

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: February 1999

NEW DIRECTIONS

This month we will have a presentation on the Vine Hill Wetlands Regional Preserve Land Use Plan presented by Karen Parsons from EBRPD. The presentation is in anticipation of the public review process scheduled to begin end of Feb and run to end of March. A summary report has been included in the March newsletter mailing and written reports will be available. This is the Shell Marsh area of Martinez (Contra Costa County near Hwy 680). Last year a portion of the Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail were dedicated along the Martinez Shoreline near the refinery and through the Martinez Marina Park. Good to see progress in this area of the county, both for trails and for wetlands.

I believe there has been some progress from the nominating committee for the slate of officers for Trails Council for 1999. Michael Kelley and Jack Appleyard will give a report and nominate a slate of officers for the year.

The EBRPD Board of Directors recently authorized the PAC (Park Advisory Committee) to study dog and bike issues for the next revision of Ordinance 38, which is a complex document regulating activities in the park district lands. I have been selected to be a part of the committee for the portion pertaining to bikes. No meeting dates are scheduled yet. I think the group will take on the dog and leashed pets issues first. Henry Losee, president of the PAC and past president of the Trail Safety Patrol will chair the committee and Steve Jones from EBRPD Operations will staff the meetings. Judi Bank will be on the committee during the dog regulations study. While I have decided to leave the work on Ordinance 38 which the Trails Council has undertaken to the subcommittee, I do plan on trying to coordinate the work of these two groups and, hopefully, the Trails Council efforts can be presented to the PAC committee at some point. Until then, I will do what I can to monitor what the EBRPD Board and PAC are considering so that we can dovetail into the process where possible. The Trails Council Ordinance 38 Subcommittee is meeting on Feb 11th so there should be a report at this month's meeting.

For this month, I will not be at the meeting. Jack Appleyard will chair the meeting and Dick Quigley has agreed to help out with the minutes. I guess I could say I am tired of all the mud and frost and need to get out of Dodge City. With all the rain and cold weather lately, it has been difficult to get out on the trail. But, it is not winter everywhere on the planet! As you read this I am headed below the equator to spend a few days on a volcano in the middle of the ocean. I will be getting in some hiking, some inline skating, maybe some bike riding and plenty of time on the beach. French Polynesia is the place to go when you need a break from the ol' winter routine, at least that's what I hear. While there I will be participating in an inline skate marathon around the island of Moorea. I have also been reading about some interesting trails to river valleys, waterfalls and a pass on the flanks of the volcano separating two tropical bays. I'll bring pictures.

Happy Trails, *Glenn Kirby*

EBATC FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday, February 17, 1999

7:20 to 9:30 pm

East Bay Regional Park District
Headquarters: Board Room
2950 Peralta Court, Oakland
Telephone (510) 635-0135

Agenda: February 17, 1999 Meeting

1. Call to order: **7:20 p.m.**
 - o Approval of Agenda: Action
 - o Approval of Minutes: Action
2. Old Business: Reports and Updates: Trails Council leadership: Report/Action
 - o Election of Officers for 1999
 - o Financial Report by Treasurer: Report
 - o Web Site Report
 - o Ordinance 38 Sub-committee Report
3. New Business
 - o Vine Hill Wetlands Land Use Plan -
 - o Presentation by Karen Parsons, EBRPD
4. Round Robin: Reports from members
5. Adjournment

MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 1999, EBRPD Headquarters

Meeting called to order by Chair Glenn Kirby at 7:20 P.M. In attendance were:

Glenn Kirby BARTC
Marlee Chamberlin Bicycle Trails Council of E.B. Dick Quigley Tri-Valley Trail Blazers
Alice Quinn LARPD, Horsemens Alliance
Terry Noonan EBRPD
Don de Fremery Sierra Club
Gary Fend San Ramon Valley Horsemen
Howard Hornig Hayward Hiking Club
Judi Bank MHA / COOS
John Steere Regional Parks Association
Jack Appleyard BARTC
Elise Geske Tilden Wildcat Horsemen
John Mercurio Concord Citizens
Kathy Campbell Moraga Horsemen

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Presentation: Multiuse Trails Survey

John Steere presented the results of a survey on multiuse trails and trail policy at ten Bay Area land management organizations. He prepared the survey during the planning of Los Vaqueros at CCWD. Even though other organizations have developed successful multiuse trail networks, neither CCWD nor SFWD have implemented much of a trail program. According to the data received, multiuse trails are utilized effectively. Seven of ten agencies registered a high level of satisfaction with their multiuse trails, and an additional two agencies had a moderate level of satisfaction. Other than EBMUD, all agencies permit multiuse on fire roads; consequently public expectation is high, and citizens were outraged at CCWD's limited proposal for multiuse on only 12.5 miles (20%) of their fire roads. Even EBMUD allows horses on 97% of their trails, and other agencies allow 100% equestrian use.

The agencies have found that the primary issue with multiuse trails is not the impact on the resource, but rather the social question of user conflict. Erosion is a low to moderate concern, whereas speeding is a primary one. The cost of maintaining multiuse trails is usually already covered by the fire road maintenance. All the surveyed agencies have some form of partnership with public, usually in the form of volunteer patrols. These partnerships must be properly staffed to be effective (CCWD is currently not adequately staffing a liaison). The survey also did not include other local state parks, such as Annadel and China Camp, where multiuse trails are successful.

Based on extensive experience by these agencies, there is a positive trend toward the further development of multiuse trails in Bay Area. In the East Bay, the EBRPD has led the effort to foster responsible sharing of the trail resources, and provides the greatest mileage of full multiuse (750 miles). Mid Peninsula Open Space has the most extensive set of guidelines for trail policy. Unfortunately the media has overemphasized conflict and underreported the many success stories. Copies of this survey can be obtained from EBATC.

At Los Vaqueros, a contract has been awarded to EDAW to begin detailed planning of the trail system in order to implement the trails before the rest of the recreation facilities. CCWD is considering making the Ridgeline Road to Round Valley an all-weather gravel road with pavement in the steepest areas, and unfortunately chip seal is not good for horses. Also note that on CCWD's current map, the Brushy Peak connector fire road to the east of old Vasco Road is not shown, even as a hiking trail. The watershed walks will begin in March, contact Gina Oltman at CCWD if you are interested in leading a hike.

Old Business - Reports and Updates

a. EBATC Leadership and Organizational Issues

Glenn will be out of the country for the next meeting. Jack has agreed to chair the meeting and Dick volunteered to take the minutes. The election of officers for 1999 was postponed due to the absence of much of the nominating committee (from illness). There is major concern that the work of the organization is falling on a few individuals who are already oversubscribed with other commitments. It is imperative

that the important work of EBATC continue, and assistance from members is urgently needed. In 1998 EBATC led the effort in securing trail access to Los Vaqueros, resulting in 12.5 miles of trails for equestrians and cyclists, and 55 for hikers. With your help we can continue to develop one of the best regional trail systems in the country.

Due to illness, Michael Kelley was unable to give the treasurer's report and the update on the website. Jack noted that the updating of the brochure should be revived, since we are currently using photocopies of the old one. (Jeanette Mahoney may have the almost completed update.)

b. 1999 Membership Dues

It is that time of year when membership renewals are due, \$15 for each individual, and \$30 for each organization. The membership list needs to be restructured in a new database, with current phone numbers and email addresses.

c. Diversity Conference at GGNRA

Jack Appleyard attended a conference sponsored by the NPS entitled "America's Parks, America's People, A Mosaic in Motion." The sessions were focused on breaking barriers of race and diversity in our National Parks (but the issues are equally applicable to regional trails and parks). Discussion centered on how the historical and recreational facilities of this country were developed in an earlier age, and they need to reflect the needs and experiences of the changing demographics of America's population. Also as the urban areas expand, there is a strong need for park facilities near the population centers, that do not conform to the traditional sense of "wilderness" parks. It is important that all citizens feel welcome in our parks, so efforts to reach out to minority communities and to diversify park staff are critical. (For EBATC, it would seem appropriate to work to diversify the member organizations and support urban trail and greenway projects.)

Round Robin

John Steere went to a TEA-21 (new version of ISTEA) seminar on funding with the Trust for Livable Communities. Jack and John are working on a project with Karl Linn to develop a section of the Ohlone Greenway as a Cultural and Natural History exhibit.

John Mercurio is interested in the TEA-21 funding source for Concord, to develop possible connections to the Iron Horse Trail and 2 other trails.

Marlee Chamberlin expressed interest in energizing the Ordinance 38 review committee, and focusing efforts on multiuse trail issues. Currently the district operations group is most concerned with dogs, as a result of many complaints. The PAC will be looking at both dogs and bikes this year. Judi Bank, John Mercurio and Glenn Kirby are members of the PAC, and will provide input. But a committee as been appointed to make recommendations, consequently it is important that EBATC develop its own recommendations and provide guidance.

Terry Noonan indicated that the issue of swimming at Contra Loma will be addressed at a public hearing on Thursday, February 18 (see announcement at lower right). CCWD is proposing the elimination of all body contact recreation, so that they can use Contra Loma for everyday water supply, rather than emergency use as originally constructed. In its place CCWD is proposing a \$1.5 million swimming lagoon (only 4 feet deep), that will require chlorination and constant maintenance. As at Los Vaqueros, this land grab is about the agency seeking total control, but is being misrepresented as about water quality. CCWD seems bent on minimizing recreational opportunities in east Contra Costa, so it can expand its water delivery system.

Dick Quigley indicated his interest in a the development of a perimeter trail all the way around Lake Del Valle. He also would like to encourage the creation of an equestrian horse camp at Del Valle. To further those goals he will invite Ann Weiskamp to speak at a future EBATC meeting.

Alice Quinn reminded us that EBATC is invited out to tour Brushy Peak (where 1200 acres have been added). She also suggested having one of our meeting at outer areas like Livermore.

Adjournment

Bob Walker Photo Exhibit

An exhibit of Bob Walker's landscape photographs, titled "After the Storm" will be displayed April 1 through May 31 at the Wallace Stegner Room on the 5th Floor of the Main Library in San Francisco. The title is related to the development battles that took place during Bob's lifetime.

Screening of Environmental Films

The Emmy-Award winning films about the Bay, Delta and Greenbelt, will be shown in the SF Library's Koret Auditorium on Saturdays, 2-4 pm. Bay/Delta films: *Secrets of the Bay*, *San Pablo Baylands* and *Partners on the Land* will be shown March 20.

Greenbelt/Restoration films: *Treasures of the Greenbelt*, *Kids by the Bay*, and *Heron Island* will be shown March 27. The films and exhibit are produced by Judy Irving and Chris Beaver, founders of IDG Films, a nonprofit media production organization.

Buckeye Ranch Addition to Briones:Public Hearing on Draft Land Use Plan

Tuesday, February 16, 1999 at 2:00 pm.

EBRPD Board of Directors Meeting, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. For information, call 510-635-0138 x2320. **Important access issues for equestrians: the proposal bans horse trailers from the access road to Buckeye Ranch.**

Contra Loma Swimming /Windsurfing:

Public Hearing in Antioch

Thursday, February 18, 1999 at 7:00 pm.

Antioch Senior Center, 415 West Second Street, Antioch. Contact Brad Olson, call 510-544-2622

CCWD is proposing the elimination of all body contact recreation including open water swimming and windsurfing.

East Bay Area Trails Council: Membership Dues for Calendar Year 1999

With springtime just around the corner, it's time to renew your membership in the East Bay Area Trails Council. Your participation is important in our ongoing efforts to preserve and expand the East Bay trail system.

click [here](#) for info on joining EBATC.