

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting
ABAG Metro Center
December 14, 2005**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Brian Wiese, Acting Chair
Joan Cardellino
Joe LaClair
Leo DuBose

Bay Trail Staff:

Patrycja Bossak
Maureen Gaffney
Lee Huo

Board of Directors:

Bruce Beyaert
Doug Johnson
Jim McGrath
Linda Stonier
Ellen Johnck

Chair Rick Parmer was not in attendance; Wiese chaired the meeting.

ACTION Adoption of 12/14/05 agenda and approval of 09/08/05 minutes.

LaClair moved, DuBose seconded adoption of agenda and approval of minutes.

Introductions

Announcements by Staff and Board Members

- LaClair Announced opportunity for volunteer help. Volunteer Outdoor California “VoCal” based on a similar project in Colorado could possibly help with the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project.
- Wiese Announced that preparations for the Park District quarterly meeting are being made to accommodate many upcoming projects.
- Johnson Mentioned that MTC received a grant to increase the capabilities of the 511 interactive bike mapper.
- Cardellino Informed the committee that the deadline to spend the \$3.8 million grant funding has been extended from 2007 to 2010.

- Gaffney Distributed the 2006 meeting schedule; gave an update on the San Francisco Blue Greenway Project stating that Mayor Newsom convened a task force to focus on completing the Bay Trail in Southeast San Francisco; followed-up with information from the Sonoma Baylands Project that they will construct an 8-foot wide path without needing to applying for more funds; announced that the San Francisco *Chronicle* will publish an article about the Bay Trail this month.
- Huo Provided an update on the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) pedestrian planning process and informed the committee about new projects in the East Bay: (Oliver property, Bruener Marsh, Giant Marsh and Oyster Trail).
- Bossak Announced that the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project is planning to release the restoration alternatives on December 16, 2005.

Overview of South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Public Access Alternatives

- Bossak Informed the Steering Committee that the Bay Trail Project continues to play an active role in the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Staff attended two public access site visits in Alviso and Eden Landing. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Department of Fish and Game managers led the tours of the restoration areas and participants viewed potential sites for trail segments, interpretive areas, boat access and trail amenities. Talked about the new restoration alternatives for the Ravenswood, Alviso and Eden Landing areas and explained that each of these sites has three alternatives – Alternative A (no action), Alternative B (Managed Pond Emphasis) and Alternative C (Tidal Emphasis) with different Bay Trail alignments. Announced that the first set of restoration projects to be designed and constructed are called a Phase I and those include closing the Moffett Field gap, new spur trails to the edge of the bay and a loop trail at Eden Landing, interpretive displays at Bayfront Park in Menlo Park, and observation platforms and interpretive displays at the mouth of the Guadalupe River in San Jose.
- McGrath Thanked Thompson for her superb actions of keeping the Steering Committee and the Board well informed about the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project.
- Johnck Mentioned that she was involved with the salt pond restoration from the beginning and was originally worried about public access but now is pleased with the process but also wants to see more explicit recognition of the historical resources in the project area.

- Wiese Suggested talking to Jim Townsend from the East Bay Regional Park District about restoration alternatives at Eden Landing and asked if the Bay Trail staff needs more support from the Steering Committee and the Board.

Discussion of MTC Partnership to Integrate Bay Trail into Transportation Projects

- Johnson Introduced a draft of MTC's report *Understanding Routine Accommodations for Bicyclists and Pedestrian in the Bay Area*. Said that the authors of the report reviewed over 35 different transportation projects and looked at all different type of barriers for implementing trails and bicycle lanes. Stated that in 57% of transportation projects bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are not met and the goal of the report will be to encourage greater levels of routine accommodations. Asked for comment and support letters once the draft report is finalized.
- LaClair Stated that recently BCDC updated their transportation plan and included specific language that implements the Bay Trail and he will send Johnson additional information. Mentioned the need for closer involvement with transportation agencies like MTC and Caltrans.
- DuBose Informed the Steering Committee that the East Bay Bicycle Coalition has written letters to all cities in the Bay Area asking to be involved in transportation projects. Stated the urgent need for groups like Bay Trail and bicycle groups to be involved in transportation planning at an early stage.
- Beyear Proposed looking at San Francisco's Department of Parking and Traffic as a planning resource and organizing events like Critical Mass.
- Johnson Will send the Bay Trail staff the final report and asked for the comments to be sent to him or Doug Kinsey.

Discussion of Possible Design Guidelines Best Practices Program

- Huo Stated that there is a high level of inconsistency in how trails are built and the design techniques used by local jurisdictions and contractors. Opened up committee discussion on how Bay Trail Project can play a role in achieving a better level of consistency and improved Bay Trail design.
- Wiese Supports the concept of the Bay Trail Project providing a clearinghouse for best design practices throughout the region.
- LaClair Proposed that the existing Bay Trail standards be expanded with the addition of urban, rural, and multi-use areas.

- McGrath Proposed developing guidelines and specific examples of installation specifications, fencing, etc.
- Cardellino Proposed that staff develop a scope and budget to proceed with gathering information on best practices and bring the proposal back to the Steering Committee.

Modification of Grant Review Criteria

- Cardellino Stated that the new scoring criterion – projects that incorporate Bay Trail into wildlife viewing and habitat restoration - might create a potential conflict between points for spur vs. spine.
- Wiese Noticed that on the second page of the criteria points there is no break down how many points are assigned for each scoring level; asked if CEQA requirements need to be fulfilled for construction projects.
- LaClair Supported the modification of the grant criteria but pointed out that there is double counting in #1 and #3 of the criteria.
- Wiese Suggested that the criteria will have to be revised, points recalculated and that staff bring back to the Steering Committee for approval.

ACTION LaClair moved, Wiese seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.