



**San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
Implementation Meeting #18
June 10, 2016**

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

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| <i>Project Management Team (PMT)</i> | Ellen Miramontes, Maureen Gaffney, Lynne Sadler, Matthew Trujillo, Dick Wayman |
| <i>Water Trail Staff</i> | Ben Botkin |
| <i>Advisory Committee (AC)</i> | Don Brubaker (by phone), Tom Boone, Wendy Proctor (by phone), Kevin Takei, Penny Wells, Joy Dryden, Bo Barnes, Cecily Harris, Patricia Aleman, Ted Choi, Yiwei Wang (by phone) |
| <i>Stakeholder Group and Guests:</i> | Kathy Bunton (Delta Kayaking Adventures), Ralph Mihen (kayaker), Todd Hallenbeck (BCDC), Ruby Tumber (EBRPD), Hanna Miller (BCDC), Steve Souza (kayaker), Sandra Kelly (Antioch Marina site designation), James Pflueger (City of Antioch), Patricia Aleman (San Francisco Travel), Susa Gates (GAIA) |
| <i>Facilitation</i> | Ariel Ambruster, Center for Collaborative Policy |

Key Outcomes

Water Trail (WT) Trailhead Designations

- Crown Memorial State Beach (Alameda, Alameda County) - Advisory Committee consensus guidance in support of designation; conditionally designated by Project Management Team.

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- Big Break Regional Shoreline (Oakley, Contra Costa County) - Advisory Committee consensus guidance in support of designation; conditionally designated by Project Management Team.
- Antioch Marina (Antioch, Contra Costa County) - Advisory Committee consensus guidance in support of designation; conditionally designated by Project Management Team.

Detailed Meeting Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

The meeting started with introductions by the attendees and an overview of the agenda and ground rules.

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

Meeting Dates and Locations

The September 16, 2016 meeting has been extended and will be from 10:00 to 2:00PM. This change was unanimously approved due to the expected length of the agenda. The meeting will briefly cover updates and then go directly into project designations. The location is uncertain at this point due to the Conservancy relocation and the move date that has not been determined. The December meeting will be at the SCC offices in the State Building.

Updates

Meetings and site updates:

- New PMT member is Lynne Sadler, Deputy Director of Cal Boating and Waterways. She is determining who the long-term representative will be, either Jared Zucker or someone else.
- ABAG has moved to San Francisco and Ben's new phone number is 415-820-7936.
- AC supports holding a longer meeting in September to review five trailhead designation sites.
- PMT and AC support the tight September meeting agenda, with only the updates in addition to designations.
- PMT member Ellen Miramontes of BCDC is moving out of state so she will be stepping down as BCDC representative to the Water Trail project management team. Matthew Trujillo will be her replacement and Hanna Miller and Todd Hallenbeck may also be involved.
- Suisun grant for low freeboard accessible launch ramp is moving forward.
- Water Trail is increasing its profile through maps. The San Francisco Estuary Project 'WT education map' is using \$10,000 from North Bay Water Association.
- Cal Boating is preparing a Bay Area Clean Boating Map with assistance from ABAG.
- Point Isabel launch improvements are in the design phase and moving forward.

- Baywinds access point restoration is moving forward.
- Water Trail is working with the Delta Water Trail.
- Water Trail will be updating its website.
- San Francisco India Basin Shoreline Park survey has been released to the public and there is a link on the WT Site (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/900Innes-IBSP>).

Outreach

Ben provided presentations at or attended the following events:

- Seven presentations at REI stores throughout the Bay;
- The Society of Outdoor Recreation (presented the WT Accessibility Plan);
- The Kayakers Alliance kick off; and
- The Eden Landing grand opening (CDFW wants to bring the site up for designation consideration in December).

Upcoming/Tracking Sites

- San Francisco Marina
- Pier 39
- Port of Redwood City (the Board of the Port of Redwood City has endorsed the WT project)
- Benicia
- Eden Landing

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Draft Water Trails Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan)

Ruby and Ben have developed the Implementation Plan to see how WT fits with the overall EBRPD plans. Currently Ben is providing the Draft Implementation Plan to present the early findings for review and obtain feedback on the direction of the Plan. The sites are ranked on readiness to join the WT. The ranking is:

- Tier1 – ready to bring forward today
- Tier 2 – Needs improvements
- Tier 3 – Further out and no existing improvements planned
- Tier 4 – Even further out
- Tier 5 – Interesting locations but no plans to improve the sites as yet.

The draft is available for review and input and was included in the information sent out for this meeting. Ben asked for volunteers to join the subcommittee and Penny Wells and Kathy Bunton volunteered.

WT Input/Comments

EBRPD was commended for starting the Implementation Plan. It was recommended that the map include mileage although it is included in the Plan.

There was discussion to look more comprehensively and expand the WT. It was suggested that the WT look at the big picture and include both rivers all the way up north to Redding and farther south; not just the Bay itself. There was concern about the limited funding and a suggestion that Proposition AA could be checked for funding. Lynn Sadler thought that Cal Boating potentially has funding.

Crown Memorial State Beach Project

Background

The Crown Memorial State Beach trailhead has the following features.

- Crown Beach is the biggest beach within the Bay with 2.5 miles of shoreline.
- It is near Tidewater Boat Center, Encinal Boat Launch, and Jack London Square-Jack London Aquatic Center sites.
- At Crab Cove there is an ADA ramp for water access, restrooms, parking, and the Crab Cove Visitor Center with educational opportunities.
- Some of the parking in this area is \$5.00 in the summer and free October through April.
- The beach provides access for kite boarding, wind surfing, kayakers, etc.
- The ramp to the water near the Crab Cove Center is well designed but there are submerged boulders near the end of the ramp.
- Farther south there is a vendor which provides equipment and lessons for kite boarding, windsurfing and kayaking, and which is open much of the year depending on conditions.
- The vendor helps to monitor the area and has established working zones and posted a map of those zones.
- There is a bath house at the beach.
- The Bay Trails goes through this site.
- At Crown Beach Park there are picnic facilities and grassy lawns.

There are nine sites within the geo-region that are in the process of accessibility enhancement.

Proposed Designation Conditions

- Several WT identification and education signs should be installed. The location of these signs is to be determined.
- Water Trail education signs should include messages relevant to navigational safety and directs users to not to launch or land in Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary.

Advisory Committee Discussion and Q&A

The launch site for kite boarding is not a conflict with kayakers because most kayakers will leave when the winds are strong. This is a good Bay crossing at 7.2 miles. Some of the restrooms are

ADA accessible but not all. There are 24 access points to the beach which used to be constructed as boardwalks but are in the process of being replaced with Mobimats. The Mobimats cost about \$5,000 apiece. These beach access mats do not extend to the water's edge. The vendor launch location is not currently at a site of the beach access mats. The parking lots have accessible spaces. There are mobile beach chairs for the disabled at Crab Cove Visitor Center. They are kept there because it is the only secure place available and the Center is open most weekends. The ADA launch near Crab Cove Center is not a kayak launch site but its purpose is to provide access for wheelchairs to get close to the water. It is not part of the WT. The PMT is aware of the navigational issues, in particular not landing on the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary. It was suggested to work with the Vendor to make the sign showing the launch zones more permanent. It was suggested to locate future improvements so that they are more easily accessible and consolidate the ADA locations. EBRPD said that there will be beach nourishment projects from time to time but the first one in 30 years was in 2015 so they are infrequent. The restrooms along Shoreline Drive will be replaced. It was suggested that in renovating the restrooms to pick the one with the shortest beach access to the edge of the water. It was suggested that adding board and kayak rinsing would be helpful. The changing room is open seasonally. Even though kayakers and boardsurfers use the beach year round, it is unlikely that it will be opened all year due to maintenance costs. The best location for ADA access is near the vendor. There was a discussion about maintaining the Mobimats. The Mobimats have held up well so far but will get increased use by all users. A new company's mats are too recently installed to determine if they will hold up as well. GGNRA is putting out Mobimats for year round use. It was suggested that the mats do get torn up and suggested the Vendor manage the mats when they are open. Although it was agreed that Vendor management was a good idea, the EBRPD agreement will need to be checked. ABAG thought there may be grant funds for beach access mats and SCC encouraged EBRPD to apply for the grant funds soon.

Advisory Committee Deliberations

The Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend site designation with a strong focus on good ADA water access location design.

The Advisory Committee reached consensus to support the conditional site designation with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

Project Management Team Deliberations

The PMT unanimously supported site designation with the conditions proposed and encouragement to develop an effective ADA access point.

The Project Management Team decided in favor of conditional designation of Crown Memorial State Beach Project with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

Paddling near Big Break in the Antioch Marina – Delta Kayak Adventures Presentation

Kathy Bunton – Delta Kayak Adventures

Antioch Marina has both multiple day use and night camping. The PowerPoint will be put on the WT website.

AC/PMT Questions

- There is some tent camping and a lot of RV camping at Sherman Island.
- It was suggested to organize an AC paddle to Sherman Island.

Other General Comments

Steve Souza – Mare Island can't be used for any access. It was suggested that he work with Ben on a grant application.

Big Break Regional Shoreline

Background

The Big Break Regional Shoreline trailhead has the following features:

- Parking to south with accessible spaces;
- New visitors center with outreach opportunities;
- It's a half mile from the parking lot to the cove and kayaks can be wheeled to the cove;
- The site has a picnic area, amphitheater, kayak storage, accessible bathrooms, fishing pier; and
- A boom limits colonization by invasive species clogging the channel but does not go all the way across the cove entrance.

Within the Geo-Region there are six sites and five of these sites have accessible facilities. There is the potential for improvements to Suisun Marina and Antioch Marina soon.

Proposed Designation Conditions

- WT identification and education signs installed.
- WT education signs to include messages relevant to navigational safety; avoiding rafting waterfowl; and directing users to not land on private docks and other unauthorized landing sites.

Water Trail Input- Discussion and Q&A

- The site is well designed.
- Suggested that there be parking permit for overnight camping. Kevin said that this was proposed to a district wide committee and it was determined that the nearby housing and nighttime security issue made this undesirable. The site now has security cameras. It could be possible to consider group special use.

- Ellen said there is a quarter mile walk from the parking lot to the water and suggested that the service road be available for dropping boats off at the launch; however, the provided boat dollies appear to be adequate.
- Topo map is great!
- A washdown area would be helpful.
- This may be a good site to consider beach access mats.
- Color coding on Water Trail maps could be useful to rate safety/navigation.
- Show shipping channels on trailhead maps.
- Water Trail website needs to mention the channels, and provide links to shipping, wind, and related information, etc. (This item was endorsed by other AC/PMT members.) One of the reasons the website update is planned is to incorporate that type of information.
- There are safety factors here: tule fog and winds.

Advisory Committee Deliberations

The Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend site designation with designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

The Advisory Committee reached consensus to support the conditional site designation with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

Project Management Team Deliberations

The PMT unanimously supported site designation with designation conditions as proposed in the meeting material.

The Project Management Team decided in favor of conditional designation of Big Break Regional Shoreline with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

Antioch Marina, Antioch Trailhead Designation

Background

The site is located west of Big Break Shoreline and is adjacent to the Dow Wetlands. The trailhead has the following features:

- Existing ADA restrooms;
- High freeboard dock at the Boat launch;
- High freeboard dock at the Marina launch;
- ADA parking;
- Rigging area;
- Environmental programs;
- Park, trails and picnic area; and
- Walking path and trail to Dow Wetlands which include a haul out area and restrooms.
- Proposed features and improvements include:

- New ADA restrooms and fishing pier planned (within 8-12 months);
- Wider path of travel to restaurant launch to improve accessibility;
- 6 more ADA parking spaces near the restaurant (within 3-6 months)
- Regrading and repaving of boat ramp;
- Kayak storage; and
- Recreation programs for Antioch kids/adults.

As noted for Big Break, within the Geo-Region there are six sites and five of these sites have accessible facilities. There is the potential for improvements to Suisun Marina and Antioch Marina soon.

Proposed Designation Conditions

- WT identification and education signs installed.
- WT education signs to include messages relevant to navigational safety; avoiding rafting waterfowl; and directing users to not land on private docks and other unauthorized landing sites.
- Encourage grant application for kayak storage.

Water Trail Input- Discussion and Q&A

- There are two stakeholder groups in this area: experienced visitors and Antioch residents, many of whom have an affordability issue.
- Kayaks can launch from the 4.5 foot wide restaurant launch.
- The boat launch area and the marina launch area are more protected from summer winds than the restaurant launch.
- There is no launch fee.
- Kayak classes will be offered within the marina.
- Onsite kayak storage for local residents would facilitate recreational use.
- Suggestion to include a boat washdown area in the future. (Site has storm water management constraints and must recycle all runoff from the washdown area.)
- This is a recreational fishing site and WT should inform public regarding this use.
- Suggestions to include a floating low freeboard dock near the boat launch. A WT grant for a low freeboard dock would likely go quickly through the approval process. The design of the dock might consider a trough, rope or handlebars. Examples of accessible floating docks are at:
 - Sacramento State Aquatic Center
 - Pier 39
 - Eden Landing
 - San Francisco Marina – E-Z dock
 - Joy Dryden will show her Marin County site
 - BORP in Berkeley
 - Downtown Napa is good, but no transfer system.
- Consider using a bell at the Marina for a returning boater if they need help up to notify people.

- Look into low freeboard dock at some on-site location. The SCC has WT grant money for low freeboard docks that needs to be spend by March 2017.

Advisory Committee Deliberations

The Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend site designation with designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials and the addition of a recommendation to look into a low freeboard dock at some point on the site. Also, actively encourage the site owner to look at a boat washdown area opportunity.

The Advisory Committee reached consensus to support the conditional site designation with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials and the addition of a recommendation to look into adding a low freeboard dock.

Project Management Team Deliberations

The PMT unanimously supported site designation with the conditions proposed and with conditions and encouragement as recommended by AC.

The Project Management Team decided in favor of conditional designation of Antioch Marina with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials and the addition of a recommendation to look into adding a low freeboard dock.

General Public Comment

- Bucks Landing, Marin County:
 - purchased by a nonprofit LLC and eventually will go to Marin County
 - Current ramp is hazardous, heavily used by anglers, hunters, and kayakers.
- BASK has a great trip planner for Water Trail to consider.
- BASK members have identified additional information needed for each access point: minimum tide to launch. The organization is launching an effort to develop and collect this information; this information will also be very important to add to the Water Trail website.

Action Items:

- For the September meeting, the PMT and AC agreed that to extend the meeting one hour to consider the five sites.
- Ben will send out the link to the India Basin Survey.

Adjourn - Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2016 at 10 a.m.