

San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Implementation Meeting #25 – March 9, 2018 Meeting Summary

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location

Elihu M. Harris State Office Building
1515 Clay Street, 2nd Floor, Room 7
Oakland, California

Attendees

- **Water Trail Staff:** Ben Botkin (MTC/ABAG)
- **Project Management Team:** Avra Heller (SCC), Maureen Gaffney (MTC/ABAG alternate), Callie Hurd (CA State Parks), Matthew Trujillo (BCDC)
- **Advisory Committee:** Penny Wells (BASK), Tom Boone (USCG), Kevin Takei (EBRPD), Wendy Proctor (Port of SF), Max Tarjan (SFBBO alternate), Ted Choi (City Kayak), Joy Dryden (Accessibility Expert), Cecily Harris, Jessica Lum (SF Travel)
- **Presenters and members of the Public:** Erik Loboschefskey (DWR), Jenny Mulholland-Beahrs (CA Outdoor Engagement Coalition), Bo Barnes (Kayaks Unlimited), Michelle Squyer (CA State Parks – Candlestick Point), Julie Bondurant (EBRPD alternate), Andrea Gaffney (BCDC), Laura Cholodenko (SCC), Larry Moss (BASK)

Outcomes of Meeting:

- After receiving unanimous Advisory Committee guidance, Project Management Team conditionally designated Doolittle Boat Launch.
- Attendees were informed of Water Trail-related activities, progress, and accomplishments.
- Attendees were informed of and gave input on of planning efforts in Suisun Marsh
- Attendees were informed of and gave input on California Outdoor Engagement Coalition

Agenda Items

Updates and Announcements from Water Trail Staff, Project Management Team, and Advisory Committee Members

[Link to Power Point Presentation](#)

GRANT UPDATES

- Antioch Marina Kayak Launch – [video linked here](#)
- Point Isabel – finalizing design – construction expected in Fall 2018
- Petaluma Small Craft Center – received permission for temporary boat house on the new docks
- Berkeley Marina Gangway – When complete will have a new parking lot and new restrooms, windsurfing rigging, Water Trail ADA gangway and 2 new docks

WT PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- Vallejo chamber of commerce

- OCI Landscape Architects – re-designing McNears beach – potential boat-focused area, docks, potentially new camping area
- EBRPD Exec Committee- designation progress
- Mare Island Flyway Festival – maps and water trail information

PROGRAMS

- Canoemobile received new funding, and will be bringing the program to SF Bay in March
- Santa Clara County Parks (Alviso) – Slough Safari Program – currently motorized tour, looking into expanding into non-motorized opportunities.
- Delta Stewardship Council – maps and potential Water Trail – hiring a full-time recreation planner for the Delta
- Visions of the Wild Vallejo – a nature film festival reached out to WT to plan an associated kayaking outing in Susiun
- Cal Outdoor Engagement Coalition – Water Tail is an organizational member
- Division of Boating and Waterways – encouraging motorized boat grants to add on criteria for non-motorized small craft access

PLANNING

- Loch Lomond Marina Yacht club planning a low freeboard dock adjacent to existing boat launch
- SF Boardsailing Association – developing comprehensive list of boardsailing locations around the Bay – safety and etiquette concerns – into cohesive planning document for board sailors and municipalities.
- Resilient by Design (RBD) – many groups incorporating water access and Water Trail recommendations into their designs
- Richmond WETA Kayak Launch as part of Ferry Terminal mitigation – ADA gangway to large freeboard doc w/kayak cut out with rollers, ladder, SUP handlebars, adjacent to existing launch
- EIR for Gateway Park (park at base of Bay Bridge) released – WT providing comments to consider kite-boarding use and potential kayak opportunities
- Foster City – beach restoration for Baywinds Park – wetland restoration, public access, shoreline protection – DBW has a beach nourishment program – planning meeting with Supervisor Pine
- Sausalito Dunphy Park master planning project / Cass Gidley – new parking, restrooms, small boat house
- EBRPD Delta Atlas Program – enhancing access in EBRPD jurisdiction in Eastern Contra Costa County – early planning stages
- Tracking [SB-1247](#) – **reclassify all boats with paddles as mechanical watercraft** – Sherriff's office trying to figure out how to cite kayakers under the influence – a lot of public blow back
- Candlestick Point State Rec. Area – 6 campsites (bike, boat, hike in) should be completed at the end of this summer with interpretive signage and food storage lockers. Want to explore conditional designation and funding opportunities for a launch, general plan includes water access facilities. FIRST new campsites in State Park system in about 30 years, and only the second in SF. – Looking into how to adapt to a variety of watercraft users.

- State Lands Commission meeting in Burlingame – 8.8 acres – **Public Meeting March 22, 2018, 6:30 pm – 850 Burlingame Ave**

UPCOMING SITES

- Jack London Aquatic Center – Oakland Parks approved designation (June 2018)
- Mill Valley Bayfront Park – accessible low float docks
- Pittsburg Marina – interested in designation (June 2018)
- Beldon’s Landing – Solano County Parks
- Sandy Beach County Park – Solano County Parks

Tracking

- Turney Street Launch – Sausalito – new ADA dock and gangway – need to get Sausalito to move forward with designation
- Point Pinole – improve access around Pinole campground
- Coyote Point – windsurfers received payment from developers to make improvements to the beach. Still seeking additional funding to complete project.
- Cullinan Ranch + Sears Point – still working with USFWS on designation

UPCOMING PUBLIC OUTREACH

- CA Trails and Greenways Conference – Rohnert Park March 27-29
- Petaluma Waterways Workshop – Kayaking expedition March 27
- CA Infrastructure Conference – b/c ABAG part of MTC – team up with bike-share programs to show various Water Trail sites – emphasize need for small infrastructure
- North Bay Watershed Association Conference – tabling at event
- Resilient By Design Final Products – water access as part of their designs
- SFBBO Birding Book / Brochure – kayak/shoreline based birding
- Richmond Boat Show –**April 19-21**
- Visions of the Wild Film Festival paddle - **DATE TBD**

PMT/AC Updates

- **BCDC Updates** – Strategic Plan and work plan update in the next few months, increased community member support for permittees BCDC has been pursuing for violations, PRA requests, public outreach – feel free to attend enforcement
- I HEART CA kayak stickers – available from Penny
- Petaluma public works department managing the Petaluma Marina – needing attention.
- Hydrofoiling – new technology
- Kayaks Unlimited at Islais Creek – new 40ft container donated from **Pasha Shipping** – big thank you to Port of SF! – New public bathroom at Islais Creek coming.

Suisun Marsh Restoration and Access Planning – Erik Loboschefskey – Erik.Loboschefskey@water.ca.gov Department of Water Resources

[Link to Power Point Presentation](#)

- Tidal Restoration Efforts in Suisun Marsh

- DWR EcoRestore program – mirroring CA EcoRestore mandate/program (projected to end in 2020)
- DWR EcoRestore – without a designated end date – jumpstart restoration efforts in Delta and Marsh – helped streamline some permitting for restoration projects
- Discussion about types of wetlands: managed wetlands, tidal wetlands etc.
- Min. 30,000 acres to be restored
- Jurisdiction: Yolo bypass to Suisun Marsh
- **SUISUN MARSH**
 - Within legal primary boundaries of the marsh
 - Hill Slough intended to begin construction in a few months
 - Tule Red construction beginning this summer
 - other projects projected to begin in next few years
- **Blacklock Tidal Restoration:**
 - Previous Duck Club
 - levee breached - now navigable waters and public can access internal marsh
 - breaches designed to be self-maintaining
- **Tule Red**
 - Formally managed wetlands restored to natural hydrology of Tidal Marsh
 - Earth moving – channel and upland refugia creation and engineered design
- **PUBLIC ACCESS**
 - Suisun marsh plan slides (slide numbers)
 - BCDC requires “maximum feasible public access”
 - DWR funding a public access study for Suisun Marsh – seeking stakeholder inputs at a public outreach meeting **April 10, 2018 at 5:30pm at the Suisun City Library** (601 Pintail Dr, Suisun City, CA 94585)
 - Sites selected tend to be remote for the projection of specific threatened fish species (longfin and delta smelt), makes access challenging
 - Define existing public access what could be improved/created /in lieu/offsite public access, not right on restoration site.
 - Challenge of maintaining access at remote sites
 - Restoration as potential opportunities for new water-access
 - How best to promote/design opportunities – water-access considerations for non-motorized small craft?
 - Existing boat launches in Suisun Marsh – Suisun City and Belden’s Landing
 - EBPRD launch at Bay Point?
 - Potential to create multi day boating trip at various water-access sites – as a loop – with parking area adjacent to a marina or public park etc.
 - Management questions – waste management and electronics burned for copper on the beaches?
 - Designate “access areas” identified, mapped, and appropriately graded, not necessarily needing utilities or any scale of infrastructure, safety awareness of water-fowl hunting, particularly sites sandwiched between private properties

[California Outdoor Engagement Coalition](#) – Jenny Mulholland Behrs -
j.mulholland-behrs@berkeley.edu

[Link to Power Point Presentation](#)

- Coalition of organizations and agencies working to expand equitable access to the outdoors in California to serve all communities and users in California
 - ***Priorities: Equity, Diversity, Inclusion***
 - ***Advocate for Equitable Access to the Outdoors***
- Outdoor access at all scales – National Parks to street trees
- [Over 100 members](#), agencies, organizations, regional transportation organizations
 - Cross-sector partnerships
 - Professional network
 - Broadened audience to share access
 - Ask that organizations share data and participate in quarterly meetings
 - Promote member organization’s work
- Design regional partnerships (eg: Richmond Outdoor Coalition – pages 17-20 in slideshow)
 - Multi-career emphasis on engagement and value of outdoor access and recreation
 - Find a Park Program – “nature prescription” – [Healthy Parks Healthy People Programs](#)
 - Emphasizing transportation links
 - Potential Water Trail engagement in Richmond:
 - Programming opportunities – fairly protected Marina Bay, and historical sites – something similar to Kayak Unlimited work in Islais Creek
 - Water Trail engagement at different age ranges
 - Richmond has one of the longest contiguous sections of Bay Trail – potential to link AC transit drop-offs with specific Bay Trail sites
 - Need to link outreach with swimming lessons – the [Plunge in Point Richmond](#) recently restored/revamped
 - Increased Bay education – fishing, wildlife/habitat education
 - Need for rental and instructional facilities in Richmond – SHARED GEAR LIBRARY via Richmond Outdoor Coalition – Kayaks Unlimited
 - Rich City Rides – shared storage for bikes – could there be combined storage w/kayak/SUP gear
 - BioBlitzs as a means of public engagement –2017 Point Pinole BioBlitz was organized by The Watershed Project

Trailhead Designation Consideration: [Doolittle Boat Launch report](#); [Link to Power Point Presentation](#)

- Presentation and Site Description review – (see document linked above)
 - Designating Shoreline Room launch and formal launch as a combined site

- City of Oakland, San Leandro Bay, EBRPD managed property part of MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline
- Connected paddling opportunities (map page link in slide show)
- Site heavily used by motorized and non-motorized boats
- Ample free parking dawn to dusk
- 1 ADA flush toilet
- Not broadly accessible in current state – EBRPD planning 2019 ADA redevelopment – part of larger Bay Trail redevelopment project along MLK Regional Shoreline
- Destination site in connection with Tidewater Boating Center
- Proposed Designation Conditions
- Discussion with Advisory Committee
 - Potential for sandy beach creation? – Unlikely – highly erosive shoreline
 - Generally think it's a great site
 - Identify that there are two sites and the amenities at both locations – include in Designation Conditions – include in signage
 - Potential to include paved path of travel from Shoreline Room to associated launch (to make fully ADA accessible) in Phase II of MLK Shoreline Bay Trail improvements.
 - Used by at least 4 rowing clubs, CAL, Oakland Strokes, Artemis, and Berkeley High
- Public comment
 - Send signage conditions to BCDC for review
 - Potential for conflict with jet ski users – excluded seasonally (November – March)
 - 1 KM Buoy line (Nov-March) from base of Arrowhead Marsh to the end of Airport channel for California Rowing Club
- **Advisory Committee consensus guidance to Project Management Team on trailhead designation (EBRPD staff recusing themselves from decision making)**
 - Unanimous support for conditional designation based on planned ADA improvements in particular the installation of a new high-freeboard dock float and a second low-freeboard dock for non-motorized watercraft, renovation of the boat ramp for improved safety and traction for launching, the addition of a kayak staging area, designated loading/unloading spaces near launch, and the creation of ADA compliant access between the parking lot and boat ramp as well as ADA trailer parking stalls. The Water Trail Advisory Committee members also recommend installing a paved path of travel from the Shoreline Room to the adjacent ADA low-freeboard launch.
- **Project Management Team discussion and decision on conditional designation**
 - **Unanimous PMT consensus support for designation and agreement on recommendation to install paved path of travel from the Shoreline Room to the adjacent ADA low-freeboard launch.**

East Bay Regional Park District Water Trail Implementation Plan Review – (pgs 12-2) in [slideshow](#)

- EBRPD Implementation Plan as vision for furthering Water Trail partners
- Identified 20 sites in 2016, tiered sites based on facilities, might updating project sites
- 10 Designated Sites: Improvements anticipated include mobi-mats at Big Break (can be anchored down so maintained at high tides), kayak program storage, and mobi-mats at

Crown Beach near board sports concession, construction of the Point Isabel windsurf improvements, Eden Landing needs ID sign, and Albany Beach improvements– should be completed in 2018. Encinal Beach improvements construction in 2019

- UPCOMING SITES link to slide show pages
 - Point Pinole water access near campground
 - Tier IV – Brickyard Property identified in EBPRD Camping Plan as potential boat-in camping location

Water Trail 5-Year Strategic Implementation Plan Presentation

- Review postponed until June 2018 meeting

Public Comments

- Water hyacinth concerns when designating areas in the Delta
- 5-year EIR for invasive species eradication efforts (Department of Water Resources)
- San Francisco Maritime Festival of the Sea – will be on August 18th. Lynn asked for recommendations for water activities /events in Water Park Cove (some kind of competition in the cove – SUP?)
- Kevin Takei interviewed by Doug McConnell for Open Road about EBRPD and the Water Trail – will send link when published.