

**San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Steering Committee Meeting Summary
February 1, 2006
BCDC Offices, San Francisco, California**

Next Meeting—Wednesday, April 5, afternoon, BCDC offices.

Key Outcomes

- ▶ The Water Trail Steering Committee (“Committee”) has mostly completed its organization phase and is ready to move on to discussing and developing policy guidance on Water Trail issues in future meetings.
- ▶ The Committee reviewed and provided feedback to staff on its draft Charter and the draft Vision Statement for the Water Trail. Water Trail staff will incorporate this feedback and distribute the final charter and vision statement prior to the next meeting.
- ▶ The mission for the Committee is to: *Provide advice to the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Project staff to develop policies and guidelines for implementation of the Water Trail.*
- ▶ The Committee brainstormed issues related to Water Trail implementation and prioritized those that it plans to address. Staff will use this prioritized list to develop a work plan for the Committee.

Draft Steering Committee Charter

A draft Steering Committee Charter, prepared by Water Trail staff, outlined stakeholder process and roles of the various participants. Staff gave a brief overview presentation of the draft

- The product of the planning process is a Final Report containing recommended policies, guidelines and criteria for Water Trail implementation. It is due to the State legislature in January 2008. The product of the Committee is a compilation of Briefing Papers that summarize policy guidance developed by the Committee through consensus-seeking decision making. Staff will use these Briefing Papers to help them prepare the Final Report. If the Committee cannot reach agreement for a decision on an issue, staff will propose a direction for agreement.

During the discussion about the Charter, the Committee raised questions and concerns about key topics:

- Consensus-seeking decision making: Concern was voiced regarding how “consensus” will be understood in this Committee for making decisions (for instance, if there is only a minority of members whose primary concern is wildlife protection, will protection for wildlife take a back seat to access concerns?). Due to these concerns about situations in which the Committee does not reach consensus decision, a request was made for Staff to prepare a minority opinion report for the Briefing Papers if necessary.

Staff clarified that Committee members will have opportunities to voice concerns and comment on the policy recommendations in the Final Report as part of the public hearing process for the BCDC Commission.

- Composition of the Steering Committee: One Committee members suggested that the Committee could benefit from additional stakeholder representation related to wildlife protection. Several Committee members suggested that everyone on the Committee hopes to enhance access and protect wildlife.

Committee members emphasized to staff the importance of including issue experts in meetings to inform the Committee about the topics at hand, and to participate in the discussions. Staff requested recommendations from the Steering Committee on issue experts and representatives from resource management agencies and organizations to include and consult.

Draft Water Trail Vision Statement

The Steering Committee reviewed and commented extensively on the draft Water Trail Vision Statement. The majority of comments were suggestions to incorporate additional goals for the Water Trail into the vision statement. Staff will revise the vision statement with the Committee’s recommended changes for the next meeting.

Water Trail Issues and Topics

The Steering Committee brainstormed about issues and topics that are relevant to the planning and implementation of the Water Trail. To show how the identified issues are grouped and relate to each other, Gina Bartlett used a ‘mind map’ approach writing the topics onto the board. After the brainstorming, the Committee members prioritized the identified issues according to those that they would like to address in their remaining meetings.

The attached graphic shows the identified topics and issues in the mind map format.

Staff will use this issue list and prioritization to develop a work plan for the Steering Committee meetings, Water Trail Workshops and stakeholder process as a whole.

Action Items

Responsible	Task	Deadline
Steering Committee	Provide recommendations to staff of issue experts and representatives from resource management agencies and organizations to consult and include.	ongoing
Steering Committee	Provide editorial comments (e.g. typos, grammatical error) and additional feedback on the draft Charter and Vision Statement	2/14
Sara Polgar	Incorporate changes to Charter and Vision Statement and distribute to Committee	4/5
Staff	Develop work plan for the Steering Committee and stakeholder process based on the issues and priorities identified by the Committee	4/5

Meeting Participants

Steering Committee

Mike Ammon, California Department of Boating and Waterways
Margot Brown, SF Bay Harbor Safety Committee
Ted Choi, City Kayak
Arthur Feinstein, Citizen's Committee to Complete the Refuge
Marilyn Latta, Save the Bay
Jim McGrath, Bay Access, SF Boardsailing Association
Barbara Salzman, Audubon Society, Marin Chapter
Laura Thompson, ABAG Bay Trail Project
Penny Wells, Bay Access
Brian Wiese, East Bay Regional Park District

Invited Speakers

Will Travis, BCDC
Nadine Hitchcock, California Coastal Conservancy

Staff

Sara Polgar, BCDC
Ann Buell, California Coastal Conservancy
Joe LaClair, BCDC
Patrycja Bossak, ABAG Bay Trail Project
Tim Corrigan, California Coastal Conservancy

Members of the public

Winnie Chan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Paul Kamen, Berkeley Waterfront Commission
Barbara Rice, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, National Park Service
Casey Walker, Bay Access

Facilitator Contact Information

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