

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Spring Board Meeting
Fort Mason Center
May 17, 2000**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Attendance

Board Members:

Chair: Rick Parmer	Tom Huening
Carol Bach	Judith Malamut
Julie Bondurant	Jane Mark
Mary Burns	Jim McGrath
Leo DuBose	Don Weden
Joe Griffin	Brian Wiese
Stana Hearne	Del Woods
Carol Streeter	

Guests:

Jana Sokale, Wildlife and Public Access Study
Lynne Trulio, Wildlife and Public Access Study
Charlie Willard, California Department of Parks & Recreation
Laura Cohen, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Marge Kolar, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Patrick Miller, 2M Associates
Holly Van Houten, National Parks Service, Rivers & Trails Program
Debra Chromczak, Wildlife and Public Access Study
Teresa LeBlanc, California Department of Fish & Game
Jane Miller, 2M Associates
Tom McDonnell, Caltrans
Bob Emert, San Mateo County Trails Advisory Committee
Cecily Harris, trails consultant
Dennis Frank, City of San Mateo
Jamie Perkins, East Bay Regional Park District
Caitlin Sweeney, BCDC

Staff:

Janet McBride
Niko Letunic
Ceil Scandone
Laura Thompson

Introductions / Agenda

Introductions were made. The agenda was adopted with no additions or corrections.

Staff Announcements: McBride reported that the State budget process is underway and staff is working to secure another budget augmentation for the Bay Trail this year. In addition, we have received some publicity recently on Bay-TV and two articles in the Contra Costa County Times.

Bay Trail Grants

McBride provided an overview and slide show summary of the nine grant projects funded under Phase I of this year's Regional Development Program.

Wildlife & Public Access Study

Jana Sokale and Lynne Trulio summarized the first nine months of research collected under the Wildlife & Public Access Study analyzing whether trail use has an impact on the abundance and biodiversity of shorebirds and waterfowl in foraging areas along the Bay Trail. The researchers are performing three measurements: (1) total human trail use, (2) total bird abundance, and (3) total bird diversity. The preliminary findings show no significant differences between the trail site and the control site in for the three measurements. Sokale and Trulio then identified the benefits of continuing the study for an additional year. The Board members were very supportive of raising additional funding for one more year of data collection.

Panel - Trends Affecting Trail Development

Charlie Willard - The California Department of Parks and Recreation has completed a large visioning exercise as part of the trail plan update. The overriding theme to come out of that visioning process is connections - providing access for all people, improving interactions between trail users, providing opportunities for non-users, and working with property owners.

Laura Cohen - Five issues were addressed involving partnership: how to work within the Smart Growth movement; statewide/regional efforts; multi-objective greenways; transportation funds for trails; and incorporating values into policy making. Trails fit into the Smart Growth framework by improving a community's quality of life. Bicyclists and pedestrians as "indicator species." Other examples of statewide and regional support for trails is in Detroit - the three major automobile companies are providing \$25 million towards a 2,000-mile trail through 7 counties. Multi-objective greenways involve partners in the design phase, i.e. stormwater management and water quality issues. The transportation arena has a great deal of funding available that is changing hands. To maximize benefits for trails, create well-organized groups that embrace smaller groups. The Parks bond and proposed transportation plan could have done better for trails. Mode - Trust for Public Land and the Coastal Conservancy have partnered to provide advocacy training and networking. Finally, we need to restore the moral

authenticity to policy making. Better decisions are made when values are raised rather than engaging in the sterile debate of numbers.

Marge Kolar - Wildlife focus on three topics: new legislation affecting the National Wildlife Refuge; the habitat goals project; and general restoration. Legislation provides mission for public access where compatible, such as wildlife observation, photography, hunting fishing, education. Spur trails are more compatible with mission. The habitat goals project indicates conflict between different biologists. Goal of project is to bring these differing opinions together

Patrick Miller - Focus on design. Need to accommodate all ages in our growing population. Intersections, such as railroad crossings and viewing areas are more challenging for trail planners. For multi-purpose trails what are the best management practices, especially for wildlife.

Holly Van Houten - Trails as a special amenity vs. trails as a facility. Initiatives around US. Center for Disease Control has partnered with the National Parks Service to provide studies on health and associated trail needs. Example of how to create innovative partnerships with the health community, "wellness trails."

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. followed by a guided tour of the Crissy Field Restoration Area.