

**San Francisco Bay Trail  
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes  
Bay Area Metro Center  
September 12, 2019**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Attendance**

Steering Committee

John Woodbury, *Chair*  
Brenda Buxton  
Leo DuBose  
Juan Raigoza  
Steve McAdam  
Ethan Lavine

Bay Trail/MTC Staff

Lee Huo  
Laura Thompson  
Maureen Gaffney  
Ben Botkin

Board

Bill Long

Guests

Erik Prince, Atlas Lab  
Tom Leader, TLS Landscape Architects  
Shannon Fiala, BCDC  
Erik Behrmann, BCDC  
Andrea Gaffney, BCDC

**ACTION: Adoption of the 09/12/19 agenda and the 05/31/19 minutes: DuBose moved, Buxton seconded.**

*Yes Votes:*

*John Woodbury  
Brenda Buxton  
Steve McAdam*

*Leo DuBose  
Juan Raigoza  
Ethan Lavine*

*No Votes: None*

*Abstentions: None*

**Announcements by Committee Members and Staff**

-Buxton      The Coastal Conservancy board of directors will consider a new \$1.4 million block grant to ABAG/Bay Trail on October 17 using Prop. 68 funds that prioritize investments in Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs). These new funds will be pass-through dollars and will have a timeline to spend within 3-4 years.

- Thompson      Announced the publication of the summer *Bay Nature* article highlighting the Bay Trail at 30 years and an entire episode of NBC's Open Road on the air in July with a tour highlighting several trail milestones. Informed the Committee that MTC is still waiting on the status of Regional Measure 3 funds and is now accepting letters of interest for new PCA nominations. Announcements of One Bay Area PCA grants for the 5 southern counties are coming soon. We are participating in Bay Day events around the region on October 5 and Day on the Bay at Alviso on October 13. The next full board meeting will be in early November.
  
- Huo              Sea level rise and resiliency work going on in the East Bay as the East Bay Regional Park District taking a comprehensive look at shoreline parks and trails and the Hayward Regional Shoreline master plan is underway also looking at impacts from sea level rise. The Priority Conservation Area grant program is considering two potential grants located at Pt. Molate, connecting to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge pathway and Point Molate Beach. 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary update: the focused social media campaign to expand our presence has resulted in 1,100 new users on Facebook and 900 on Instagram, with Twitter more moderate at 175 followers. The campaign has taught staff a lot about advertising, and allowed us to test what works and what doesn't. The "Share Your 30" contest was successful with 102 contestants.
  
- Gaffney        The tentative date to open the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge is November 16 as a four-year pilot and MTC is having internal discussions about outreach and promotion. With grant funds such as State Trails & Greenways now available, she is working with the City of Vallejo as well as SMART and the Transportation Authority of Marin to apply for funding.
  
- Botkin          The Water Trail is excited to announce the recent award of a \$600K block grant from the Coastal Conservancy. His presentation to the BCDC Commission was well-received last week. Also finalizing the Boardsailing plan, a programmatic document identifying the best locations to enhance access. The next advisory committee meeting will be held on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> with new recommended designations in Sausalito.

**San Pablo Baylands Public Access Scoping Report**

Tom Leader and Erik Prince introduced the San Pablo Baylands Public Access Scoping Report, currently midway through completion. The team developed the Grand Bayway concept for the Resilient by Design competition, and a Bay Area Regional Collaborative SB1 grant allowed for this more focused project to move forward. They are taking a short, mid and long term approach to identifying public access and the team has received public input from the local working group that was formed for the project, public access popup events, from the Highway 37 environmental working group, and other highway corridor working groups.

This study feeds into the ultimate Highway 37 redesign process. Since Caltrans is required to maintain some form of bike access in the corridor and proposed short term improvements may alter this access, there are opportunities for near term improvements at the Hwy 121/37 intersection that could benefit the Bay Trail. The consultants will provide trail design guidelines that will feed into the ultimate Hwy 37

project. The consultants are seeking to recommend restoration and public access planning together and identify maintenance as a primary concern, especially in the context of sea level rise.

The Committee provided feedback to the consultants about the study, including: consensus that trail alternatives should not be taken off the maps because some oppose them; no support for pushing the trail alignment to Highway 29 or the Vine Trail route in Napa County; recognition that maintenance is a key challenge that needs to be addressed for shoreline landowners and new funding options should be explored, including toll funding for maintenance and hazard abatement district revenues.

### **Strategic Plan Priority Tasks**

The Committee reviewed the draft annual priority tasks developed by staff. They agreed to add another task as recommended by board member Bruce Beyaert: "...suggest adding as a Strategic Plan Priority Task a sustained effort to make the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Bay Trail four-year pilot project a success..." The Committee discussed the need for additional staff capacity to accomplish all the important objectives outlined on the list and recognized that without additional help the program priorities will not be accomplished.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.