

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Bay Area Metro Center
April 6, 2017**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Steering Committee

John Woodbury, *Chair*
Julie Bondurant
Brenda Buxton
Ethan Lavine
Steve McAdam

Bay Trail Staff

Ben Botkin
Maureen Gaffney
Lee Huo
Laura Thompson

Board

Philip Sales

Guests

Cody Aichele

ACTION: Adoption of the 4/6/17 agenda and the 2/9/17 minutes: Bondurant moved, Lavine seconded.

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Julie Bondurant
Brenda Buxton*

*Ethan Lavine
Steve McAdam*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers

None.

Staff Announcements

-Thompson The City of Hercules held a dedication ceremony on March 5 for the 'Path to Transit' celebrating a new section of roadway and interim section of Bay Trail near the proposed intermodal transit station. On March 26, NBC Bay Area's Open Road with Doug McConnell featured a segment about the Bay Trail highlighting recently opened sections and a story about the Water Trail is in the works. The Priority Conservation Area (PCA) grant program will move forward this year with an expectation that project solicitations will begin this summer. The privately-financed smart phone tours made possible through Google and Cargill in Mountain View and Hayward are now underway and a public rollout of all the tours will happen this spring.

- Gaffney Vallejo is progressing on the Bay Trail, preparing to hire a consultant to complete final design for the Vallejo Bluff Trail. The city is also working on constructing the Bay/Vine Trail section as part of a \$4 million Active Transportation (ATP) grant. Bike to Work Day is coming up on May 11 and we will support MTC's team bike challenge and a building-wide effort to recognize the day. Progress has been made on a connection to the Bay Trail in Marin County near Vista Point north of the Golden Gate Bridge. An intersection along Alexander Avenue will be signalized if Caltrans is successful in securing a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant, improving safety for this popular bike route. At the upcoming trail conference in Monterey, Gaffney will participate on a panel titled "Old Money, New Money and How to Get Some" with representatives from the East Bay Regional Park District and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.
- Huo Formerly known as Breuner Marsh, the newly restored Dotson Family Marsh will open to the public on April 22 along 1.7 miles of new Bay Trail. The Bay Bridge East Span path, which has been closed periodically for dismantling of the old span, will be open on Bike to Work Day, but will still see periodic closures. The Contra Costa County Public Works Department is the lead on a San Pablo Avenue feasibility focusing on Rodeo to Crockett. There has been resistance from Philips Conoco on a proposed "road diet" that will reduce lanes to allow for bike/ped access. The project will go before the Board of Supervisors soon and we will be supporting this as a regional solution to access in this area. The Bay Area Trails Collaborative (BATC) has created a sub-committee focusing on a regional bike/ped trail count program. MTC hired a consultant to look at short, medium and long term options. The alternative under discussion is to hire a third party source to compile crowdsourcing data, such as Strava. At the upcoming trail conference in Monterey, Huo will participate on a panel about the Bay Trail Design Guidelines & Toolkit with the consultant team, telling the story of how it was put together and how it can be as a tool. The document won the Trails & Greenways Conference merit award for planning that will be presented to the team. Award nominations have also been submitted to the American Planning Association and the American Society of Landscape Architects.
- Botkin Four new Water Trail sites in Richmond were designated in March. At the next meeting, additional sites in Richmond, Oakland and Albany will be considered. The website update and estuary map projects are moving forward and will serve the project well during upcoming Measure AA funding discussions. An interview with Doug McConnell for NBC Bay Area's Open Road is scheduled for the end of April and a multi-day kayak sojourn with Bay Access is planned next week to Angel Island and Richmond. At the upcoming trail conference in Monterey, Botkin will participate on a panel with Lynne Sadler of Division of Boating and Waterways and Kevin Takei covering lessons learned and statewide water trail.
- Aichele Joined the meeting to learn more about the Bay Trail. She serves on the project team for a BCDC/Caltrans study focusing on shoreline transportation infrastructure susceptibility to sea level rise. The Bay Trail will be a part of this study and staff will participate in the assessment.

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Update

Thompson provided an overview of the current status of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority governing board, advisory committee, timeline, grant program guidelines, project list and map. Upcoming meetings were discussed and the timeline for decisions. Staff will continue to keep the Steering Committee informed about the Restoration Authority.

ABAG-MTC Consolidation Update

Thompson shared the latest information about the ABAG-MTC staff consolidation including key documents, schedule for decisions, agency and planning department organization charts and upcoming meetings. Staff will continue to keep the board informed during this process.

Napa Valley Vine Trail: Update, Fundraising and Maintenance

Philip Sales, Executive Director of the Napa Valley Vine Trail and member of the Bay Trail Board of Directors, presented an overview of the Vine Trail. He covered numerous topics, including the formation of the vision and the non-profit organization, key partners and stakeholders, status, funding and the structure for decision-making. He touched on the primary challenges of maintenance, property rights and agricultural activities near the trail, and described how they were addressing each one, including an innovative maintenance endowment fund and 'Ag Respect' campaign. Artistic elements such as the Vine Trail shelters and art exhibits add to the trail experience. The Vine Trail is a key Bay Trail partner and has demonstrated a unique and successful approach to building a long-distance trail.

Adjournment

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