini believed that to be the case. Counselor Idell noted that voting is done by parcel valuation – and conducted via mail.

Chair Mulas thinks this is why we can not be part of the county election process. Martini said that he would share the name of the companies to consider for election. Counselor Idell said County election officials shall conduct an election for landowner assessments if asked by a District. The election may be conducted by an all-mail ballot. And the election cannot be held on the same day as the general election.

Director Sangiacomo asked if the bylaws state when the elections will take place. Counselor

Idell said we amended to say that elections would be held in even years. My timeline has it being held in June.

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

Director Sangiacomo said that the last PVGSA meeting was held on June 26. The Administrator for the SVGSA shared that the projected FY 22/23 revenues and expenditures for the GSA at $697,000. The budget anticipates fee revenues at $497,000 and grant funding at $200,000. To date, the GSA has received $34,233 through the manual billing process.

Permit Sonoma has been under contract with the GSA to improve groundwater estimates and develop a data exchange (Guide) program. The Board was asked to approve a $19,200 +/- expenditure to maintain the program.

The Advisory Committee met on May 16th to discuss four main topics:

1. Updated basin conditions from Spring 2023 monitoring
2. Voluntary monitoring program planning
3. Policy Options study
4. Operation updates

Staff then presented the outcomes of the Spring 2023 groundwater monitoring levels.

* Approximate total rains of 39 inches were recorded
* Adjacent shallow stream groundwater levels are approximately 5.5 feet higher than at the same time last year
* Deep Groundwater levels exceed levels recorded at the same time last year. Spring 2023 level remains below the minimum threshold
* While higher levels of groundwater were recorded, the overall decline trend remains

Marcus Trotta of Sonoma Water provided an update on the implementation of the GSP.

* Addressing groundwater data gaps
* Addressing data gaps related to sea water intrusion
* Model update workplan
* Policy Options Study – Studying policy needs to advance GSP and maintain sustainable groundwater conditions
* Planning for project and management actions
* Water-use efficiency assessments
* Aquifer storage and recovery

Staff provided a summary of Fee implementation for FY 2022/23

1. July 2022, the GSA approved a groundwater sustainability fee of $73 per ac foot. On June 13, 2022, the Board of Supervisors voted to augment those fees to reduce the per ac foot fee charged to landowner would be $40 per acre foot
2. The assessor’s office collected the majority of the landowner fees. GSA received $204,000 in fees collected on property tax bill
3. Public water systems and tax-exempt groundwater users contributed $34,200 dollars
4. The fee of $40 per ac foot of water will remain unchanged in fy 23/24

They have not amended the budget to reflect loss of grant. They are awaiting an answer from the Water Board – hopefully within the next two/three months.

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

Director Wasem said that the last SVGSA meeting was held on June 22. The Administrator for the SVGSA shared that the projected FY 22/23 revenues and expenditures for the GSA at $657,000. The budget anticipates fee revenues at $457,000 and grant funding at $200,000. To date, the GSA has received $661,415. in grant funding.

Permit Sonoma has been under contract with the GSA to improve groundwater estimates and develop a data exchange (Guide) program. This was funded by Prop1 and Prop 68 grant funds. The program is a tool for conveying information to members of the public on estimated groundwater use and fees. The Board was asked to approve a $16,000 +/- expenditure to maintain the program. Services include:

1. Updating water supply data, water use estimates, and other attributes of the GUIDE.

2. Developing automated and semi-automated processes to update water supply attributes from assessor data, building permits, and geospatial datasets.

3. Maintaining and updating online forms.

4. Maintaining and updating the GUIDE map interface.

The Advisory Committee met on May 17th to discuss four main topics:

1. Updated basin conditions from Spring 2023 monitoring
2. Voluntary monitoring program planning
3. Policy Options study
4. Operation updates

Staff then presented the outcomes of the Spring 2023 groundwater monitoring levels.

* Approximate total rains of 39 inches were recorded
* Adjacent shallow stream groundwater levels are approximately 4 feet higher than at the same time last year
* Other spring groundwater levels are approximately 25 feet higher that at the same time last year
* While higher levels of groundwater were recorded, the overall decline trend remains

Marcus Trotta of Sonoma Water provided an update on the implementation of the GSP.

* Addressing water data gaps – coordinating with Sonoma RCD and Permit Sonoma to refine and expand voluntary groundwater-level monitoring program
* Model improvement – staff is working to develop a plan to review and task out the necessary model improvement
* Policy Options Study – Studying policy needs to advance GSP and maintain sustainable groundwater conditions
* Water use efficiencies assessment – program to assess groundwater use characteristics, existing levels of water use efficiency
* Aquifer storage and recovery – further explore expansion of recycled water use

Staff provided a summary of Fee implementation for FY 2022/23

* July 2022, the GSA approved a groundwater sustainability fee of $147 per ac foot. On June 13, 2022, the Board of Supervisors voted to augment those fees to reduce the per ac foot fee charged to landowner would be $40 per acre foot
* The assessor’s office collected the majority of the landowner fees. GSA receive $93,221 in fees collected on property tax bill
* Public water systems and tax-exempt groundwater users contributed $51,264 dollars
* Corrections in assess fees were made of $18,036 (reduction)
* The fee of $40 per ac foot of water will remain unchanged in fy 23/24
* The Board approved a budget amendment for additional expenditures totaling $415,000 and additional revenues of $416,000.

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

Not present

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

Not present

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

Advisor Martini shared that he wanted to report on the Potential Master Agreement with RRPOA. The RRPOA has their board meeting tomorrow. They are interested in establishing some relationships. Supervisor Gore has been very supportive, and I have been working with Chair Kapolchok. LAFCO and Legislation are proceeding on a parallel path. In the meantime, the water forum is moving forward. There are some seats available on the water forum. As PGE goes through decommissioning NBWD could intervene and garner a seat at the table.

NBWD signed a letter as an intervener. The letter was drafted by Peter Kiel. If approved, NBWD will have to convene meeting and a decision-making body to determine the conditions of decommissioning. At the end of the day the decommissioning is step 1. First removal of dams and second diversion will need to be maintained. Even with the removal of the dams, there are three models that will allow for ongoing diversions throughout the year. The majority of the diversions would occur in the winter.

Counselor Idell asked how the district deals with the issue of that being outside the District boundaries.

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

Advisor Tamayo shared that she did not have a communications report prepared. She will have a report at the next meeting.

Advisor Tamayo reported that Director Wasem talked with Sean Skaggs, the ESA attorney for the Safe Harbor Agreement to better understand how to proceed with NBWD. Mr. Skaggs shared that NBWD had will need to sign on the certificate.

The Farm Bureau did an excellent job in terms of providing background on the Safe Harbor at their recent workshop. The vast majority of attendees walked away ready to sign up.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to discuss, Director Wasem made a motion to adjourn. Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. The Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

The Next scheduled meeting is August 8 at 4 pm. The meeting will be held in person at the Schell- Vista 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.*