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: February 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 4:02 pm. Chair Mulas, Mike Sangiacomo, Carolyn Wasem, Craig Jacobs, Matt Stornetta, were present.

 2. 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). Item to be discussed: The Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement for Viticultural Activities on Existing Vineyards in the Santa Rosa Plain for the Sonoma County Population of California Tiger Salamander. Government Code Section 54956.9.

1. 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.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

1. FINANCIAL REPORT

Chair Mulas reported that the NBWD account has $21,583.99. 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 January 2025 Financial Report was unanimously approved.

1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

**Item 1. Update from District Lawyer, Richard Idell**

Counselor Idell administered the Oath of Office to Chair Mike Mulas. Chair Mulas administered the oath of office to all the Directors.

Counselor Idell reminded all Directors that they are required to file Form 700 with the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). These need to be filed with FPPC by April 1st.

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

The Sonoma Valley GSA last met on January 27th. The GSA went over housekeeping items and the representative for the Advisory Committee discussed a number of topics. The most important item discussed, from the agriculture community perspective, is the well monitoring program. The Advisory Committee is focusing on the use side. Of particular interest, GSA staff reported that there has been no recovery noted with two-year rainy seasons. The following are additional relevant items discussed:

1. To fill data gaps – staff has identified six (6) location or monitoring well. Of those six(6) the GSA has funding for four (4).
2. The Flow Smart Program was implemented. Staff developed an outreach program and contracted for installation and certification of flow meters. Staff have received sign ups from 18 well owners within the Subbasin.
3. A program for voluntary well monitoring has met with limited success. To increase participation, Director Sangiacomo participated in a call with GSA staff. The biggest concern expressed by landowners was the inability to keep data collected by the program, confidential.
4. The Valley of the Moon Water District initiated an Aquifer Storage and Recovery pilot at two of its municipal wells (one within the Subbasin and one slightly outside the Subbasin). The pilot has included studying recharge, storage and recovery of approximately 15 acre-feet of treated drinking water at each ASR well. The pilot study will evaluate the feasibility and costs of ASR within the Subbasin.
5. Groundwater sustainability priority areas need to be identified.
6. Filling Advisory Committee vacancies needs to be a priority.

The Board took time to recognize Susan Gorin as she exited. Supervisor Rebecca Hermosillo will replace Susan Gorin on the GSA.

Advisor Mike Martini asked Director Sangiacomo if the privacy of data issue was resolved?

Director Sangiacomo was not certain, but shared that staff is aware of why private landowners are concerned about this issue.

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

The last meeting of the Petaluma Valley GSA was held on January 25, 2024. Below are the highlights:

1. The Long-Term Funding Workgroup was charged with exploring approaches to equitable long-term funding, governance, and operation of the Sonoma County GSAs. Consensus is difficult to achieve. Structural consolidation was not seen as a viable option at this time given the limited cost savings, the high cost to pursue, and the legal and socio-political challenges.
* The Ad Hoc agreed that the Sonoma County GSAs should continue to coordinate, as directed by each agency’s JPA.
* To enhance collaboration the committee agreed to encourage each Board to consider:
* Aligning the timing of one or more Board meetings
* Conducting joint Board meetings
* Combining AC meetings where common material is presented
* Informally meet once a year to discuss ongoing staff research and evaluation of other long-term funding options and strategies

The GSA was informed that in September, the DWR announced its final funding awards for the SGMA Round 2 Implementation Grants and the Petaluma Valley GSA is being awarded its full funding request of $6,739,409.

To implement the sustainability plan, dollars are currently being focused on the following programs:

1. Filling Data Gaps – Working with outside consultants, characterize data missing for inter-connected surface water and groundwater dependent ecosystems and declining groundwater levels and then prioritize scope of activities that address those gaps.
2. Water-Use Efficiency Assessment – Working with an outside consultant to explore opportunities for achieving conservation and groundwater use efficiencies.
3. Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR): In March 2022, Petaluma was awarded $2.9 million in funding for its Adobe Road Recycled Water Pipeline Project and $450,000 for ASR planning. Both recycled water expansion and ASR are identified as key projects.

The GSA Directors adopted a modified budget, that demonstrated a savings of approx. $50K. The GSA Directors approved the following contracts:

1. Monitoring Network Implementation
2. Aquifer Recovery and Storage Planning
3. Water Use Efficiency and Assessment Program

Note: Expenditures for this year $1,139,900

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

Advisor Bundschu informed the Directors that he missed the last Advisory meeting, so he had no specific facts to share. An overall observation that he noted is that there is water, and we are trying to get real figures and data that support that fact. We continue to operate as though there is no water.

Sonoma County just received 13 inches of rain. That is a lot of water compared to what we use. With new weather forecasting capabilities, the County should be able to store more water. While we want to be truthful….are we using .6-acre feet of water? Collectively we need to better understand water availability trends…evaluate conditions of wells. The agriculture community needs to emphasize that. And, as the well ordinance is implemented, we cannot stray greatly from the GSA format. Permit Sonoma needs to be flexible in implementing their responsibilities as the GSA Plan is set up to be adaptively managed.

Sonoma is such a complicated basin, making it expensive to monitor. All of this leads to the fact that monitoring – is going to happen. We need to point out there is water….that is something that the agriculture community has been resistant to argue.

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

Advisor Camozzi was not present.

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

Director Martini shared that the County’s General Plan (GP) update is moving forward. Both the wine and the agricultural community is meeting to discuss what farming needs in the next iteration of the GP. Permit Sonoma is advertising for a Zoning Administrator in an effort to move more permits to the ministerial column. That would be great news for agriculture. Tennis Wick, Director of Permit Sonoma deserves a lot of credit for these efforts.

Most of you are aware that the well moratorium is not resolved.

One of the issues before the farming community is how to replace Supervisor James Gore as he vacates his office to run for the California Senate seat. To complicate county politics, there are no clear ag/wine community/business candidate looking at the race. David Rabbitt unsure if he is going to run again.

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

Advisor Tamayo reported new requirements for website compliance. She indicated that

she is continuing to upload the district documents to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Additionally, beginning in July 2025, the streamline service for the website change, and the service will cost $135/mo versus the current $750/annually. Advisor Tamayo also shared that she worked with the Sonoma County Farm Bureau on the CTS Safe Harbor Annual Report for 2024 and turned in before the January 31, 2025 deadline.

Item 7: ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Director Wasem made the motion to adjourn, and Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11th.

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.