

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting
ABAG Metro Center
July 26, 1999**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Bill Bliss
Julie Bondurant
Tom Mikkelsen
Rick Parmer

Board:

Leo DuBose
Julia Miller

Staff:

Janet McBride
Niko Letunic
Ceil Scandone

Guests:

David Pierce, Santa Clara County, Environmental Resources, Parks & Recreation

Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Bliss moved adoption of agenda and minutes, with correction of typo at the end of the first paragraph: delete "~~chaired meeting~~." Adopted.

Announcements by Board

- Bliss- Several area bicycle coalitions are considering the possibility of pursuing legal action to contest BCDC's decision on the San Mateo-Hayward bridge.
- Parmer- Identified 2 bills (HR.701 and S. 25) currently under consideration in Congress that could potentially be a source of Bay Trail environmental funding. Funds generated to mitigate offshore oil drilling would be available for non-game activities and could include money for endangered species as well as recreation and trail development. As of now, the California delegation has not yet signed on to these bills.
- Mikkelsen- EBRPD will contract with Greiner & Associates for a feasibility study for routing of the Bay Trail between the Point Pinole regional shoreline to the City of Hercules. There are some serious

pinch points and a need to look at railroad crossings and boardwalks.

Miller- The July 1 dedication for the new Sunnyvale Baylands Bay Trail was very successful – there was a good turnout and lots of press including BAY TV. Thank you to all involved.

Bliss- Will be retiring and resigning from the Board in December.

Announcements by Staff

McBride- The ABAG Executive Board recently (7/15) celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the Bay Trail Plan with trail mix and sparkling cider.

Letunic - Reported on a successful and well-attended trail event at Crissy field on Saturday, July 10.

Wildlife & Public Access Study

Scandone gave an update on the field research phase now underway at 3 paired study sites. We have secured 3 very well qualified supervisors and 19 field observers. A few observers are covering multiple sites. There are 8 slots per team consisting of 4 pairs. Each pair goes out 2 times per month; so the observers are out in the field 4 days per month. Each shift is 5 hours – the first half hour is setting up and settling in and the last half hour is to ensure that all data entry sheets are complete. All study quads have been set up. Statisticians have continued to review the methodology.

Sat., Sept. 18 is the 1st quarterly meeting. Most quarterly meetings will have some educational component, such as a guest speaker. The focus of the first meeting is to ensure that everything is going smoothly and people are comfortable.

Mikkelsen asked about BCDC's wildlife study and whether there are parallels. Scandone responded that BCDC's focus is the ability of certain design and/or management techniques to avoid or mitigate impacts.

Regional Development Program

McBride summarized key features of the prior two grant rounds and reviewed materials in the packet, including a draft tentative timeline. A key difference in this grant round is that the funding has been earmarked in the State Coastal Conservancy budget (whereas in 2 prior cycles, the item was within the CCC budget).

Bay Trail and Conservancy staff have various reimbursement options including submission of a cost proposal for administrative expenses, or charging a set % overhead on invoices, or some combination of the two (which is most likely). We will also ensure that CCC is able to be reimbursed for their up-front costs.

Board feedback and comments on the draft materials:

Increase weighting for having permits secured (to ensure readiness) and also for regional significance- connection to other trails, parks, etc.

Add a criterion related to time-sensitivity – potential loss of project if not funded.

Might want to offer \$1 million in the first year and \$1.5 million in the second year.

It might be difficult to withhold a portion of the grant pot, once advertised.

For planning – might consider a comprehensive feasibility study for the north bay, including Marin County and Vallejo.

Consider geographic spread.

Focus on important Bay Trail links.

Balance between wanting \$ to go to actual construction, versus trying to overcome difficult obstacles.

The stretch between Oakland and Hayward is critical.

Allow sufficient time for projects to conceptualize, come forward.

It's a good idea to provide some funding for planning, but not a huge amount.

Approximately \$45,000 is typically needed for a good feasibility study.

It's helpful to give a grant range to potential applicants. Also consider a cap such as \$250,000 per applicant (with some weasel room).

Short Updates

1. Bay Trail Plan Endorsement – as part of our anniversary celebration, we are seeking resolutions of support from all those we did not officially have on record. We had 29 of 55 jurisdictions on record and expect to gain official recognition from most, if not all.
2. AB 647 would allow impacts to wildlife, if not adequately mitigated, as a permissible reason for BCDC permit denial.
3. Park Bonds: AB 18 – Villaraigosa and Keeley is now at about \$2.2 billion. SB 57 -Hayden is now at \$2 billion and specifically earmarks \$5 million each for the Bay Trail Project and the Ridge Trail.
4. September Board Meeting –
Figueroa's staff suggested a September date, after the end of the legislative session. Board feedback was to integrate the 10-year anniversary with the kick-off to the competitive grant program. Site suggestions included the San Francisco Maritime Museum and the officers club at NASA.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.