

Notes

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00. Present were:

Committee Members

Ken Bates	Roy Curless	
Bob Gearheart	Dennis Hunter	Ted Kuiper
Dennis Mayo	Richard Trygar	Mark Wheatley

Commission Staff

David Hull

The meeting was facilitated by Ted Loring, Jr.

The focus for discussion on June 5 was recreation. About twenty members of the public participated in the outreach session offering up their opinions on issues that they believe should be of concern to the District. Following is a condensed version of the comments made by participants. The individual bullet points are presented in the order that they were offered and do not necessarily represent the position of the District or of the planning committee.

What community needs should the District address?

1. Increase public access for kayaks and kayak users.
2. Develop camping facilities associated with water use sites.
 - Provide opportunities for RV and tent camping.
 - Develop sites only accessible by kayaks.
 - Consider limiting vehicular access to some sites.
 - Look to the Great Lakes and Catalina Island for models of successful water oriented camping programs.
3. Update kayak launch sites.
 - Provide convenient restrooms, perhaps with showers.
 - Provide facilities to rinse off equipment.
 - Provide improved signage.
4. Improve signage for water trails.
 - Improve signage signaling access points along trails.
 - Provide signage along trails to guide users.
 - Promote water trails to tourists and other visitors. (60% of the existing kayak rentals through HumBoats are to out-of-town visitors.)
 - Explore the potential to partner with local businesses to develop and maintain signs.
5. Sloughs are attractive – but dead end – venues for kayakers.



- Breaks spots, areas where one could get to the land without tramping through the mud, would be appreciated.
 - Providing access to toilets at break spots would help to preserve water quality.
 - Possible areas where break spots might be developed include:
 - a. Freshwater farms (Storre is said to be cooperative),
 - b. Ma'leel Dues, both north and south and
 - c. The Gunther House site on Woodley Indian Island.
6. Promote fishing tournaments and other sport fishing related activities
 - Fish cleaning facilities are desperately needed.
 7. Enhance the productivity of local fisheries.
 8. Preserve and enhance bird-hunting activities.
 - Consider harvesting the Aleutian Goose flocks.
 - Identifies strategies that will minimize conflicts between hunters and kayakers such as seasonal notices at launch spots.
 9. Promote and enhance bird-watching opportunities.
 - Minimize conflicts with motorized boats and jet skis.
 - Build pads for spotting scopes in appropriate locations so that watchers don't have to set up their scopes on roads.
 10. Explore options for preserving rookeries around the bay.
 - Raccoons have invaded the cypress grove that creates the rookery on Indian Island and the trees are dying out, leading to degradation and loss of nesting sites.
 - Replacement tree plantings on Indian Island have the potential, through root growth, to disturb the cultural resource inherent in the middens found at the site.
 - Anecdotal evidence suggests that the range of species using the island nesting sites has narrowed since the bridge was built, perhaps because land animals have easier access to the site.
 - The south bay rookery may – or may not – provide adequate nesting sites as available nesting sites on Indian Island disappear.
 11. The use of jet skis on the bay is bound to increase.
 - Speed, noise and fuels are likely to create conflicts with other environmental and recreational uses.
 - Education may go a long way toward mitigating potential conflicts.
 - It may be desirable to plan for jet ski based recreation before use patterns are firmly established.
 12. A walking trail around the circumference of the bay would be great!
 - A connector across the private land between the south bay refuge and the south spit would be highly desirable.
 - Potential negative interactions between walkers and wildlife need to be carefully evaluated. For example, intense use had driven Brant from bay margins in other areas.
 - The south bay refuge is now developing its conservation plan. The issue is very timely.



- Trail development is made more difficult by the overlapping jurisdictions and, in some-cases, by the fact that trails fall into a jurisdictional no-mans-land.
13. Capacity issues – and conflicts between different uses – may significantly constrain bay related uses in the future.
 - Collecting base line data on current usage would be very helpful from a planning perspective.
 - The community should anticipate and plan for a world where the demand for bay related activities is increasing.
 - The district should take affirmative steps to enable folks to use bay resources who are currently inhibited by physical or fiscal limitations.
 14. Humboldt is the biggest gap in the California coastal trail. We need to fill that gap. The trail is a national asset!
 15. Water taxis on the bay should be encouraged.
 - There is room for expansion of existing services.
 - Appropriate infrastructure must be developed.
 16. Support efforts to remediate existing contamination of bay waters and mud. Prevent potential future contamination from any sources.
 17. Promote access to the bay by improving facilities, expanding knowledge of the recreational opportunities and by enabling folks with fiscal or physical limitations.

What specific projects or activities do you want the District to pursue?

1. Many of the points in the *Needs* section describe specific projects or activities.
2. Floating docks are necessary for easy kayak access to the water.
 - Potential sites include Fields Landing, Woodley Island (Dock A) and the Arcata Marsh.
 - Involve users in the design of facilities so that their utility is maximized.
3. Add amenities to launch sites.
 - Toilets
 - Equipment rinse facilities
 - Showers
4. Participate in educational outreach programs such as “Wetlands on Wheels”
5. Build a fishing pier at King Salmon.
6. Identify the issues that prevent differently-abled individuals from participating in bay related activities.
7. Shelter Cove needs a lot of help, specifically with land based facilities and the breakwater.
8. Trinidad harbor is within the District’s jurisdiction; but no current District programs serve the area. The same might be said for the Redwood Creek estuary.
9. Improve access to the north spit beach for surfers.
10. Wind surfers and kite flyers use water related sites, especially in the south bay and on Big Lagoon. Conflicts with hunters and other users should be assessed.



11. The District should take a leading (or collaborative) role to (a) address conflicts between different bay related uses and (b) resolve capacity related issues.
12. There are speed limits on the bay. There should be a way to enforce them.
13. Consider adding camping spaces to Woodley Island.
14. Consider developing limited RV sites adjacent to the water. They are a real money maker for other districts.

Are there any specific projects or activities that you do *not* want the District to pursue?

1. No uranium mining!
2. Don't allow industrial/commercial uses outside of the inner reach. Keep them out of both north and south bays.
3. Don't impair the public use of the "green space" on Woodley Island. Don't screw it up!
4. Reconsider the District's traditional support for restoration of a rail link to the outside world. While a local tourist train might be self-sustaining, the main line is a money loser that's not feasible without public subsidies.

Do you have any comments about the mission and objectives set out in the prior strategic plan?

1. The mission makes sense; but *environment* should come first.
2. The vision of bay leadership is too narrow. It should talk about the bay rather than the role of the District. It's not evocative.

Do any of your organization's major objectives for the next five years provide a basis for coordination or partnership with the District?

1. The sea kayaking association, Explore North Coast, is a 501(c)(3) and would be willing to partner with the District on appropriate projects.
2. The Humboldt Kayak Fishing Association might be a partner for fishing tournaments, derbies and enhancement projects.
3. Cal Water Fowl purchases and manages wetlands. They might be partners in wetlands education.
4. The Wyott tribe is planning a public dock on Indian Island in addition to other site enhancements. It might be a good fishing dock; though it would only be accessible by water.
5. HumBoats is interested in partnering with the District to develop water trails and a water taxi business.
6. The new HSU aquatics center might be an important partner.
7. Evergreen Pulp has indicated that it wants to participate in the local community. It might be recruited to support selected projects.
8. Bay Keepers might be willing to support a water sampling project.



Other messages for the Commission or the planning committee

1. We want it all... and we want it now!
2. Do it all; but maintain the proper balance among all the competing interests that the District serves.
3. Go fast...even if you are walking on egg shells.
4. Pay attention to capacity and compatibility issues. Seek appropriate compromises.
5. The viewshed around the bay is extremely important. Protect it.
6. Build a trail to connect the south bay refuge with the south spit.
7. Get rid of the billboards.
8. Avoid too many interpretive signs.
9. Build a plan to serve all the people and then make sure that it gets implemented.

