

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Fall 2012 Board Meeting Minutes
Environmental Volunteers EcoCenter
September 19, 2012**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Attendance

Board Members

Chair: Brian Wiese

Co-Chair: Tom Huening

Joe LaClair

Ann Buell

Minane Jameson

Don Weden

Bill Long

Jim Foran

Judy Malamut

Julia Miller

Rick Parmer

Dave Mitchell

Pat Mapelli

Guests:

Corinne DeBra, Walking the Bay

David Beaupre, Port of San Francisco

Staff:

Laura Thompson, Project Manager

Maureen Gaffney, Bay Trail Planner

Lee Huo, Bay Trail Planner

Introductions / Agenda / Announcements

Wiese brought the Board meeting to order and introductions were made.

Agenda/Minutes

ACTION: Adoption of 09/19/12 agenda and 04/26/12 minutes

Buell moved, Foran seconded adoption of the agenda.

Foran moved, Huening seconded adoption of the minutes.

The agenda and minutes were approved unanimously.

Board Announcements

-Foran Announced he will serve on the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project stakeholders forum.

-Mitchell A new 6-mile section of the Guadalupe Trail from downtown San Jose to Gold Street and the Bay Trail will be completed early next year.

- Miller Recently walked the Moffett Field section of the Bay Trail and witness many trail users, including bicycle commuters.

- Jameson HARD has not signed off on the Calpine power plant, currently under construction, because of concerns about impacts to wildlife and use of the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center. HARD has requested better evaluation and funds for mitigation.

- Long Recently participated in the Glen Cove Waterfront Park dedication of Bay Trail and Ridge Trail along the Carquinez Strait, part of the Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail. Related to the Bay Trail alignment in Novato, he has been appointed to the watershed technical committee and will work on flood control projects to incorporate Bay Trail as an amenity into ballot measures.

- Buell Since the last meeting in April, another site has been conditionally designated as part of the Water Trail system – Palo Alto Baylands. In mid-October the Water Trail will launch their new logo and website. The Water Trail accessibility plan is underway.

- Weden Asked for an update on the Stanford University mitigation process for trail development. Staff response: The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District submitted an application for the Santa Clara County competitive process for spending these funds on the Bay Trail gap in East Palo Alto between University Avenue and the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve.

- Huening Had a nice ride along the Moffett segment today; there are some places where signs are needed.

- Beaupre The Port of San Francisco recently opened a ¾-mile section of the Bay Trail along Cargo Way – one of the first cycle-tracks in San Francisco. Improvements have also been made to Herons Head Park and the Port will soon open a section of trail along Islais Creek. If the San Francisco park bond, Prop B, passes in November it will provide \$35 million to the Port for similar improvements.

- Malamut Now part of a team working for the City of Oakland to develop alternatives for linking Lake Merritt to the bay. Huo pointed out that a Bay Trail grant is one of the funding sources for this project.

- Wiese Thanked Bay Trail staff for their work.

Staff Announcements

- Thompson Thanked Maureen for her work as project manager of the *San Francisco Bay Shoreline Guide*. Also thanked Lee for his assistance and Ann Buell for her support. Numerous board members and others contributed photographs for the new publication.

- Gaffney Shared samples of the new Bay Trail maps scheduled for release in November. The 25-card map set features detailed map cards with trail descriptions on the back as well as a large format fold-out map that also serves as a stand-alone brochure. Updated the board on discussions about mobile applications that could feature the Bay Trail maps and more.

- Huo Updated the board on new sections of the trail in the East Bay, including: Shipyard 3 in Richmond, the Fruitvale to High Street segment in Oakland, and the Berkeley Marina access project, scheduled for completion this fall.

Environmental Volunteers Welcome

Laura Thompson introduced Allan Berkowitz, Executive Director of Environmental Volunteers and host of the board meeting. Allan shared the mission and history of Environmental Volunteers as an organization promoting hands-on science education. He also described the process for restoring the sea scout building as the organization's headquarters. Berkowitz thanked the board for financial support that enabled them to complete the last remaining Bay Trail gap at the Palo Alto Baylands. He highlighted the 'EV Bay Tour' mobile application that has been developed with eight stations around the Baylands as a digital learning tool.

Bay Trail Board Candidates

Wiese introduced the item and recommended that staff send letters of appreciation to board members that step down from the project.

Thompson introduced David Beaupre, planner with the Port of San Francisco. Beaupre described his background and interest in serving on the board of directors

ACTION: Huening moved, LaClair seconded confirmation of David Beaupre as a member of the Bay Trail Board of Directors. The vote was approved unanimously.

Thompson introduced Corinne DeBra, founder of the Walking the Bay blog. DeBra elaborated on her interest in serving on the board and ideas for promoting the Bay Trail.

ACTION: Miller moved, Huening seconded confirmation of Corinne DeBra as a member of the Bay Trail Board of Directors. The vote was approved unanimously.

Marin County Measure A: Protect Marin Open Space, Parks and Farmland

Gaffney briefed the board on Marin County's measure for parks, open space and farmland protection slated for the ballot in November 2012 and its potential benefits for Bay Trail completion and maintenance. Bill Long expanded on more details about the measure.

ACTION: Foran moved, Weden seconded Bay Trail Board support for Marin County's Measure A: Protect Marin Open Space, Parks and Farmland. The vote was approved unanimously.

Bill Lockyer Monument

Thompson informed the board that staff continues to work with Supervisor Haggerty's office on developing language for the plaque recognizing Bill Lockyer along the Bay Trail. Haggerty's staff is working with the City of San Leandro to confirm a location for the monument. The board will be kept informed of the process.

Bay Trail Strategic Plan Discussion

Thompson introduced the discussion of strategic plan objectives and provided an overview of program accomplishments, upcoming reductions in grant program funding and ideas for changes in board representation. The board was asked to consider new funding development and board composition and the following ideas and themes were put forward:

- **Legislation is important.** Work with MTC to get Bay Trail funding included in transportation funds, particularly future regional bonds.
- **Legislative champions.** Consider new realms of funding in the form of mitigations for greenhouse gas emissions, mitigation bank credits and flood control investments by establishing policy champions.
- **Climate change and sea level rise.** Understand how flood control districts are responding to climate change models, incorporate trail as an amenity in local flood control measures and place trail on proposed new levees.
- **Ridge Trail collaboration.** Continue to work with the Ridge Trail for mutual benefits and funding.
- **Focus on corporate philanthropy.** Identify major corporations located near the Bay Trail and link project types to funding. Consider corporate transportation coordinators as board members.
- **Regional bicycle commuting and transit.** Generate report with MTC focusing on regional bicycling commute connections. Coordinate with BART and the Transit-to-Trails program and reach out to the Bay Area Bicycle Coalition.
- **Outdoor recreation partners.** Explore partnerships with outfitters and sporting goods providers such as REI.
- **Promote health benefits of trails.** Work with Kaiser to promote trail and recognize benefits for an aging population.

- **Cultivate local activists and Bay Trail champions.** Identify officials, community activists and board members in every sub-region of the bay. Increase constituency and public visibility of the Bay Trail.

The board directed staff to bring this topic to the next Steering Committee meeting with an invitation to other board members interested in participating. Staff was also directed to bring a recommendation for board consideration to their next meeting in spring 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Walking Tour of the Palo Alto Baylands

Board members and staff joined Baylands Ranger Richard Bicknell for a walking tour of the Palo Alto Baylands and Byxbee Park.