

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
ABAG MetroCenter
June 8, 2015**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Attendance

Steering Committee

John Woodbury, *Chair*
Julie Bondurant
Maggie Wenger (Alternate)
Betsy Wilson

Bay Trail Staff

Maureen Gaffney
Lee Huo
Laura Thompson

Guests

Steve Mayer, SD Mayer & Associates

ACTION: Adoption of the 6/8/15 agenda and the 3/12/15 minutes: Wenger moved, Bondurant seconded.

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Maggie Wenger*

*Julie Bondurant
Betsy Wilson*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers

None

Staff Announcements

-Thompson Highlighted recent press in the San Jose Mercury News as part of the "Eat, Drink, Play" series and noted that map sales and Facebook activity increased substantially as a result of the coverage. Announced there is a scheduled Bay Trail presentation at SPUR by Thompson and DeBra in San Francisco on July 23. Presented the new Bay Trail notecards made possible by board member Julia Miller. Announced the release of a request for qualifications for art curatorial services to support the Bay Trail *Migrations* project.

- Huo Announced a successful May 31 Ferry Point Loop dedication sponsored by TRAC and the City of Richmond. Over 200 people attended this ribbon-cutting to celebrate the new Bay Trail segment next to the Plunge and the completion of the Ferry Point Loop. The event demonstrated the importance of local advocacy and partnerships and was attended by many elected officials. On June 15 at 4:00 p.m., a section of the Wildcat Creek Trail connector in San Pablo will open. On Saturday, July 25 Pedal Fest will be held in Jack London Square in Oakland, hosted by Bike East Bay. The Bay Trail will have a display table.

- Gaffney Announced the release of a request for qualifications for the Bay Trail website re-design. We anticipate a map set update in the next four or five months to reflect new trail sections that have been built since the last printing. The Point by Canogle smart phone tours for the Bay Trail have over 1,000 downloads so far. Staff will find out which tours are the most popular downloads. Canogle will host four Meet-Up events this summer to showcase the tours. Announced that CA Department of Fish & Wildlife completed a section of Bay Trail in Napa near the airport by updating an existing gravel levee. However, Napa County has objected to having the trail along the airport levee. While the trail is open, access is not yet legal because of the need for a formal railroad crossing.

- Botkin Introduced himself as the new Bay Trail/Water Trail Planner. He is primarily working on the Water Trail and will take on Bay Trail projects over time. Prior to coming to ABAG, he worked with an environmental consultant firm on CEQA/NEPA projects. In Santa Barbara, he worked on implementing a segment of the Coastal Trail. The Committee welcomed Ben to the team.

- Mayer Introduced himself and his company, SD Mayer & Associates. Mr. Mayer described his enthusiasm for the Bay Trail and plan to organize a walk/bike event on October 18. Through outreach conducted by his firm, the event would encourage people to walk or bike all complete sections of the Bay Trail. The goal of the event is to increase awareness of the Bay Trail and secure donations for its completion. Bay Trail staff will assist Mr. Mayer and his team in connecting with local jurisdictions and providing maps of complete sections of Bay Trail.

Consider Support for AB 40 (Ting) Protecting Golden Gate Bridge Access

Gaffney provided a summary of the Golden Gate Bridge District’s proposal to consider charging tolls for bicycle and pedestrian access on the bridge. She shared recent letters written by the Bay Trail Project against this proposal. Legislation sponsored by Assemblymember Phil Ting would prevent the Bridge District from charging tolls to non-motorized users.

ACTION: Bondurant moved, Wenger seconded the motion to support AB 40 (Ting) to protect free bicycle and pedestrian access on the Golden Gate Bridge. The vote was approved unanimously.

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Maggie Wenger*

*Julie Bondurant
Betsy Wilson*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council – Climate Ready Grant Contribution from Bay Trail Nonprofit (\$15,000)

Thompson provided an overview of the Climate Ready Grant demonstration project that will explore greenhouse gas emission reductions along the South Bay Loop Trail network in San Jose. Staff requested Steering Committee approval for a contribution of \$15,000 to help finance the work of EcoShift, the consultant selected to lead the team.

The Committee discussed the request, with several comments: It would be great if this analysis helped planners with CEQA questions about the benefits of trails and GHG/VMT reductions; questioned why MTC and VTA aren't funding this study; expressed hope that highlighting San Jose's program and trail counts will inspire other cities to do the same; pointed out that the Bay and Ridge trails are different, and asked whether this would be highlighted in the study; commented that it would be helpful to include the length of trail and its impacts on usage, i.e., longer trails have benefits that are perhaps more significant; raised question of what the Bay Trail Project would get out of this, wanting to make sure it benefits the project; Conservancy commented that the Climate Ready grant program was very competitive and the project scored high.

ACTION: Wenger moved, Bondurant seconded the motion contribute \$15,000 to the Bay Area Ridge Trail Climate Ready Grant. The vote was approved unanimously.

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Maggie Wenger*

*Julie Bondurant
Betsy Wilson*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Bay Trail Board of Directors Officer Positions

Thompson summarized the recommendations before the Steering Committee to address vacancies on the Steering Committee and assigned officer positions on the board of directors.

The first Committee action was to consider a recommendation to the full board for an additional person or people to serve on the Steering Committee to ensure that a quorum is regularly reached at meetings.

ACTION: Wenger moved, Bondurant seconded the motion to recommend that staff investigate potential for an additional person or people to make it at least a 6-member Steering Committee. This recommendation will go to a vote of the full board of directors at their next meeting.

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Maggie Wenger*

*Julie Bondurant
Betsy Wilson*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

The second Steering Committee action was to consider recommending Julie Bondurant to the co-chair position to replace departing board member and co-chair Tom Huening.

ACTION: **Wilson moved, Wenger seconded the motion to recommend Julie Bondurant as the co-chair of the Bay Trail Board of Directors. This recommendation will go to a vote of the full board of directors at their next meeting.**

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Maggie Wenger*

Betsy Wilson

No Votes: None

Abstentions: Julie Bondurant

The final Steering Committee action was to consider filling the secretary and treasurer positions with recommendations to the full board for a vote at their next meeting.

ACTION: **Wilson moved, Wenger seconded the motion to amend the bylaws to allow an option for Bay Trail Project staff to conduct the tasks required of the secretary and treasurer positions. The Committee also requested regular reporting of Bay Trail nonprofit expenses and revenues at each meeting of the full board. This recommendation will go to a full vote of the board at their next meeting.**

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Maggie Wenger*

*Julie Bondurant
Betsy Wilson*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.