

**San Francisco Bay Trail  
Spring Board Meeting Minutes  
Lucy Evans Nature Interpretive Center, Palo Alto  
May 11, 2006**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 am.

**Attendance**

Board Members:

Chair: Rick Parmer  
Rosemary Corbin  
Doug Johnson  
Stana Hearne  
Dan Hodapp  
Tom Huening  
Joe LaClair  
Linda Stonier  
Marc Frederick

Dave Mitchell  
Brian Wiese  
Julia Miller  
Judy Malamut  
Joan Cardellino  
Jim McGrath  
Jim Foran  
Don Weden

Guests:

Greg Betts  
Darren Anderson  
Deborah Chromczak  
Lynne Trulio  
Jana Sokale  
Lisa Hug  
Paula Bettencourt  
Jody Zaitlin  
Suzie Brain

Staff:

Laura Thompson  
Maureen Gaffney  
Lee Huo  
Patrycja Bossak  
Ceil Scandone

**Introductions / Agenda / Announcements**

Parmer welcomed Board members and guests, and thanked Greg Betts, Open Space Division Manager of the City of Palo Alto, for providing the facilities for the Board meeting.

Introductions were made.

Agenda/Minutes:

Corbin made a motion to adopt the agenda and the previous meeting's minutes; Huening seconded. The agenda and minutes were adopted.

Board Announcements

- Weden        Distributed maps of the new Baylands and Creeks of South San Francisco Bay.
- DuBose        Announced Bike to Work Day on May 18th.

- Cardellino     Announced Union Point Park Celebration event over the Memorial Day weekend on May 27.
  
- Hodapp         Announced an opening event on June 16<sup>th</sup> at Pier 14 in San Francisco.
  
- Johnson       Announced MTC's call for projects that link transit to homes and business
  
- Wiese          Introduced Rick Parmer as the Chief of Interpretive and Recreation Services for the East Bay Regional Park District.
  
- Sales          Informed the Board about Marin Parks Commission meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup> and announced his retirement from the Sonoma Regional Parks Department.
  
- Foran          Informed the Board about the Bay Trail dedication ceremony on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Milpitas celebrating completion of 2.7 miles of Bay Trail along Coyote Creek.
  
- Betts          Informed the Board about a new map of trails in Palo Alto.
  
- Brain          Announced Santa Clara County's Parks and Recreation 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
  
- LaClair        Gave an update on the Water Trail meeting and introduced Coastal Conservancy's Wheelchair Riders Guidebook.

Staff Announcements

- Thompson     Informed the Board that staff and the Bliss family have identified a location for a memorial to honor Bill Bliss. The City of San Mateo is currently designing the Bay Marshes project as part of the comprehensive redesign of the shoreline park system. This project, funded in part through a Bay Trail grant, will include benches and a plaque along the edge of the Bay Trail spine close to a restored wetland. So far, over \$4,700 has been donated in memory of Bill and his family plans to match this amount. Staff will continue to inform the Board of the memorial progress.

Updated the Board on Bay Trail fundraising strategies. In April, Maureen, Rick and Laura met with long-time fundraising experts Chuck Raaberg and Annette Lamont to discuss their thoughts on Bay Trail fundraising opportunities. Their overall recommendation for the Bay Trail is to approach philanthropic groups and individuals with an interest in environmental issues, healthy communities and quality of life improvements, and focusing on community foundations. The Bay Trail strategy is to arrange informational meetings with those foundations we think are a good funding fit. The Bay Trail Staff is developing a list of questions to ask potential funders.

Announced the \$3.8 million allocation update – The Steering Committee has allocated grant awards to 16 planning and construction projects in the amount

of \$2.2 million. Informed the Board that the Bay Trail has about \$500,000 left and staff has been working with five potential grantees for projects that would fully use the remaining funds.

Informed the Board that a Water/Park Bond has qualified for the November ballot which would provide \$135 million to the Coastal Conservancy and \$108 million to the Conservancy's Bay Program. Funding for parks was taken out of the Infrastructure Bond and was put on the ballot through the initiative process. Bay Trail staff will keep the Board updated.

-Huo Announced that MTC's proposed routine accommodation policies study is going to MTC's Commission for approval.

### **Wildlife and Public Access Study Presentation**

The Wildlife and Public Access Study researchers, Jana Sokale and Dr. Lynne Trulio, presented the final results of their multi-year analysis and two papers "*Abundance, Species Richness and Behavior of Wetland Birds in Response to Non-Motorized Trails Around San Francisco Bay*" and "*Observer Presence and Prey Diversity as Factors in Bird Use of Trail and Non-Trail Sites Around San Francisco Bay*". The scientists gave an overview of the three selected research and control sites located at Bothin Marsh, Redwood Shores and Mountain View Shoreline and explained the data collection and analysis process. They noted that although the three sites had great differences with respect to bird abundance and species richness, the statistical results did not show significant differences in bird numbers or species richness between the trail and control sites or between years or weekends days and weekdays.

#### The wildlife and public access study results

Overall, this study found no significant effects of trail user intensity on waterbird numbers, species richness or behavior at the three locations. Other factors, especially food availability, unique site conditions, and locations of high-tide roosting sites, may be more important than trail use in determining waterbird presence. The next steps for this project include revising the two papers including the Board's comments, submitting the study results for peer review, and submittal to scientific journals.

#### Comments from the Board

- Create a management implications section in the Executive Summary to assist trail managers in placement of trails based on the study results
- Build on collected data results and develop proposals for future studies
- Continue the Bay Trail leadership on scientific studies
- Staff should coordinate changes with the scientists and bring back to the next Steering Committee meeting

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

## **Wildlife and Public Access Study Research and Control Site Walking Tour**

The Wildlife and Public Access Study scientists and researchers led Bay Trail Board members and staff on a walking tour of the Mountain View trail study site near Charleston Slough in Mountain View.