

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting
ABAG Metro Center
December 12, 2002**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Acting Chair: Tom Huening
Julie Bondurant
Leo DuBose
Stana Hearne
Joseph La Clair
Brian Wiese

Staff:

Janet McBride
Laura Thompson
Melissa Barry
David Lipsetz

ACTION - Adoption of Agenda and Approval of 10/10/02 Minutes:

Hearne moved for adoption of agenda; La Clair seconded. Adopted unanimously.
La Clair moved for approval of minutes; Hearne seconded. Adopted unanimously.

Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers

-McBride Noted several follow-up events/items from the October Bay Nature supplement, including: a December 14th “bird walk” in Palo Alto Baylands; a possible San Francisco Chronicle series by nature writer Carl T. Hall featuring the Bay Trail; and a recently-aired segment about the Richmond Bay Trail on Channel 7 news.

Announced that staff is currently working on a letter to solicit funds for the nonprofit.

Noted that the Bay Access group has contacted the Bay Trail Project to discuss the possibility of ABAG taking on the water trail as a “sister project.” Bay Access has completed a prospectus and draft funding proposal. Both ABAG’s Executive Director and Planning Director are interested in the concept, provided that Bay Access bring with it funding and that the water trail project would not dilute the energy and momentum of the Bay Trail.

Provided a brief update on Alameda Point golf course.

-Barry Announced that the City of Palo Alto is nearing completion of construction of the trail segment between San Francisquito Creek in the Palo Alto Baylands and an area near Ravenswood Open Space Preserve. Noted that the dedication ceremony planned for

late January will be postponed due to staff illness at the City of Palo Alto.

Grant Requests

Staff introduced three new grant requests as follows:

Bridgeway Bikeway Project -City of Sausalito (\$128,310)

-Thompson Discussed a request from the City of Sausalito to stripe bike lanes, resurface streets, and repair damaged sidewalks on Bridgeway between Princess and Napa Streets. Noted that the project would be Bay Trail spine.

Several Committee members discussed concerns that funds would be used to resurface the roadway rather than construct bike lanes and other Bay Trail improvements. Thompson mentioned that City staff is willing to work with her to shift requested funds to the Bay Trail project components, noting that about \$107,000 is directly applicable to constructing or improving the Bay Trail.

Napa County – Cuttings Wharf Rd. Bike Lanes (\$140,000)

-Thompson Reintroduced a request from Napa County to construct bike lanes (and other improvements) on Cuttings Wharf Rd. between Highway 112 and Las Amigas. (The request was originally brought to the Committee in October, but delayed to collect additional information).

Discussed concerns that the project would not provide sidewalks/pedestrian access. La Clair noted that pedestrian access is not likely in this area of the North Bay and people are likely to drive or bike to this portion of the Bay Trail rather than walk. Other Committee members agreed. DuBose questioned whether people would be hauling boats in the area and noted that sidewalks could be helpful if so.

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) – Bay Trail Bird Walk (\$12,815)

-Barry Discussed a proposal to develop a partnership between the Bay Trail and SFBBO to create educational and outreach materials about birds, their habitat, and viewing sites along the Bay Trail. Provided an overview of SFBBO and their mission and projects.

Noted that products would include a brochure, web site content, and guided walks.

Committee members noted the project offers a good opportunity to partner and build alliances as well as develop general stewardship information and make it available to the public.

ACTION - Summary of Funding Allocations and Approval of Grant requests

-McBride Discussed the current financial status of both the \$2.5 and \$7.5 million grant allocations.

Noted that about \$800,000 is left to allocate from both the \$2.5 and \$7.5 million grant allocations (this amount includes funds being reserved for projects not yet authorized by the Conservancy) and that the three projects for consideration would come out of this remaining \$800,000.

La Clair moved to approve the staff recommendation for approval of all three grant requests. Wiese amended the motion as follows: motion to approve staff recommendation (of all three grant requests) with an exception that the Sausalito project fund an amount that covers only the Bay Trail components of the grant request. DuBose seconded. Approved unanimously.

Gap Analysis Update

-McBride Noted that the Coastal Conservancy Board authorized an amount of up to \$300,000 for the gap analysis project. Discussed progress since the last meeting, including: minor revisions to the scope of work (including incorporation of Committee members' comments); development of a very rough list of tasks and hours for each task; preliminary identification of gaps and known obstacles.

Discussed process and next steps for gap analysis. Noted that it will take about a year to complete the gap analysis, and that next steps are to: complete a detailed list of gaps and compile known information; meet with Greeninfo Network to get advice on how to restructure database/data layers; and develop the RFP and engage consultant.

Huening noted that San Mateo County has completed a GIS system and that it might be worth looking at this and other examples throughout the region.

Committee members discussed the purpose of the survey/questionnaire, noting that it is important to identify and distribute surveys to the correct people. Members agreed that an important aspect of the survey is to identify *why* the trail is not complete. La Clair suggested that this could be incorporated into the RFP process, and that consultants could provide possible methods for getting at the issue as part of the competitive RFP process.

Winter Bay Trail Board Meeting

-Thompson Discussed two possible locations and venues for the winter Bay Trail Board meeting on January 23rd (tentative). The first option would focus on the opportunities and challenges along the Highway 37 corridor, with a presentation of Sonoma County's draft feasibility study and possible participation by the Coastal Conservancy, USFWS, and Caltrans. The second option would be a more broad overview of what the Bay Trail Project is doing to expand the trail in the north bay, with possible presentations from Sonoma County, American Canyon, the City of Napa and the Port of Petaluma.

Committee members discussed the merits of both options and agreed that the more focused approach would be beneficial.

2003 Calendar

-McBride Provided three schedule alternatives for the 2003 Steering Committee and Board meetings. Identified staff recommendation. The Committee agreed with the staff recommendation:

- 2003 Steering Committee meetings (second Thursday of the month): March 13, May 8, July 10, November 13, January 8 (2004).
- 2003 Board meetings will be held in January and September, with tentative dates set for January 23rd and September 11th.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.