

Notes

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

Committee Members

Ken Bates
Ted Kuiper

Dennis Hunter
Dennis Mayo

Bob Gearheart
Mark Wheatley

Commission Staff

David Hull

Patti Tyson

The meeting was facilitated by Ted Loring, Jr.

Individuals participating in the outreach session offered 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. Promoting transportation of goods and people is particularly important. Rail rights of way should be developed to move goods and people within the area.
2. If Scotia were to become a museum town, it could anchor a visitor serving rail line connecting Scotia to Eureka/Arcata.
3. The City of Arcata has adopted and ranked its priorities for bay related uses: resource protection, recreation and economic development. That is, economic development should be pursued only where recreation and resource assets will not be compromised.
4. Stream protection is essential to maintain and improve the water quality in the bay.
5. The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District has a large supply of raw water available for sale, perhaps as much as an additional 45,000,000 gallons per day. Discharge issues would have to be addressed before the water could be used. Permits for bay or ocean discharge will be difficult to obtain.
6. The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District delivers up to 15,000,000 gallons of water per day for drinking purposes. The existing distribution system will be

maxed out with the planned development of Samoa. Significant infrastructure enhancements will be required to increase volumes delivered.

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

1. There is a continuing demand for enhanced fishing opportunities in and beyond the bay.
2. It is critical to maintain the estuaries feeding the bay. They are critical to the support of existing fish stocks.
3. The need to maintain and enhance water quality in the bay and in streams feeding the bay is critical.
4. The state is likely to designate Marine Life Protection Areas along the north coast during the next two to four years.
5. Artificial reefs would enhance fishing habitat in and around the bay.
 - Building artificial reefs may be consistent with the Fish & Game mission. There are no current programs to support the activity.
 - The District may have a role in developing a program.
6. There may be a demand for public shell fishing areas if they were to be developed. Models exist in the Pacific Northwest.
7. There is an historic demand for recreational duck hunting in and around the bay.
 - Historic uses were not acknowledged in the plan for the Ma'leel dunes.
 - Conflicts exist between hunting and other recreational uses.
8. Recreational opportunities should be more heavily promoted, both locally and regionally.
9. Additional boat launch facilities are needed, for both motorized and non-motorized boats. Ideally, non-motorized launch sites would be separate from motorized.
10. Additional water trails should be developed and promoted.
11. There are capacity constraints on bay oriented recreation.
12. Recreational activities can conflict with other needs. For example, recreational uses can conflict with conservation during peak fly-over periods for Brant duck.
13. There have been periodic breakdowns in the bilge water collection system at the Woodley Island Marina. It is possible that the system needs to be re-built or re-engineered.
14. The District should monitor visiting boats in order to prevent entry of invasive species into the bay.
15. The Port of Oakland is near capacity and Eureka is two days closer to China than any other California port. As a result, there is reason to believe that local port tonnage will increase.
16. Enhancements to the existing Customs office will be required if port usage increases.
17. Climate change will have impacts that should be factored into the District's strategic plan:
 - Impacts may include fisheries migration, enhanced El Nino conditions, and a large variety of other changes.

- Sea levels are likely to rise. More significantly, peak events are likely to become more intense.
- Impacts are likely to play out over thirty-five years, well beyond the defined scope of this strategic plan.
- Storms and storm tides are likely to threaten existing dikes and the uses, which they shelter.
- Unknown or unmeasured impacts of climate change will complicate analysis of and approval for projects ranging from dock development to dike maintenance.

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

1. The existing mission statement commits the District to support harbor use, recreational opportunities and environmental protection. Those values sometimes conflict. The mission should be modified to provide a more clearly prioritized set of values for the District.
2. The bay must be viewed as a closed system.
 - Absolute priority must be given to the protection of bay resources.
 - One must deal with upland uses in order to adequately protect the bay.
 - Unknowns will complicate analysis of and approval for projects ranging from dock development to dike maintenance.

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

1. On-going and new developments provide plenty of opportunity for coordinated efforts, such as
 - The five county culvert mapping program,
 - Sedimentation control and
 - Other watershed issues.
2. Dredging, sediment control and environmental protection are all related but not necessarily compatible issues.
3. CalTrans has an interest in
 - Promoting mobility and safety,
 - Goods movement and
 - Facilitating bicycle and pedestrian traffic such as an Arcata-Eureka trail.
4. NOAA's interests include
 - Observations such as a bar camera and wave measuring devices.
 - Tsunami hazard preparedness is a major emerging concern.
 - The bay-forecasting model has a variety of potential uses for project design. It might be used to forecast the effect of climate-change-enhanced events on existing and planned infrastructure.
 - The bar forecast model is a first. It might be extended and used to perfect HAZMAT response on the bay.

5. Coast Guard interests include management of the effects on the bay of abandoned or substandard vessels. It was suggested that imposing an insurance requirement on moored vessels might help.
6. Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District interests include promoting linkages to and consistency with the County general plan, especially when it comes to development of adequate infrastructure.
7. The Bay Refuge has started to develop a fifteen-year master plan that will control development in the south bay and on Indian Island.
 - There is the potential to enter into a memorandum of understanding in support of recreational development.
 - Federal acquisition of the Indian Island property owned by the City of Eureka is possible but not likely during the next fifteen years.
8. The City of Arcata has just embarked on a project to assess and mitigate any tsunami impact on city property. The project will assess impacts on the Arcata Marsh (waste water reclamation plant) and the corporation yard.
 - It might be productive to encourage the Department of Mines to conduct one of their initial tsunami studies here, on Humboldt Bay.
 - A sixty-acre expansion of the Arcata wastewater reclamation plant is likely to be planned and may well be implemented during the course of the next five years.