

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Spring 2017 Board Meeting Minutes
West County Wastewater District, Richmond
June 8, 2017**

Call to Order

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

Attendance

Board Members

Steve McAdam, Acting Chair
Bruce Beyaert
Rosemary Corbin
Leo DuBose
Jim Foran
Cecily Harris
Bill Keene
Joe LaClair

Karen Langdon
Bill Long
Hanna Miller
Dave Mitchell
Rick Parmer
Juan Raigoza
Antoinette Romeo
Linda Stonier
Don Weden

Guests

Ina Gerhard
Chris Barton

Caltrans
East Bay Regional Park District

Staff

Laura Thompson
Lee Huo
Ben Botkin

Bay Trail
Bay Trail
Water Trail/Bay Trail

Introductions / Agenda

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

Agenda/Minutes

ACTION: Mitchell moved, Harris seconded adoption of the 6/8/17 agenda.
Weden moved, Romeo seconded approval of the 10/06/16 minutes
with revisions. The agenda and minutes were approved unanimously.

Yes Votes:

Bruce Beyaert
Rosemary Corbin
Leo DuBose
Jim Foran
Cecily Harris
Bill Keene
Joe LaClair

Steve McAdam
Hanna Miller
Bill Mitchell
Rick Parmer
Juan Raigoza
Antoinette Romeo
Linda Stonier

Karen Langdon
Bill Long

Don Weden

No Votes: None
Abstentions: None

Announcements

Board Announcements

- Long A flood control measure may be placed on the ballot in Marin County in November that could benefit the Bay Trail in the Novato area.

Bern Smith, long-time South Bay field rep for the Bay Area Ridge Trail has retired and moved out of the region and Moira McEnespy has also left the Ridge Trail to go to the Exploratorium. Two new people have been hired, Liz Westbrook, formerly of Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), and Louisa Morris from Mendocino Land Trust. The events coordinator position is also vacant and recruiting has started.
- Keene The State senate and assembly versions of a park bond have passed, but the Governor is on record of not wanting to sign a new bond. There is a parallel effort underway to advance a citizens' initiative that could generate more funds, but it needs raise \$1-2 million for a campaign.

The Vital Lands Initiative sets priorities for the Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District over the next 15 years, through public meetings focusing on recreation, agriculture and natural resources. The process will be finished later this year.
- Romeo Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation is embarking on a new strategic plan, underway now, www.parkshere.org
- Mitchell The City of San Jose is moving forward with an update to Greenprint, their strategic plan, an 18-month process.

The City has directed staff to come up with a bond plan for November that could potentially provide funds for the San Jose Bay Trail connection.
- Parmer Inspired by the San Mateo County sub-group of the Bay Trail board of directors, volunteered to convene a sub-group of board members representing Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties to discuss how to move forward on the remaining gaps. Staff will need to provide maps and a list of gaps to get the group started.
- Beyaert Latest update on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge: BATA was planning to go out to bid this spring but the project has been delayed until next year

because utilities need to be relocated and land acquired to make room for the path on the Marin County side. BATA is considering a bid for the bridge section first, then later for the two connections, but this is still up for discussion. It takes a year for the path to be completed, because of fabrication of the movable barrier and “zipper truck.”

Staff Announcements

-Thompson ‘Bay Trail on Tour’ rolled out at the Open Space Council conference on May 18 to promote the Bay Trail smart phone audio tours by challenging people to participate in tours now available at 12 locations around the bay. It is featured on the Bay Trail and MTC websites, in the latest issue of *Bay Nature* magazine and soon on Weekend Sherpa, but we need help spreading awareness of the tours through social media and distribution of promotional postcards.

Several funding initiatives are in various stages with the potential to support Bay Trail and Water Trail: RM3 discussions are moving towards a 2018 ballot measure featuring the Bay Trail and Safe Routes to Transit as bike/ped programs that have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shift transportation mode use; the Restoration Authority grant guidelines and solicitation of projects are being considered by the Restoration Authority board including specific reference to Bay and Water Trail plans; and the Priority Conservation Areas grant program will tentatively begin project solicitation this fall.

-Huo The Bay Bridge pathway connection between Oakland and Yerba Buena Island is now open every day, as of early May. However, the hours of access are still restricted because of construction most days. Recognized the recent opening of the Dotson Family Marsh and trail in honor of Whitney Dotson and his family. The Albany Beach project, led by EBRPD, will close the final Bay Trail gap between North Richmond and the Port of Oakland. Albany Beach also includes a designated Water Trail site. The Bay Trail Design Guidelines & Toolkit received the ‘Excellence in Planning’ award at the trails and greenways conference and has also recently been awarded the Northern California APA planning award.

-Botkin The Water Trail has reached 36 designated sites, including several in Richmond. A new mapping project is underway that was shared with the board. Also, a new website design is almost complete, with a similar look to the maps, providing an integrated user experience. Still working on a distribution plan for the maps, 10,000 will be printed and sent to shoreline partners on waterproof paper and they will also be available for download on the website. Low float docks have arrived at Antioch Marina; Petaluma had their “Day on the River” fundraiser for the small craft center.

West County Wastewater District Welcome

Huo acknowledged the West County Wastewater District as a strong partner and thanked Ken Cook, our host for the board meeting.

Bay Trail Board Officers/Candidates

Thompson introduced **Ina Gerhard**, Office Chief for Caltrans Transit and Community Planning as a candidate for board alternate to Jean Finney. Gerhard gave the board of directors an overview of her work and her interest in serving the project.

ACTION: Weden moved, Beyaert seconded confirmation of Ina Gerhard as a new alternate of the Bay Trail Board of Directors representing Caltrans. The vote was approved unanimously.

Yes Votes:

Bruce Beyaert

Rosemary Corbin

Leo DuBose

Jim Foran

Cecily Harris

Bill Keene

Joe LaClair

Karen Langdon

Bill Long

Steve McAdam

Hanna Miller

Bill Mitchell

Rick Parmer

Juan Raigoza

Antoinette Romeo

Linda Stonier

Don Weden

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Update on the MTC/ABAG Staff Integration

Thompson gave an update on the MTC/ABAG staff integration and asked for board feedback about concerns or thoughts on opportunities for change.

The board's feedback covered several topics, including:

- Concern about staff capacity and the ability for staff to do their jobs most effectively.
- Concern that under a transportation agency there will be pressure to elevate the transportation role of the Bay Trail to the detriment of its recreation value.
- Opportunity for MTC to make more of a commitment to active transportation by writing Bay Trail and active transportation into RM3, including funds for more staff to do the work.
- Opportunity to support and staff a Regional Trail Program that includes a stronger partnership with the Ridge Trail.
- Opportunity for MTC to make sure the Bay Trail is valued for its potential to reduce congestion and for its image and strong public support.

- Opportunity to create strong and consistent marketing messages for the Bay Trail.

The board supported the proposal to invite Ken Kirkey, MTC's planning department director to the fall board meeting to discuss the integrated planning department, how the Bay Trail will be supported and how priorities for gaps will be determined.

Continuing to Roll Out the Bay Trail in Richmond

Beyaert presented a detailed overview of the Bay Trail in Richmond, now totaling an impressive 34 miles. The city now has a necklace of connected shoreline parks but 50 years ago only a 65-foot stretch of shoreline was open to public access. Richmond has 32 miles of shoreline, the most of any city on the bay, and the confluence of economic and political factors has a lot to do with the success of the Bay Trail. Beyaert described the history of the area, including the decline of industries and the save the bay initiative. There are 8.5 more miles of Bay Trail to build and 9 active projects are moving forward, with a goal to complete more than 5 miles by the end of next year. Through public and private efforts the Bay Trail has become a reality. Point Pinole Regional Shoreline is the largest shoreline park in the Bay Area, and with the opening of the trail at Dotson Family Marsh connecting to the park, the city is working on completing the trail along Goodrick Avenue, hopefully matching an ABAG grant for construction with a Contra Costa County TA grant, with a June 21 decision.

Members of the board recognized the efforts of Bruce and the Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC); inquired about the Richmond Greenway and its connection to the Bay Trail and the Ohlone Greenway; emphasized the importance of an advocacy group keeping a close eye on opportunities for trail construction as development occurs; and offered opportunities for media coverage in Kaiser's publications.

Dotson Family Marsh

Chris Barton, a project manager with the East Bay Regional Park District, presented an overview of the Dotson Family Marsh project, recently opened in Richmond. The 150-acre area includes 65 acres of wetlands, 1.5 miles of Bay Trail and a spit trail .4 miles in length. The project created a new entrance to Point Pinole Regional Shoreline from the south and is an excellent example of a project that balances public access and habitat protection.

Adjourn Meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Dotson Family Ranch Bay Trail Stroll

Board members and Bay Trail staff walked along the newest section of Bay Trail, in a slight drizzle, at the Dotson Family Marsh in Richmond.