



Posting Date: 03-15-2021

NOTICE OF MEETING

WATERSHED COMMITTEE/BOARD OF DIRECTORS (WATERSHED)

MEETING DATE: 03-18-2021

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: This meeting will be held virtually, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20.

To participate online, go to <https://zoom.us/j/99248920464>. You can also participate by phone by calling 1-669-900-6833 and entering the webinar ID#: 992 4892 0464.

PARTICIPATION DURING MEETINGS: During the public comment periods, the public may comment by clicking the "raise hand" button on the bottom of the Zoom screen; if you are joining by phone and would like to comment, press *9 and we will call on you as appropriate.

EMAILED PUBLIC COMMENTS: You may submit your comments in advance of the meeting by emailing them to BoardComment@MarinWater.org. All emailed comments received by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting will be provided to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting. Those emailed comments on approval items received by 11:00 a.m. will also be summarized by the board secretary at the board meeting. All emails will be posted on our website. (Please do not include personal information in your comment that you do not want published on our website such as phone numbers and home addresses.)

AGENDA ITEMS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Call to Order and Roll Call	
Adopt Agenda	Approve
Public Comment <i>Members of the public may comment on any items not listed on the agenda during this time. Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker, and time limits may be reduced by the Committee Chair to accommodate the number of speakers and ensure that the meeting is conducted in an efficient manner.</i>	

MARIN WATER BOARD OF DIRECTORS: LARRY BRAGMAN, JACK GIBSON, CYNTHIA KOEHLER, LARRY RUSSELL AND MONTY SCHMITT

AGENDA ITEMS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Calendar	
1. Resolution of Commendation for Laurie Offenbach	<i>Approve</i>
2. Minutes of the Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed) Meeting of December 10, 2020	<i>Approve</i>
3. Watershed Regulations and Enforcement	<i>Information</i>
4. Watershed Recreation Plan Update	<i>Information</i>
5. Lagunitas Creek Stream Releases	<i>Information</i>
Adjournment	

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INFORMATION PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY, CORTE MADERA LIBRARY, FAIRFAX LIBRARY, MILL VALLEY LIBRARY, MARIN WATER OFFICE, AND ON THE MARIN WATER WEBSITE (MARINWATER.ORG)

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:

- ❖ Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Board of Directors' Special Meeting (10-Year Financial Plan Workshop 2)
9:00 a.m.
- ❖ Thursday, March 25, 2021
Finance & Administration Committee/Board of Directors (Finance & Administration) Meeting
9:30 a.m.
- ❖ Friday, March 26, 2021
Operations Committee/Board of Directors (Operations) Special Meeting
9:30 a.m.



Board Secretary

Resolution of Commendation

Laurie Offenbach

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (MMWD) WISHES TO RECOGNIZE LAURIE OFFENBACH for 16 years of dedicated service to the District and its customers in Marin County; and

WHEREAS, working for the Water District is a one-time deal for most, Laurie made a go at it twice; and

WHEREAS, Laurie is the heart of the of the watershed, the keeper of the gate, the annual parking pass broker, and master mind of the parking machine who has made stopping at the Sky Oaks Ranger Station a watershed destination in and of itself;

WHEREAS, Laurie has been the ever-cheerful face of the watershed, happily welcoming all visitors, staff and contractors who approached her desk with a myriad of requests; and

WHEREAS, Laurie is on a first name basis with regular watershed visitors and is the first person they call with observations, issues, and ideas. However, if one came to Sky Oaks to protest a parking citation, she'd be more than happy to assist; and

WHEREAS, Laurie developed the knack for making the grumpy, the unpleasant, and the rude variety of visitor into courteous and grateful lifelong friends of hers through charm, humor, kindness and by asking them to turn away from her desk and look out the window of the office to see nature's bounty; and

WHEREAS, Laurie counted and weighed every single fish in the Fish & Wildlife truck that passed through the Sky Oaks Gate to stock Bon Tempe and Lake Lagunitas; and

WHEREAS, Laurie optimistically persevered through the ever changing Finance Department's purchasing requirements and relentlessly tracked contracts through the internal administrative maze; and

WHEREAS, Laurie was always willing and able to help out her colleagues, the public and anybody hosting an event. Her skill and instinct helped earn her the nickname of Laurie "Awesome-bach"; and

WHEREAS, when Laurie caught a visitor disregarding watershed regulations and the said visitor states they got permission “from the lady in the office” Laurie would reply in all earnestness “I AM THE LADY IN THE OFFICE!”

WHEREAS, eating lunch with Laurie at the Sky Oaks picnic tables is everyone's favorite time of the day as it seemingly makes time disappear; and

WHEREAS, Laurie was the true watershed hipster making sour dough bread year’s before it was a COVID fad, and was always ready to bake a delicious treat for a watershed staffers birthday, which will linger in our memories as well as our on our hips; and

WHEREAS, Laurie has been the spiritual leader at Sky Oaks, helping to maintain a positive outlook in the face of occasional disappointments through the magic of her special meditative chant, “I love my job, I love my job, I love my job”; and

WHEREAS, there is a clear hierarchy in watershed management, and we all know we really work for Laurie.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS expresses its sincere appreciation to **Laurie Offenbach** for her services and contributions to the Marin Municipal Water District and wishes her good fortune, continued good health, and joyous caravanning adventures with her grandchildren.

RESOLUTION NO. XXXX APPROVED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors held this 18th day of March 2021.

Cynthia Koehler, President

Larry L. Russell, Director

Larry Bragman, Director

John C. Gibson, Director

Monty Schmitt, Director

Ben Horenstein, General Manager

ATTEST:

Secretary



Item Number: 02
Meeting Date: 03-18-2021
Meeting: Watershed
Committee/Board of Directors
(Watershed)

Approval Item

TITLE

Minutes of the Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed) Meeting of December 10, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the adoption of the minutes.

SUMMARY

On December 10, 2020, the Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed) held its quarterly meeting. The minutes of that meeting are attached hereto.

DISCUSSION

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Minutes of December 10, 2020, Meeting of the Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed)

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Communications & Public Affairs Department	 Terrie Gillen Board Secretary	 Ben Horenstein General Manager

**MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
WATERSHED COMMITTEE /BOARD OF DIRECTORS (WATERSHED) MEETING**

MINUTES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Via teleconference

(In accordance with Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20)

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Larry Bragman, John C. Gibson, Larry L. Russell, and Monty Schmitt

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Cynthia Koehler

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bragman called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTOR MONTY SCHMITT

Board President Gibson introduced and welcomed Director Schmitt to the district.

ADOPT AGENDA:

On motion made by Director Gibson and seconded by Director Russell, the board approved the adoption of the agenda by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Gibson, Russell, Schmitt, and Bragman
Noes: None
Absent: Director Koehler

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were two public comments.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

**ITEM 1. MINUTES OF THE WATERSHED COMMITTEE /BOARD OF DIRECTORS (WATERSHED)
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**

On motion made by Director Gibson and seconded by Director Russell, the board approved the minutes by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Gibson, Russell, Schmitt, and Bragman
Noes: None
Absent: Director Koehler

ITEM 2. ONE TAM DRAFT 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Watershed Resources Manager Shaun Horne and Sue Gardner, with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, provided a presentation to the board. Discussion followed.

There were two public comments.

On motion made by Director Gibson and seconded by Director Schmitt, the directors referred this item to a future board meeting.

ITEM 3. AZALEA HILL PROJECT MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT AND UPDATE

Facilities and Watershed Manager Crystal Yeman and Watershed Resources Manager Shaun Horne brought forth this item. Discussion ensued.

There were three public comments. The board took no formal action.

ITEM 4. GRASSLAND INVASIVE PLANT AND HABITAT RESTORATION SERVICES

Facilities and Watershed Manager Yezman introduced this item, and Watershed Maintenance Supervisor Carl Sanders presented this item. A brief discussion followed.

There was one public comment.

On motion made by Director Russell and seconded by Director Gibson, the directors referred this item to a future board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business, the Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed) meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.


Board Secretary

Informational Item

DATE: 03-18-2021

TO: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed)

FROM: Crystal Yezman, Director of System Maintenance & Natural Resources 

THROUGH: Ben Horenstein, General Manager 

ITEM: Watershed Regulations and Enforcement

SUMMARY

Over the past few years, watershed rangers have seen an increase in calls for service. In addition, staff is seeing a notable increase of complaints regarding visitor conflicts on trails and specific issues relating to bicycle etiquette such as speeding and illegal use of hiking trails. Staff will present a review of these issues along with considerations of ways to address these concerns, including enhanced regulations and enforcement, to help mitigate user conflicts and ensure protection of the watershed's natural resources and water quality.

DISCUSSION

Recreational uses on public lands managed by the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD, or the District) are governed by Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Management Board Policy 7, Part 5 and MMWD Code Title 9 Regulations, the Use of Marin Municipal Water District Lands. The District allows for a diversity of user groups to access the District's watershed lands for recreational purposes and maintains a network of roads and trails to facilitate access. Primary user groups include walkers, hikers, conventional cyclists, equestrians, dog walkers, anglers, and naturalists. Visitation continues to increase with new visitors and visitors from outside the area. Many of these visitors may not be familiar with District rules and regulations. This may be attributed, in part, to social media posting areas of the watershed on Bay Area recreation sites of desirable places to visit.

The District is receiving a notable increase of complaints regarding visitor conflicts on trails. Most specifically, complaints of bicycles illegally using single-track trails and speeding have increased. To comprehensively address watershed user issues staff is proposing a multifaceted approach, including a review and update to our current regulations, consideration of stronger enforcement, continued expansion of our education and outreach, and the possibility of adding additional ranger staff. Also, as part of Marin Water's Recreation Management Planning Process, staff will review how to best expand outreach for recreation and opportunities for trail and fire road

modifications to establish a more sustainable road and trail network that supports different user groups.


Staff will provide a presentation that reviews these issues on the watershed and discuss the various ways the District may address them.


FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of salary plus benefits for hiring a Ranger 1 at Step 3 is \$101,152 with an estimated one time equipment, vehicle and training cost of \$45,000, for a total increase of \$146,152 per Ranger for the first year of employment. These costs will be presented to the Board for their consideration as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 budget process.

Informational Item

TO: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed)

FROM: Crystal Yezman, Director of System Maintenance & Natural Resources 

THROUGH: Ben Horenstein, General Manager 

DIVISION NAME: Facilities and Watershed Division

ITEM: Watershed Recreation Plan Update

SUMMARY

Staff will provide an update on progress made on the Watershed Recreation Management Plan. Marin Water is partnering with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to engage Marin Water Board members, executive leadership, stakeholders, and constituents in early scoping of a Watershed Recreation Plan. The scoping process and public engagement will inform a future Request for Proposals for a Recreation Management Plan for Marin Water's Watershed Lands.

DISCUSSION

Mt. Tamalpais and its adjacent watersheds support a rich array of plants and animals, panoramic vistas, and recreational opportunities that are treasured by residents and visitors alike. Since before the turn of the last century, Mt. Tamalpais has been a magnet for recreationists. The Marin Municipal Water District's Mt. Tamalpais watershed lands receive approximately 1.8 million visitors annually (MMWD 2013) and is part of the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO 2002). Watershed users include anglers, hikers, equestrians, nature viewers, runners, walkers, youth camps, cyclists and many more. With the onset of the COVID 19 Pandemic and associated Shelter in Place Orders the number of watershed user's drastically increased, overwhelming many of the district's facilities (restrooms, parking lots, trash receptacles and popular trails). This dramatic increase demonstrates the significant value of natural areas and open space lands to the community and their deep connection to these areas, it also accentuated long-standing watershed issues and ongoing conflicts between different user groups.

Currently, the district has two overarching management plans for the watershed. The Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP 2005) and the Biodiversity, Fires, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP 2019). The primary goals and objectives of the RTMP is to protect water quality through the application of best management practices for roads and trails maintenance. While the BFFIP

focuses on the actions that the District will implement to reduce fire hazards and to maintain and enhance ecosystem function. Neither of these plans directly address recreational activities on the watershed. A Watershed Recreation Plan would evaluate current watershed use patterns and opportunities to support safe inclusive use with an emphasis on protecting the watershed unique biodiversity, habitat, and water quality. The plan would aim to facilitate safe access that is supported by appropriate regulations, facilities, partnerships, educational programs, and signage which collectively would help protect the district's watershed lands.

The overarching goal is to develop guidelines and operational procedures to protect the unique goals of different watershed user groups and the biodiversity of the district's watershed lands. To inform the planning process Staff is proposing to convene an expert panels of academics and land managers who will help to inform stakeholder discussion relating to the development of the Watershed Recreation Plan. To facilitate the scoping process staff is proposing to partner with the GGNPC to convene two public meetings lead by an expert panel that will include breakout session to explore pertinent recreational management topics. The scoping process and public engagement will inform a future Request for Proposals for the development of a Recreation Management Plan for Marin Water's Watershed Lands. During the development of the Watershed Recreation Management Plan the district will host a series of additional public meetings to facilitate public input throughout the process to guide the development of the Plan.

Public Scoping Process

Initial topics to be reviewed by stakeholders and the expert panel will include:

- Managing Visitor Access
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Open Space
- Solutions to Address Ongoing Visitor Conflicts
- Outreach and Partnerships Needed to Influence Recreational Culture
- Strategies for Balancing Natural Resource Protection and Recreation

Preliminary Schedule

- Scoping Meeting #1-Early May
- Scoping Meeting #2-Early June
- Recreation Management RFP August/September

FISCAL IMPACT

This initial scoping effort will cost \$19,800.

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A




Item Number: 05
Meeting Date: 03-18-2021
Meeting: Watershed
Committee/Board of Directors
(Watershed)

Informational Item

TO: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed)

FROM: Michael Ban, Director of Engineering 

THROUGH: Ben Horenstein, General Manager 

DIVISION NAME: Engineering

ITEM: Lagunitas Creek Stream Releases

SUMMARY

In calendar year 2020, Marin Water received just over 20 inches of rain, the second lowest rainfall total in the past 90 years. In order to maximize the efficient use of water available in storage, the District is evaluating all uses of water, including the fishery flow permit requirements of State Water Resources Control Board Order WR 95-17. In compliance with Order WR 95-17, the District releases water from Kent Lake into Lagunitas Creek to meet instream flow requirements and support fisheries habitat. In recent years, total annual releases from Kent Lake into Lagunitas Creek have ranged from 4,700 acre-feet in 2015 to 9,000 acre-feet in 2019.

Staff proposes undertaking an objective, data driven, technical analysis to determine if the required flow releases are functioning as intended and explore if there are options for temporarily reducing the releases without negatively affecting the aquatic species residing in Lagunitas Creek or a way to mitigate any short-term impact. Staff recognizes that stakeholder engagement is an integral part of this process and will be critical in the event that the District continues to experience drought conditions and needs to file a temporary urgency change petition seeking a temporary modification to fishery flow permit release requirements while dry conditions persist.

DISCUSSION

As a condition of water rights permits 5633, 9390, and 18546, Marin Water is subject to the conditions of Order WR 95-17, an order amending water rights and requiring changes in water diversion practices to protect fishery resources and to prevent unauthorized diversion and use of water in Lagunitas Creek. This order was issued in October 1995 and, amongst many other stipulations, requires that certain instream flow requirements and metered releases are met at all times of the year.

Drought Conditions

In calendar year 2020, Marin Water received just over 20 inches of rain, the second lowest rainfall total in the past 90 years. In the current water year (October 2020 – September 2021) 16.85-inches of rainfall has been measured through February 28, which is approximately 43% of average rainfall. As a result of these drought conditions, the District's reservoirs contained 44,930 acre-feet (AF) on February 28, 2021, which is 25,858 AF less than average and 63% of average storage volume for this date. If the dry weather continues through April, storage volumes will be at historically low level as we enter the summer months, and potentially as low as 30,000 AF on December 1, 2021.

In order to preserve the District's limited water supply, the Board adopted a resolution on February 16, 2021 declaring initial drought water conservation actions for District customers to voluntarily reduce their water usage. Should dry conditions continue, staff will provide additional recommendations to the Board in order to maximize the efficient use of water available in storage. As a part of this effort, staff is also evaluating all areas of water use, including the fishery flow permit requirements of Order 95-17, to ensure that water is being used as efficiently as possible.

In preparation for continued drought conditions and a possible dry year next season, the District is interested in initiating a technical analysis to better understand alternative water release schedules that could be used during a critical drought period. Through this analysis the District will evaluate a variety of release schedules and evaluate potential water supply savings that could be achieved through a temporary urgency change petition to Order WR 95-17.

Technical Analysis

Staff proposes undertaking an objective, data driven, technical analysis to determine if the required releases are functioning as intended and explore if there are options for temporarily reducing the instream flow requirements without negatively affecting the aquatic species residing in Lagunitas Creek. Since 1995, Lagunitas Creek and the residing fisheries species have been studied extensively. To inform this analysis, the District is looking into updating a comprehensive watershed model to better understand flow conditions during low water years. This will help the District evaluate the existing flow schedule and analyze options for making temporary adjustments during critical drought periods. The District will evaluate flow releases according to a functional flow model that maintains the distinct aspects of a natural flow regime to sustain ecological, geomorphic, or biogeochemical functions, and that supports the specific life history and habitat needs of native aquatic species. The analysis will evaluate alternative release schedules for drought years that focus on identifying and preserving key ecosystem functions while considering human uses and other water management objectives. As part of the analysis, the District will be evaluating options for adjusting fisheries monitoring work to ensure that any changes to the flow releases would be supported by an adaptive monitoring framework to help limit the potential for adverse impacts. Staff plans to present a recommendation for contract award of this work to the Board in April.

Stakeholder Engagement

An integral part of this analysis will be engaging the wide-ranging group of stakeholders who are technically, environmentally, and socially invested in the continuing population of fisheries species in Lagunitas Creek, the southernmost waterway for Coho salmon in the United States. Staff propose to engage this group early and often and incorporate them into a peer review process as the technical analysis progresses. Support from this group will be critical in the event that the District continues to experience drought conditions and needs to file a temporary urgency change petition to temporarily modify fishery flow permit release requirements while drought conditions persist.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None.