

March 17, 2006

TO: San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Steering Committee
FROM: Sara Polgar, Water Trail Project Manager (415/352-3645 sarap@bcdc.ca.gov)
SUBJECT: Proposed Work Plan of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Steering Committee
(For Committee consideration on April 5, 2006)

Introduction

The staff recommends that the Steering Committee (Committee) review, discuss, revise as needed and adopt the proposed work plan to guide its efforts at future Committee meetings and workshops. In the proposed plan, the Committee will:

- discuss non-motorized small boating access on the Bay, and develop trail head improvement and management strategies;
- identify Water Trail issues that affect protection of wildlife, habitats and environmental quality factors, and develop guidelines for trail head location and management to protect these resources;
- discuss and recommend objectives and components of Water Trail-related safety, education and interpretation programs; and
- develop recommendations for trail implementation, including the institutional organization for Water Trail management, outreach efforts and funding strategies; and

At the last Steering Committee meeting in March 2007, the Committee will review and address gaps or inconsistencies in its cumulative recommendations on policy direction.

The Steering Committee will discuss the work plan at its meeting on April 5, 2006, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at BCDC's office (McAteer-Petris Conference Room).

Proposed Steering Committee Work Plan

Content for Steering Committee Meetings. In its first meeting on February 1, 2006, the Steering Committee identified numerous topics and issues the Water Trail plan should address. The Committee members prioritized those issues that they would most like to discuss, given their collective expertise, in the six remaining Steering Committee meetings.



The topics fell under four broad categories: (1) launch site (trail head) improvements and management, (2) protection of wildlife, habitat and environmental quality factors, (3) safety, education and interpretation for trail users and (4) trail implementation, including the powers and authorities that affect implementation of the Water Trail.

Table 1. Proposed Work Plan for Steering Committee Meetings	
PRIMARY TOPICS	OUTCOMES
<p>MEETING 1 (February 2006)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Committee Organization ▪ Issue Identification 	<p>Review the Steering Committee charter</p> <p>Refine the Water Trail (WT) vision and goals</p> <p>Identify WT issues; prioritize the list</p>
<p>MEETING 2 (April 2006)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-Motorized Small Boat Access to the Bay ▪ Trail Head Improvement and Management Objectives 	<p>Identify the range of access that may be provided at various sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Types of launch site facility improvements ▪ Management strategies ▪ Types of trail heads <p>Agree on trail head improvement and management strategies to address WT users' needs</p> <p>Identify trail head issues for focused workshops</p>
<p>MEETING 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protection of Wildlife, Habitat and Environmental Quality Factors 	<p>Agree on species, habitat areas and environmental quality factors of concern with respect to WT development and use</p> <p>Develop criteria to guide trail head and WT managers in (1) selecting appropriate launch sites for the WT, and (2) developing and managing trail usage to be protective of these resources</p>

Table 1 continued. Proposed plan for Steering Committee Meetings	
PRIMARY TOPICS	OUTCOMES
<p>MEETING 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protection of Wildlife, Habitat and Environmental Quality Factors ▪ Trail Head Improvement and Management Objectives 	<p>Agree on criteria that will guide WT managers' decisions on trail head improvements and management to protect resources of concern</p> <p>Agree on a comprehensive set of recommended trail head and on-water development and management approaches</p>
<p>MEETING 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety ▪ Education ▪ Interpretation 	<p>Develop strategies to promote safe use of the WT</p> <p>Recommend objectives and components for WT education and interpretation programs</p> <p>Recommend mechanisms for implementing the education and interpretation programs</p>
<p>MEETING 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Powers and Authorities in the Bay ○ Institutional Organization ○ Outreach ○ Funding 	<p>Understand institutional and regulatory opportunities and constraints affecting WT implementation</p> <p>Recommend an organizational structure for WT implementation and program management</p> <p>Identify and recommend funding and outreach options</p>
<p>MEETING 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Committee's Policy Guidance 	<p>Address gaps or inconsistencies in policy recommendations</p> <p>Adopt the Committee's policy guidance on issues that it addressed</p>

Summary of Work Plan. To facilitate development of policy guidance for the Water Trail Plan, staff plans to provide the Steering Committee (Committee) and other participants with background information in background reports, presentations, and question and answer forums with experts to inform the Committee's discussions. For each meeting, the staff will summarize agreed-upon recommendations and decisions (as well as minority opinions, if applicable) from Committee meetings and workshops.

The work plan begins with the Committee developing a shared understanding and agreement on the existing and potential non-motorized small boating access in the Bay. Once the Committee establishes this understanding of access that is pertinent to the Water Trail, it can delve into three topics that the Committee members strongly prioritized in their first meeting: non-motorized small boating access issues, trail head improvement and management, and protection of wildlife, habitat and environmental quality factors. Staff proposes that the Committee address the issues in this order, i.e. define the access issues up front, and then address trail head and on-water management once the factors that drive management needs are clear. Thus at meeting two, the Committee will develop trail head improvement and management strategies to address WT users' needs, and identify and recommend specific site management topics for in-depth discussion in focused workshops. Staff will follow up on these recommendations by convening one or more Water Trail workshops to further explore solutions to unresolved issues.

In meetings three and four, the group will work towards agreement on the wildlife, habitat and environmental protection issues that the Water Trail raises, management options for addressing these, and suggested criteria or approaches for the trail managers in improving and managing launch sites as part of the trail. In meeting four, the Committee will revisit the trail head management strategies that it established previously to determine how the wildlife, habitat and environmental protection policy guidance affects and applies to launch site improvements and trail head and on-water development and management. At this meeting, the Committee will consider outcomes of any issue-focused workshops held after meetings two and three, and incorporate these into the Committee's trail head development and management strategy recommendations.

In meeting five, the Committee will address safety, education and interpretation. The Committee will develop recommended objectives, components and approaches for a Water Trail program to educate and inform boaters about personal and navigational safety, trail stewardship and boater responsibilities; and to provide environmental, historic and cultural education and interpretive opportunities for the public. At meeting six, the Committee will discuss and provide guidance on trail implementation, including the institutional organization for Water Trail management, outreach efforts and funding strategies. Accompanying this discussion, staff will review the powers and authorities that affect Water Trail development and management. This will provide context for the discussion about the institutional organization of the trail, and institutional and regulatory boundaries that apply to other recommendations. Although this formal presentation on powers and authorities comes near the end of the work plan, the staff will inform the Committee on an ongoing basis of the applicable agency jurisdictions and authorities, and non/governmental policies and plans that affect Committee decisions. The work plan also devotes time in meeting six to identifying and suggesting approaches for Water Trail outreach and funding.

To conclude the Steering Committee's efforts, the staff will present the cumulative recommendations (i.e. the policy briefings) of the Committee and workshop groups in meeting seven to give the Committee an opportunity to identify and address critical gaps or inconsistencies in the policy guidance. This will provide an opportunity to review the recommendations after addressing a broad suite of Water Trail issues. This perspective might highlight aspects of issues that were not apparent earlier (or that developed in the interim), but that the Committee wants to recognize and address or clarify in this last meeting.