



**San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail  
Implementation Meeting #7  
June 28, 2013**

**Meeting Summary<sup>1</sup>**

**Attendees:**

<i>Project Management Team (PMT):</i>	Ann Buell, Steve Watanabe, Laura Thompson, Ellen Miramontes
<i>Water Trail Staff:</i>	Galli Basson
<i>Advisory Committee (AC):</i>	Penny Wells, Ted Choi, Bill Curry, Jennifer Heroux, Barbara Salzman, Cheryl Essex, Paul Nixon (AC Alt), Brian Wiese, Cat Burns (phone), Carol Perry (phone)
<i>Stakeholder Group:</i>	Ralph Mihan, Antoinette Romeo (phone), Joy Dryden, Tim Gilbert (MIG, Inc.), Yuri Jewett (MIG, Inc.), Ashley Tomerlin (MIG, Inc.), Greg Sabourin (Petaluma Small Craft Center), Barbara Rice (National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program), Susanne von Rosenberg (GAIA Consulting, Inc.), Richard Bicknell, Palo Alto Baylands Sail Station (City of Palo Alto), Bonnie Lewkowicz
<i>Facilitation:</i>	Ariel Ambruster

**Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review**

Ann Buell welcomed the group. Introductions were made. Ariel reviewed the agenda and ground rules.

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

Buell Announced a few changes within the Advisory Committee: Richard Skaff and Jonathan Goldman have resigned from the committee. Interested in suggestions for an accessibility representative for the advisory committee who can give broad representation. Anne Rockwell has retired, and Kevin Takei will serve as the alternate to Brian Wiese on the committee. Presented a session on water trails with Galli Basson, Steve Watanabe, and Sue Rae Irelan (California Tahoe Conservancy and

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<sup>1</sup> Bracketed sentences added by Buell for clarification or from flip chart notes.

the Lake Tahoe Water Trail) at the California Trails and Greenway Conference at Lake Tahoe in May, and created a handout as a resource for water trail managers and users (available on Water Trail website under Announcements). Invited people to contact her or Galli if they had information (between meetings) that could be included in one of the email updates they send to the community.

- Basson The Water Trail brochure has been published. A Water Trail poster has also been created, and staff plans to reach out to boating retailers to display. New website pages have been added: new species on the Discover the Bay page, a new attractions page, new sites in Richmond, and the National Maritime Museum and other cultural attractions have been added to the site. Added wildlife protection page and information on boat storage as well.
- Watanabe Today is the last working day for the Department of Boating and Waterways. As of July 1, the Department will be a Division within California State Parks. The move comes at a good time for the Department because State Parks has highly qualified environmental scientists with expertise on permitting. The merge could result in the ability to build projects faster. [The Division of Boating and Waterways will have a state-funded grant program for non-motorized boat access.]
- Miramontes Pier 52 and San Francisco Marina launches originally planned for June, but now planned for August. Pier 39 also delayed. At Pier 39, still working through details on signage and access through the gate to the site. Regarding Brannan Street Wharf, waiting to hear from the Port on the timeline for the project. In Oakland, plans for Gateway Park include a water trail site. BCDC staff will reach out to Advisory Committee members and stakeholders to answer questions about the proposed site.
- Wells A group of kayakers from Bay Access and BASK paddled out to Big Break Regional Shoreline in Oakley and saw many cultural artifacts along the river and protected water with islands. The hardscape is very accommodating to kayakers. Should be part of the Water Trail system.
- Wiese Two years ago, the water trail concept was taken to the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors and they supported expansion into the Delta and San Joaquin County.
- Essex State Parks has developed a recreational proposal for the Delta and San Joaquin River. Benicia State Recreation Area is seen as the link between the bay and the delta. Will continue to work with the Delta Protection Commission, the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Conservancy. The California Water Plan includes the state's strategy for prioritizing water use efficiency, conservation and stewardship. For the first time, the plan will have an objective that the state will protect public access to beaches, rivers and lakes. Webinar on July 9. Will send information to Ann when the plan is up for public review.
- Nixon Just came back from a kayaking trip in Pennsylvania. Consider watershed associations as potential resources to connect with local people about water trails.
- Heroux Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge has seen support from the kayaking community helping with habitat restoration, illustrating how the non-motorized boating community can help land managers. On the down side, the islands are off

limits to the public and managers continue to see illegal landings and disturbance from boaters, resulting in habitat impacts.

### **Alviso Marina County Park**

Buell introduced the topic of designating Alviso Marina County Park as a Water Trail site. At the last meeting, the AC reviewed and there was consensus for designation. In response to comments, an accessible picnic table and an accessible water spout for the boat washing station were installed.

Review of conditions: Water Trail identification sign installed, Water trail brochure provided on site, and a sign plan agreed upon for the site. The County has gone through the process they needed for approval.

Project Manager Team decision: Thompson, Watanabe, Buell and Miramontes expressed their support for designation and for developing the sign plan. Conditional designation was approved for the Alviso Marina County Park.

### **Water Trail Grant Program Update and Input**

Basson provided updates on the grant program as a whole. Three applications have been received. The reason for only three is because the Water Trail program is requiring projects to be shovel ready. Grant applications are still being accepted. Staff is interested in hearing about projects the Advisory Committee might be aware of. Today staff is looking for feedback on the grant proposal projects.

### Petaluma Small Craft Center

Basson provided an overview of the Petaluma Small Craft Center grant application. The project is located downtown near commercial activities. Access improvements will be made to the site. Details about the proposed rental center were described, including an additional 120-foot low freeboard dock that will support a new floating rental center. The project also proposes a new restroom and showers. The project fits into Petaluma Water Ways as a broader concept for enhancing the Petaluma River for recreation. Petaluma will evaluate impacts of the entire project in an EIR [since revised to Mitigated Negative Declaration] under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Nesting bird and fisheries impacts will need to be addressed. Timeline for process: CEQA hoped to be completed in August [update: it will be initiated in August], and the Conservancy will make findings on the CEQA document in late 2013 or early 2014. Site designation will be brought back to the Advisory Committee. Construction is estimated to begin in April 2014.

Salzman           What parts are on shore?

Basson            The shower and restroom are on land, the floating dock is on the water.

Greg               July 15, Petaluma City Council will consider a resolution supporting the project and to start the designation process.

Basson            The funding request is for the 120-foot floating dock.

- Greg Four parts: 120-foot dock, a new dock for the center, restroom with shower at Cavanaugh Park, boats. Working to secure other funds for the other three components [i.e., other than the low-float dock].
- Salzman The Madrone Audubon Chapter is concerned about the heron rookery. [Copies of a letter from Madrone Audubon Society were distributed to everyone present.]  
Barbara made some summary comments:
- Illegal hunting is occurring within two miles of the proposed freeboard dock.
  - Madrone Audubon does not support new boating trails, but does support stop offs only at the Petaluma Marina and at the former Papa's Taverna.
  - Concern about keeping people away from the heron rookery. Supports signs but concerned that people will ignore them. How can people judge the distance of 300feet - use a marker?
- Barbara concerned that there is no enforcement.
- Wells It is six miles from Petaluma to Papa's Taverna. The marsh is not accessible except at very high tide.
- Dryden Identify the heron rookery?
- Greg A rookery was removed by Caltrans along Highway 101 not located near this project. Another rookery is on a 40-acre private property with a steep bank and mud. Tree is on the bank of the river.
- Wiese There are powerboats along the waterway.
- Greg Hunting occurs illegally.
- Heroux Public access proposal looks exciting. Will increase use of the area. 1) Concerned about just using signage to address this increased programming and use. Ways beyond signage should be considered. 2) Public parking and access to the site. Concerned about current public access if shopping center proposal does not work out. Suggests dedicated parking space for people wishing to use the low freeboard dock so people not affiliated with the center can still access the water. 3) If other components do not happen, what is the long term use and viability of the site?
- Miramontes Not within BCDC jurisdiction. Important that Gangway #2 be modified for accessibility: removal of flag pole, and check on width and grade of path and gangway.
- Choi What is beyond the Taverna Marina area within 4-6 miles? Average customers will reach 4 miles from the Turning Basin, but may go beyond and launch from different places. Will there be patrol along the Petaluma River? [Someone said CA DFW patrols but only infrequently.]
- Wells From Petaluma to Highway 37 is 12 miles. Papa's Taverna is about halfway, at 6 miles. Turning Basin has received public support and is the focal point for on water activities.
- Curry Encourages clarity of signs.

Public comments

- Rice Asked for clarification from Heroux on environmental issues.
- Heroux Concerned the site will increase use beyond the normal mitigation measures. The program could have a specific wildlife education component to it. Encouraged staff to be very explicit about education.
- Rice People will use different sites overall. This is the interesting aspect of the Water Trail. To determine how specific sites may or may not see increases.
- [Follow up] [Basson, Buell, and von Rosenberg will follow up on wildlife and CEQA issues.]

Palo Alto Sailing Station

Basson provided an overview of the grant request from this conditionally designated site. City of Palo Alto requesting \$40,000 for upgrades, repairs and improvements, including accessibility improvements. Proposal includes: parking and path of travel improvements. Restroom will be relocated closer to the pier, will install a compliant drinking fountain closer to the pier, compliant pay phone and signs. Pier, gangway and dock improvements, including handrails and resurfacing the wooden pier and add wheel guides. Also replace non-compliant spigot at boat wash with compliant lever style.

- Wells Explain handrails on the pier.
- Bicknell Will install a handrail on the gangway and on the pier. Functions as a bar that people can hold onto while traversing the pier, gangway and the dock transition.
- Salzman Concerned about non-native seeds getting back into the bay. Washing station should have some kind of containment or filter to prevent the seeds from going back in the bay.
- Bicknell Natural low spot area could have a French drain that could capture the water. Lower edge of the parking lot has a bioswale.
- Heroux Thanks Palo Alto for submitting the proposal. Nice example of how this process can work well from conditional designation to improvements. All issues are being addressed.
- Von Rosenberg WT EIR addresses washing to avoid spreading seed between sites rather than at the site. Put clean boat in at Palo Alto and wash off before taking boat to another site. Trying to prevent the transport of seeds to a new locus.
- Dryden Resurfacing the parking lot?
- Bicknell Have not designed the project yet, but it will be non-slip, permeable concrete, not gravel. Bar on pier, not dock (okay for windsurfers carrying equipment).
- Miramontes Very appropriate use of the grant funds and appreciate the follow-through. Will need to submit plans to BCDC once completed.

Oyster Point Marina, South San Francisco

Basson provided information about the Oyster Point Marina application received, requesting \$20,000 for kayak racks and signage; application was not complete or ready for full discussion. More specific information was submitted right before the meeting. Need to continue to work with the applicant. Boat storage has the potential for being very popular here with companies in close proximity. Not sure, however, if this is desired by the boating community. Asked for input from the group about desirability of boat storage at the site and, in general, at other places around the bay. The grant program could be a good fit for funding boat storage.

- Wells            A good place for boat storage would be one of the docks west of the ferry pier. Would avoid conflict with the ferry. On a dock behind a locked gate.
- Choi             Design of the storage should include a roof so ultra-violet light damage can be reduced. Security is important. Boats can be stolen from both land and water sides. Will marina staff provide a watchful eye? Storage is needed everywhere because it allows for point to point travel, and emergency exit during an excursion.
- Nixon            Airport serves as a barrier between sites.
- Curry           Breakwaters block site lines and could be dangerous if kayakers cannot see motor boats entering the harbor. There is a potential safety issue at this site.
- Mihan           Supports grants for storage in the San Rafael canal area. Site on city property would work well there. Club can't afford to put up storage. Club would then charge a rental fee to help defray their costs.
- Heroux           The applicant has not demonstrated a need for storage. Would want to see this demand. Is it a problem if we funded the storage resulting in a long-term profit for the site owner?
- Buell             There are ways to handle private gain – require that it is put back into the project or the purposes of the project.
- Miramontes     Is this a desired place for storage? Does the dock function well for kayaks and paddleboards? Kayakers may want to come onto land where property owners do not welcome them.
- [Follow up]     [Buell and Basson will follow up on boat storage questions.]

**Accessibility Plan Update**

Buell introduced Tim Gilbert, landscape architect with MIG, Inc.. MIG will be building on the work GPPA architects started. Ann provided an overview of Tim's experience in developing accessibility and transition plans. The table of contents is available for AC review and comment. She covered the project background. The purpose of the plan is to have a guide for the PMT and site owners/managers seeking to make Water Trail sites as accessible as possible. Goals: establish a vision of what is needed, where it is needed and the range of opportunities. Recommendations for solutions, knowledge of other aspects of accessibility in the realm of communication. And finally, how to implement the plan.

Gilbert introduced Yuri Jewett as project manager and Ashley Tomerlin as project associate. Walked through each chapter of the table of contents as the basis of the work for completing the plan early next year.

Regulations. Federal, state and local regulations are known, but there is not a lot of direction for water-based accessibility. This chapter will help owners/managers understand the requirements.

Challenges. A wide variety of experiences are designed for trails and for water access. The wide variety of watercraft, landing and launch spaces, issue of multiple ownership, lack of knowledge of how to provide accessible sites and programs, including communication to the public, minimum compliance vs. best practices, such as EZ Dock and new technologies. Storage will have great benefit to people with disabilities. Universal design is the goal rather than creating a separate set of options. Conservancy and Water Trail Program does not have the authority to dictate improvements.

Program needs to be accessible when viewed in its entirety. Organizing the bay into geographic regions will help craft a well-balanced program when viewed in its entirety. Comprehensive look at the entire program, information, outreach, looked at with a holistic view and distributed around the bay area. Factors such as boat types, tides, etc. play into this regional accessibility.

Timeline was posted with an administrative draft in October 2013, and the final plan in January 2014.

A survey will be conducted, possibly including person-to-person, in fall 2013 to help inform the Accessibility Plan.

Communication with the public. Expand review of potential sites and some in-depth review of targeted sites. Implementation of improvements involves a phased, practical approach. Chapter of resources for the program and for owners/land managers. Appendices with the Beneficial Designs report.

Open to ideas for additions or changes.

Dryden            Most important thing that Water Trail can do for access is to provide information about the sites so that people can make their own determination about whether they can access the site on their own or need assistance. Wants a website that has all the information in one place for the public. This needs to be added. Some consistent protocol for levels of accessibility.

Buell             Plan to have a standard set of information that will be included for every site. Looking for information on what the fields should be.

Miramontes      Wants the plan to be useful and applied to the Bay Area and its waters. Make sure the plan is directly tied to the place. The specific information along with the geographic analysis. Sites should communicate with each other. Don't want it to just be a reciting of information we already know, but an application of the information as a guide.

Lewkowicz        Pleased to hear about universal design, because it is about inclusion. Wrote the book about landside accessibility. Working on the "Wheeling CA Coast" website to bring book information to the internet. Consider using videos of people getting into small craft from the dock. Visuals are helpful.

- Bicknell Owner/manager perspective, welcome accessibility guidelines. Understanding what improvements are needed has been challenging.
- Nixon ETC and other groups where people are helping each other. Community organizing tools can help. Incentives where people can work together to help accessibility.
- Mihan What is the composition of the subcommittee and how will it operate?
- Buell One meeting has been held. Advisory Committee members with accessibility expertise are part of the committee, as well as any member of the public who is interested (such as Joy, Greg [Milano] and David [Fazio]). We would like to have more people on the subcommittee. Ann [and staff from MIG] will reach out to some people who have been recommended. Ralph interested in getting e-mails.
- Heroux Opportunity to be a leader for real guidance. Runs visitor services program and cannot be an expert in all topics. Does not know all the obligations for the owner/operator. Document will be useful. Best practices will be helpful. Currently receives plans that are ADA-compliant but not useful or desired.
- Essex State Parks has a transition plan. Several state parks are proposed as part of the Water Trail. Accessibility plan should address the role of transition plans, such as in Chapter 3. Resources: consider examples of transition plans. If transition plan is a barrier to site owners accepting designation, helping them do transition plans cost effectively would be a good next step.

#### **Public Comment**

None.

Buell provided some final comments. Expressed appreciation to all Advisory Committee members and the PMT. Next meeting will be on September 27, with continued dialogue about boat storage, accessibility sub-committee meetings, and opportunities for site visits in the meantime.

#### **Adjourn**

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.**

*Thanks to Laura Thompson for taking notes during the meeting.*