**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: April 12, 2022

Time:  6:00 PM

Location:   22950 Broadway, Schell-Vista Station #1 (via Teleconference due to Covid-19 Shelter-in-Place Order)

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

Chair Mike Mulas called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Board Members Matt Stornetta and Carolyn Wasem were not 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.
2. **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)There were on public comments.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** Director Jacobsen made a motion to approve the March 2022 Minutes. Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

1. **FINANCIAL REPORT** Chair Mulas reported that NBWD will incur additional fees for participating in the GSAs. NBWD has $62,188.44 in the bank. Chair Mulas is currently working on finding an appropriate auditor for the financials. Director Sangiacomo made a motion to approve the Financials. Director Jacobsen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Item 1: Update from Counselor Richard Idell**

Counselor Richard Idell asked Advisor Tamayo to set up a business account for the Safe Harbor Agreement. There was nothing further to report**.**

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

The last Sonoma Valley GSA meeting was cancelled and replaced with a public meeting held on March 28th. The March meeting was largely dedicated to discussing fee structures associated with long-term implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

The community discussed the pros and cons of the various funding models. There were questions and less hostility then demonstrated at the Santa Rosa GSA public meeting. As some of the numbers get more firm, the GSA will meet again.

Prior to the meeting, Advisor Eugene Comozzi forwarded a detail of agriculture acreages to the consulting firm studying funding options. Ann DuBay and Marcus Trotta (both of Sonoma Water and staff to the GSA) met with me to discuss the discrepancies in agriculture numbers. Advisor Camozzi expressed that the acre foot charges were not sustainable. There are not any updated numbers in Sonoma Valley, it is possible there could be revisions from the last document shared out month ago. That document shows a groundwater use of .6-acre feet for vineyards. Those numbers need to be looked at again. This number ultimately impacts how the GSA is paid for.

Director Craig Jacobsen noted that Advisor Camozzi believes that .1-acre feet of water is more in line with actual use. And, in his opinion, that may be high.

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

Director Carolyn Wasem was not in attendance. A special meeting of agriculture and private stakeholders was convened this evening to discuss long-term GSA funding options.

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

Advisor Jim Bundschu had nothing to report as that was not a meeting this last month. Advisor Bundschu expressed concerns that two agencies want to be a part of the budget. Permit Sonoma came out with a new well moratorium. This did not come from the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

**Item 5: Report of Advisor Eugene Camozzi**

Advisor Eugene Camozzi did not attend as he was attending the funding options meeting along with Director Water.

**Item 6: Report of Compliance Advisor Mike Martini**

Advisor Mike Martini met with Andy Rogers (Administrator of the Santa Rosa Plain GSA) and Director Wasem to discuss implementation of the GSP. Bill Keane (formerly of Sonoma Water and Sonoma County Ag and Open Space) was also in the meeting. It was clear in the conversation that no one is really looking at the budget.

There are a lot of concerns around the GSAs needing $1M + to operate. Santa Rosa came out with a much lower acre per foot than Petaluma – the math doesn’t work. Bill Keene is trying to figure out a way that Sonoma Water/County of Sonoma could offset some of the cost. There wasn’t any idea on the "how" or suggestions on how to do it.

At the end of the day, people will get charged for an acre foot of water and will find out what their actual use is. If it is higher, they won't say anything at all but if they come in lower, they will alert the agency. It could raise the per unit cost.

Advisor Martini also shared that he had talked to Tom Schwedhelm, Chair of the Santa Rosa Plain GSA. Chair Schwedhelm understands the issue and concerns around the funding choices but doesn’t see any other way.

The second issue around whatever number they come up with, the problem: there are no checks and balances re: raising fees at a later date. Perhaps adopting some kind of max escalator to charge people could provide certainty.

The third issue is that nobody thinks this will be resolved by the end of June. Sonoma Water needs to find a way to fund another year as they work through the process.

Advisor Martini shared that he has lunch with Ann Dubay tomorrow and hopes to get her candid insights on how to work this out. The big takeaways: 1) will be difficult to adopt a budget by June, and 2) what about mechanisms to control the costs moving forward?

Advisor Martini asked Director Sangiacomo what he was hearing among the other Directors? Director Sangiacomo responded that the Valley of the Moon Water District has a real problem with what the budget is shaping up to be. We were all hoping the numbers were going to shrink but they are not.  It was mentioned that Tawny Tesconi from the Farm Bureau also tried to get across is that anyone doing specialty veggies or dairies will not be able to absorb these fees.

Chair Mulas suggested it should be $1M for all three agencies.

**Item 7. Report by GinaLisa Tamayo on Website Development**

Advisor Tamayo reported on an email to the District received this morning. The Board asked her to respond accordingly. She is also creating a business account for the Safe Harbor Agreement on the Department of Fish and Wildlife's website. She also reminded the board that the website company will be charging NBWD $600 annually and it will be billed in July 2022. She will also send over her invoice for the year.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to discuss, Director Sangiacomo made a motion to adjourn. Director Jacobsen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

The Next scheduled meeting is May 9th 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.*