

**San Francisco Bay Area WT
Accessibility Sub-Committee Meeting #4
August 28, 2014**

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Accessibility Sub-Committee: Joy Dryden, David Fazio

Project Management Team (PMT): Ellen Miramontes, Laura Thompson, Amy Hutzler (for Ann Buell)

WT Stakeholders and Guests: Jack Judkins (Conservancy, by phone), Tim Gilbert (MIG), Ralph Mihan (San Rafael Parks and Recreation/Marin Open Space Trust), Susanne von Rosenberg (GAIA), Carwile LeRoy, Fernanda Castelo (UniverSail), Tania Sole (Redwood Shores, by phone)

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Gilbert welcomed the group. Introductions were made. Gilbert reviewed the agenda. The Purpose of meeting is primarily to get comments on Draft WT (WT) Accessibility Plan (Plan). Will have opportunity for public comment on non-agenda items at end of meeting.

Gilbert Started overview of Accessibility Plan. Plan has two audiences: site owners/managers, and the WT program.

Dryden Executive Summary needs a different title. Does a great job of describing the purpose of the Plan, but can't tell from the title of the section. Needs a "Purpose of Accessibility Plan" section, or Executive Summary needs to be called something like that.

Fazio Agrees. Another suggestion is to call it a "Statement of Purpose."

LeRoy What is meant by program?

von Rosenberg Program refers to the implementing agencies' efforts to make the WT happen. The WT does not offer any specific activities.

Judkins Intent is to create an accessible WT program by promoting accessibility at individual sites.

LeRoy So the program creates the WT not events?

Judkins Yes.

Gilbert Continues to review Table of Contents for Plan.

von Rosenberg Put in “Level of Accessibility” section because there was an early concept that WT would be able to rate sites by level of accessibility. Learned that that simply cannot be done because it's so boat- and person-specific.

Fazio Likes the definition of accessibility because it's broad and does not reference legal requirements. Also uses the definition of accessibility as “getting the widest use out of your environment for the greatest number of people.”

Gilbert Points out the section on boating alone and in groups. This item was included because while WT strongly discourages individuals from boating alone, accessibility means that individuals are able to recreate on their own without assistance from others. At the same time, having other individuals available may greatly increase accessibility.

Gilbert Continued to review table of contents. Described contents of Chapters 2 and 3 then described georegions approach in Chapter 4. Georegions were created for the Accessibility Plan, not based on any political boundaries.

von Rosenberg Georegions were designed to evaluate accessibility of sites on a local basis, so that persons seeking to find accessible WT sites would not have to travel so far, so that there are some sites in each area that have accessible features.

Miramontes BCDC can guide public access improvements through its permit process. Knowing what is missing and suggested for each georegion provides a great basis for setting public access requirements in permits. Also a good resource for people providing grants.

Fazio Is there a pyramid of priorities for grants?

Thompson WT is not doing a scoring system but accessibility is a major factor.

Gilbert Also provides guidance to site owners and managers for their sites for more aggressive enhancements. Summary table at end of Chapter 4 provides an overall view.

von Rosenberg Table shows obvious gaps in features.

Dryden Plan does not give a great sense of what works for beaches. She gave comments on beach access. In her home region, 6 of 10 beaches are not accessible, meaning there is no accessible path of travel from the accessible parking and/or restrooms down to the beach.

LeRoy One of the two docks at the Berkeley Marina is not accessible; the other one can only be reached via narrow and steep gangway.

Fazio Need to provide demographics in Plan. There are more than 0.5 million people with disabilities in the Bay Area and more than 1 million disabled parking

- permits. Help site owners/managers understand need for and benefit of increasing accessibility.
- LeRoy It's important to educate people.
- Mihan Can you provide demographics by County? That would help focus on where improvements are most needed.
- Fazio Yes.
- Hutzel Arrives and introduces herself. Manager of Bay Programs for Conservancy.
- Fazio Consider adding a list of consultants and firms able to assist with accessibility to the list of resources. Need to make it as easy as possible for site owners/managers to improve their sites. Having to find help is another obstacle.
- Gilbert Will record comment. Not sure that we can do this.
- Castelo WT program should look beyond just recreational experiences and should also look at competitive activities. On the West Coast there's a great interest in developing competitive sailing/Paralympian sports. These activities are very strong in California. Is there a working facility (site) that is ready or close to ready for this type of training?
- Dryden Can look at website to find out more about what sites could be used. Today's meeting is to focus on the Plan and its contents, not to give information on sites.
- Castelo Sees Plan as a great resource.
- Gilbert Going beyond experiences to look at competitive training opportunities is an interesting perspective.
- Castelo Attended first adaptive rowing regatta a few weeks ago. At Bair Island/Redwood Shores. It was amazing to see.
- Miramontes Sailboats are not included in the WT. Not sure when and why that determination was made. Maybe part of the legislation?
- Fazio Why are sailboats not included? There's a huge sailing community in the Bay Area.
- von Rosenberg Sailboats up to 8 feet in length were included in the draft WT Plan. Need to research.
- Dryden Resources are listed for sailing organizations, too, in Chapter 6.
- Fazio Impacts funding too. Another important element is mobile apps. Boaters are using them on boats, for example for weather. Consider creating either a mobile app for the WT, or making the website mobile-friendly, by having it continually updated (with weather and tide information, for example).
- Judkins WT act itself may limit types of boats. The act references beachable sailcraft and car top sailboats.

- Gilbert Completes review of Plan Chapter 5 Chapter 6 and appendices. Appendices need to be added to the Table of Contents.
- von Rosenberg Appendix B is a very important component, the more options we can include here the better.
- Fazio On page 2–21 use the actual BAADS dock picture, not a generic picture. The Plan has the picture of the actual dock on pages B-6 and B-12.
- Dryden Chapter 2 is more general, that may be why another picture was used.
- Fazio Should still use the correct photo.
- Gilbert Appendix C contains some general information on costs for various types of improvements. Information is designed to give site owners and managers a general sense of what various improvements may cost.
- Fazio By law, one can never make a decision on whether to implement any ADA improvements based on cost.
- Gilbert Moving on to questions posed by Ann Buell. Questions are:
- 1) Did we leave anything big and important out in terms of barriers to accessibility or solutions (within the world of the WT in the Bay Area)?
 - 2) Do you know of any other resources that could be added to Chapter 6?
 - 3) Do you know of any other specific enhancement solutions that could be illustrated in Appendix B?
 - 4) Is there anything else that is important to the experience of being out on the water that you think we should include?
 - 5) Have we misstated something, overlooked something, or not been clear about something?
 - 6) Do the ideas for information to add to the website seem useful
- Castelo With regard to asking about additional resources: USsailing.org has an adaptive sailing page on their website. That page has a link to a 30-page document on accessible infrastructure. Document was just completed last year.
- Gilbert Great. Will include document in resources.
- Fazio Will provide other resources as well. Still thinks list of consultants and firms advising on accessibility improvements should be included in resource list.
- Castelo Regatta events are very big, have a big potential economic benefit. If correct infrastructure is in place, site is more favorable from the regatta management and organizational perspective. Galveston Texas has a Sea Scout facility that is intended to be the model for accessibility for all types of boats. Would be a good facility to look at.
- Dryden Definitely need to add to the list of organizations. Several organizations are missing.

- Gilbert Would appreciate help with adding any organizations that should be listed but aren't.
- Dryden Do not use the words "not suitable" when describing various types of site features.
- von Rosenberg How do we differentiate in Plan between features that are more usable by people with disabilities and those that less favorable?
- Dryden Leave out judgments; just state challenges.
- Fazio Can say "most preferred" for better features.
- Dryden But do not use negatives. Don't tell me what I can't do. Each boater can assess what's possible for them.
- Mihan There seems to be nothing in Chapter 2 that addresses gangways.
- Gilbert Plan does include information on gangways.
- Miramontes/Thompson Information is provided in Appendix B.
- von Rosenberg And some in the information on legal requirements.
- Mihan Gangways are key issue for access.
- von Rosenberg WT cannot rate whether gangway is accessible or not. WT staff not able to make that determination.
- Fazio It's most useful to focus recommendations, not just legal requirements. Sometimes requirements do not serve everybody.
- Hutzel For example the toeboard recommendation, works well for people with visual limitations, and as a safety stop for wheeled assistance devices, but can be a barrier to entering a watercraft.
- Fazio The Plan generally does a good job of describing recommendations and not focusing so much on requirements. He likes that tone of document is generally along the lines of "This is what we found."
- Castelo It would be a good idea to create an approach for site evaluation for site owners/managers to use. Goal would be to create openness to exploration. Asking questions like "What is specific to your region? What population is using your site? What do they want and need?" It's important to avoid the negative. Avoid the idea that "we tried it and it didn't work."
- During preparation for the America's Cup, organizers looked for accessible facilities around the bay. It was only the BAADS facility that met their needs. So sailors with disabilities had to put in the Pier 40 and be towed to Piers 27 or 28. There are only one or two facilities in the Bay that are suitable for sailors with disabilities interested in competitive sailing or training for the Paralympics.
- Fazio Would like the WT to include sailing. The Plan needs to include resources for people who are interested in making improvements to their sites. Providing a list

of consultants who can contribute to people who want to make access improvements is one more way to make it easier for people to proceed with improvements.

Judkins Likes the idea of having a list of consultants, but wants a neutral way to do it.

Fazio Port of San Francisco has a list of qualified consultants that they keep – maybe the WT could do something similar.

Judkins Is there a professional organization for this group of consultants that we could refer people to?

Fazio No.

Dryden Could Beneficial Designs serve as a referral organization?

Gilbert Beneficial Designs is also consultant, actually. Would be looking for umbrella group.

Hutzel A bit concerned about having a State agency providing list of consultants. Maybe if it could be made clear that State is not endorsing anyone listed, and that list is not comprehensive. Would have to add a lot of qualifying language. Need to evaluate.

Castelo There are a couple of other resources to include SFsail.org, and Latitude 30. The contact at SFsail is John Arndt. There's also the Strictly Sailing Oakland Boat Show in Jack London Square. Anyone and everyone who has something to do with the water is there.

Would like to see an emphasis on using regional resources where available, and see more expansive planning to include sailing and perhaps other forms of boating.

Hutzel If there isn't a Bay-wide resource for sailing as a sport that is a much larger issue. And addressing sailing as a whole would increase the complexity of this Plan exponentially. Right now what we can do is limited by the WT legislation. Creating a sailing plan for San Francisco Bay would be very complicated.

Fazio Would like to know what constitutes a beachable sailcraft? What is meant by that definition?

LeRoy Could be anything where the centerboard could be removed. You could then beach any of those craft.

Dryden Agrees that sailing should be listed and resources for sailing should be listed. But discussion is getting away from the review of the Plan.

Gilbert Any other features that should be included in the Plan?

von Rosenberg Would like to go back to Ann's Question 1 on major omissions. Thank you to Joy Dryden for pointing out access issue with beaches.

Miramontes Believes that based on what we have learned from site visits and Joy Dryden's input that the ability to pull or grab, to pull oneself needs to be added. Thinking about grab bars, ropes etc.

von Rosenberg These features are mentioned in Appendix B, but not as separate item.

Miramontes Would like to see it as a separate element in Appendix B

Gilbert Can also add the regulatory component for this type of feature.

Fazio Would like to see more information about hoists; not given much emphasis in Plan.

Miramontes There are potential difficulties with hoists, including theft. Hoist was put in at Pier 52, and was stolen.

Gilbert Usually need attendant to operate hoist too. Might be difficult to have a safe hoist that would work in this application that is independently operable. Not sure if it is required to be independently operable in this application. It is for swimming pool hoists.

Fazio Hoist at BAADS facility has been in place for a while, used successfully.

LeRoy BAADS facility has volunteers and is not always well supervised.

Castelo ChallengedAmerica.org located in San Diego designed their own movable lift. Contact person is Doug Shaw. They can take it apart and move it to other docks, although it is heavy. It is rolled out onto the dock.

Thompson Would specifically like feedback on the georegions approach.

Gilbert Provides overview of the information contained in each georegion subsection in Chapter 4.

Dryden Doesn't see point of general recommendations at end of each subsection. They feel like fluff. Each georegion would benefit from all the listed features.

Miramontes Information is useful for BCDC. Enables us to look for opportunities to put in additional features. Also probably useful for ABAG grants.

Thompson Yes.

Dryden Still doesn't see the value. This is not how she as a disabled person would choose a site. Not going to look through the Plan to say, for example, is there a low-float dock in this region?

von Rosenberg WT can't provide site-specific recommendations. That would be overreaching authority of the WT; would be too directive. Can only work with site owner/manager to suggest improvements, can't require improvements.

Hutzel Information is useful depending on audience; it's more for agency use. For site owners WT can only encourage them to make changes, can't require it.

- Mihan Recommendations do help him when he goes to his policymakers, such as the Planning Commission.
- Judkins These recommendations are definitely part of the purpose of the Plan. A critical part of the Plan is also good information and communication for WT users, and that is provided primarily through the website.
- von Rosenberg List of information to be included in the site descriptions on the website is in Chapter 3.
- Dryden Still need some way of flagging big problems. In Marin there is a big problem getting from accessible parking to the beaches.
- Gilbert Any final thoughts before we decide who presents the results of the meeting at the WT implementation meeting next week?
- Fazio Appreciates the look to the future and the opportunistic approach to improvements in this Plan. It will be important to continually update the Plan as improvements are made.
- Thompson Plan will be updated regularly.
- Fazio ADA approach is to continually remove barriers as it becomes feasible. This Plan is consistent with that approach.
- Miramontes Hope is that the charts in the georegions showing the various features will become continually more "blue."
- Hutzel Path of travel issue is an issue.
- von Rosenberg Tried to describe specific experience in each georegion, would be great to provide specific types of concerns, limitations, or obstacles associated with each georegion.
- Castelo Public comments on the America's Cup Plan included a desire for trails. You're doing it here, and that's great.
- Miramontes Accessibility improvements were also made due to the America's Cup.
- Castelo Would be great to get back to those commenters to demonstrate that they were heard.
- Dryden When are comments due? At end of WT Implementation meeting?
- von Rosenberg Comment period ends September 12, one week after WT Implementation meeting. Then will revise and finalize the Plan.
- Hutzel And then Plan goes to the Conservancy Board at the December 4 Board meeting, for adoption by the Board.
- Gilbert Need volunteer from the Accessibility Sub-Committee to present the Sub-Committee comments on the Plan on September 5.

Dryden What is the purpose of the Sub-Committee presentation at the September 5 meeting?

von Rosenberg To provide Sub-Committee's perspective and comments on the Plan. There will be less time to discuss in the review the Plan than we had today.

Miramontes Agenda allows for an hour and 20 minutes. So still can have some good discussion.

Dryden Feels that the point of the Sub-Committee report should be to stimulate interest so people actually review and comment on the Plan. Make the point of asking the question whether attendees have gone out on the water with a disabled person or whether they simply felt it would be too hard (due to too many barriers). Some sites require a lot of advanced planning to allow use by a person with a disability.

Castelo Suggest that reviewers be asked to look carefully at the specific georegion they live in or use, and comment on that.

Decision: Fazio and Dryden will co-present outcomes. von Rosenberg to provide review draft meeting notes by Tuesday.
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The next WT Implementation meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2014 at 10 a.m.

Public Comment - No comments.

Adjourn - Meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.