

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Winter Board Meeting - Draft Minutes
Marin Humane Society, Novato
January 23, 2003**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm.

Attendance

Board Members:

Chair: Rick Parmer
Bruce Beyaert
Bill Bliss
Joan Cardellino
Rosemary Corbin
Leo DuBose
Stana Hearne
Dan Hodapp
Joe LaClair
Bill Long

Judith Malamut
Steve McAdam
Jim McGrath
Dave Mitchell
Rob Powell
Diane Ross-Leech
Philip Sales
Ron Schafer
Brian Wiese

Presenters

Steve Ehret, Sonoma County Regional Parks
Tom Gandesbery, State Coastal Conservancy
Chuck Morton, Caltrans
Mike Parker, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Jim Swanson, California Dept. of Fish and Game

Guests

Mayor Dick Ashford, City of Sonoma
JoAnna Bullock, ABAG
Aimee Carroll, Sonoma Land Trust
Helena Culik-Caro, Caltrans District 4
Lynn Favaro, CA Conservation Corps
Mayor David Glass, City of Petaluma
David Hansen, Marin County Open Space
District
Tom Huffman, CA Dept. of Fish & Game
Gerry Raycraft, ABAG Planning Director

Ceil Scandone, ABAG Senior Planner
Christy Smith, San Pablo Bay National
Wildlife Refuge
Larry Wycoff, California Dept. of Fish
and Game

Staff

Janet McBride
Melissa Barry
David Lipsetz
Laura Thompson

Introductions / Agenda

Parmer welcomed the Board and guests to the North Bay. Introductions were made.

Agenda:

The agenda and minutes were adopted with no additions.

Staff Announcements

McBride

- Reported that Alex Zuckerman, director of the Regional Bicycle Advisory Committee (REBAC) and long-time supporter of the Bay Trail, suffered injuries in a bicycle accident and is currently in the hospital. A get well card was distributed to board members for signature.
- Announced that staff recently began work on the Bay Trail comprehensive gap analysis that seeks to identify the necessary steps for completing the remaining gaps, estimate how much it will cost and when the trail will be completed. Staff is currently in the process of hiring a consultant to assist with the data collection and analysis.

Thompson

- Announced the release of new Bay Trail maps. The maps provide detailed information about the trail as well as recommended routes for shoreline recreation. The maps are available for viewing on the Bay Trail website.

Scandone

- Reported on the status of the Wildlife and Public Access Study, administered by the Bay Trail Project. Preliminary findings have been published based on summary data and the research team is now in the process of entering the raw data into a database for analysis. The team is anticipating release of final data analysis this fall.

New Bay Trail Directors

Bliss moved, Corbin seconded approval of Lynn Favaro's nomination to the Bay Trail Board of Directors. Unanimously approved.

Wiese moved, Corbin seconded approval of Helena "Lenka" Culik-Caro's nomination to the Bay Trail Board of Directors. Unanimously approved.

Sonoma County Corridor Study

Steve Ehret, Sonoma County Park Planner, provided an overview of the Sonoma County alignment study currently underway to identify a new continuous off-street Bay Trail alignment. The project is funded through a \$35,000 Bay Trail grant. Ehret reviewed the project goals, identified existing and planned public access facilities, provided an overview of the alignment evaluation criteria and presented the Sonoma County alignment options on detailed maps.

Following Ehret's presentation, agency representatives were invited to respond to the study proposals and discuss specific trail-related projects along the corridor:

Tom Gandesbery, State Coastal Conservancy, presented details of the Sonoma Baylands wetlands restoration project and proposed trail construction south of Highway 37.

Mike Parker, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, discussed plans to expand the loop trail at Toley Creek and connect to eastern side of Tubbs Island. Parker also discussed long-term plans for Skaggs Island once the land is transferred from the Navy to USFWS. A trail alignment along the edge of the island will be part of planning process for tidal restoration.

Chuck Morton, Caltrans, provided an overview of proposed wetlands viewing platforms on both sides of Sonoma Creek at the Sonoma Creek Bridge and the construction of a critical trail connection under Highway 37. Construction will begin on the project this summer.

Jim Swanson, California Department of Fish and Game, described development of policy criteria for wildlife areas and the challenge of managing people in these areas. He described plans for restoration of the West End Duck Club near Skaggs Island Road and discouraged public access along northern edge of project area.

Board members raised questions related to the issues and challenges of completing specific trail segments. Comments included suggesting using new flood control levees for public access and the need for restoration planners to incorporate public access into the planning process to ensure it is located in appropriate areas.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Bay Trail Board members and guests participated in a tour of the Highway 37 corridor visiting Sonoma Baylands, the planned Caltrans viewing areas at Sonoma Creek Bridge, the southern entrance to Skaggs Island and the West End Duck Club.