

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	Patti Tyson
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The meeting was facilitated by Ted Loring, Jr.

The focus for discussion on June 21 was harbor issues. 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. The District should continue to support port, harbor and rail development.
2. "Recreation" should be understood to include interest in the culture and history associated with the bay.
 - Support an excursion train around the bay, perhaps in combination with a boat ride back to Eureka.
 - The ideal use for the roundhouse at Samoa is as a base for the Timber Heritage Museum's steam collection.
3. "Conservation" should embrace cultural as well as other environmental resources.
 - Timber and maritime history should be supported because they produce economic, recreational and conservation benefits.
 - The anticipated development of Samoa should be leveraged to enhance the viability of the roundhouse as a timber heritage site.
 - The shop, roundhouse and cookhouse are the sole remaining elements of the timber-maritime complex.
 - Efforts should be expended to minimize conflicts with cargo handling at the adjacent Redwood dock.
 - Explore the idea of (and compatibility with) siting an aquarium or expanded HSU marine science center in the neighborhood.
4. Support the creation of a National Heritage Area in Humboldt.
5. Make sure that the presentation of history encompasses all generations and all decades. Don't limit the view to just our revered ancestors.



6. Support water taxis and kayaks.
7. Will capacity issues constrain future development? We need baseline data on current uses before we can begin to answer the question.
8. Additional land will be required to properly develop the Redwood dock.
9. Evergreen brings in two break-bulk cargo vessels each month, carrying about seven to eleven metric tons of cargo. The vessels have the space to carry additional cargo. Other businesses should be made aware of this opportunity.
10. Barges could enhance the port's cargo handling capacity while reducing traffic on 101.
11. Continued dredging is essential for viable shipping facilities.
12. Longshore jobs are worth preserving and expanding. They provide living wage jobs for local workers.
13. The District should support marine aquaculture.
 - It could help locate and permit new farms.
 - It could help existing farms to expand.
 - It should support the aquaculture terminal project.
 - As currently designed, the facility would provide space for four companies.
 - The cooperative is half permitted.
 - Disposal or re-use of fish waste is a major issue.
 - Might HSU be interested in the bay as a research site?
 - Working with DFG to develop a programmatic EIR for aquaculture would be an immense benefit.
 - Efforts should be coordinated with the proposed Fishermen's Terminal.
14. Fish waste might be the input for a new fertilizer business.
15. Enlarging the scientific database is critical and extremely valuable.
16. The District should endeavor to represent the community as a whole, using its ability to manage projects across many jurisdictions.
17. A working waterfront (combined with an active museum) has the potential to serve visitors as well as industry, delivering enhanced value to the community.
18. Regulatory streamlining would be of great value.
19. A multitude of restoration projects have been and are being implemented around the bay without a lot of coordination.
 - Each bears a huge regulatory burden.
 - The reviews are repetitive and would be simplified if a programmatic EIR were created.
20. There are opportunities for data sharing.
 - CENCOOS – a data monitoring program under NOAA,
 - PACOOS, with the Coast Guard and
 - The Pacific Coast Joint Venture.
21. Shoaling at the bar entrance is a danger to shipping. The Corps of Engineers has completed a preliminary analysis for a sediment management program, generating nine approaches to mitigating the problem. The feasibility study would cost \$3,000,000. The Corps would pay for half the study cost. The local sponsor, i.e., the district, would cover the remainder of the cost.



22. Industrial access to the Hookton Channel should be preserved. Until there are multiple users in Fields Landing, it will be difficult to allocate public funds to the area.
23. Some shippers are (or will be) looking for docking facilities that they can control.
24. Safe access to the bay for recreational uses must be preserved and enhanced. Issues of personal security are as important as physical access.
25. There is a strong, local demand for pedestrian trails. A recent survey suggested that as many as 80% of the local residents use trails.
26. Can pedestrian trails be paired with the local rail lines?
27. Homeland security issues will complicate bay use. Practically, it requires the bay to be closed when ships are loading or unloading. [Note: Dave Hull takes issue with this statement as factually inaccurate.]
28. The District should advocate for maintaining and improving water quality.
 - Could the District play a role in issuing discharge permits in areas not covered by the Water Quality Board?
29. There is the potential to attract a few cruise ships to the bay each year. Most likely, that will occur when the ships are being re-positioned each season.
30. Could Fairhaven become the site for an aquaculture research center?
 - HSU is currently leasing space for a lab on a short-term basis.
 - There may be potential conflicts with pulp handling.
 - The highest and best use of the land is probably tied to industrial uses.
 - It is unlikely that a conference or convention space would provide an adequate return on capital.
31. The Eureka side of the channel is probably the best place to site public access uses.
 - Water quality is best on the west side of the bay and poorer on the east, where it is more heavily influenced by freshwater run-off.
 - Much industrial use is also sited on the west side.

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

1. The District should assist in the funding of the Indian Island restoration project, working in conjunction with the Wiyot Tribe. Potential projects include: protecting the midden from erosion, building a dock and creating a landing stage for canoes.
2. Create a trail along the levee from the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Center going west.
3. Create a canoe & kayak access park at Park Street.
4. Help to create a consensus approach to identifying and mitigating the environmental issues that are associated with the bay's water quality. Avoid potentially nightmarish litigation.
5. Participate in the Ma'lel Dunes project.
6. Participate with the Corps in the development of a west coast aquaculture plan.



7. Develop a financing mechanism for programmatic permits that would front the money now and recoup it over time by licensing the data to individual users as they define their projects.

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

1. Don't infringe on the Regional Water Quality Board's jurisdiction.
2. Avoid capping as a bay clean up strategy. Dredging is the best long-term fix.
3. Without access to shipping, the local pulp industry will be less viable.
4. Don't stop dredging. It supports the local fishing industry.
5. Don't jeopardize personal security.

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

1. You need to resolve the conflicts that arise when you promote recreation, conservation and harbor uses.
2. The mission statement doesn't address the broader concept of conservation, which should reference cultural as well environmental resources.
3. The District can't manage the bay "for the benefit of all." Priorities must be established.
4. The vision statement needs work.
 - The implementation strategy should be clear.
 - The District should do more than act as a facilitator or mediator between conflicting interests.
 - The vision should be of a *working* bay, one which works for all types of uses.
 - Capacity building should be a priority.
 - The slogan should be "Take back the Bay." The district should promote public use and public safety.
5. The strategic objectives should reference:
 - More personal use without risk to personal safety, especially to individuals using trails.
 - Historic resources!
 - Completing the Redwood Dock
 - Promoting harbor facilities and the rail restoration required for cargo handling ships
6. The harbor doesn't work without rail access. The District must enhance its support for re-building the rail link.
7. The old roundhouse and shop can service a living railroad while still supporting the Timber Heritage Museum.
8. The District should facilitate private and public initiatives rather than setting arbitrary priorities for bay related uses. It should support all users.
9. The District should collaborate with others to build larger plans that serve the District's objectives.
10. The District should support a barge service to the Port of Oakland.
11. The District should keep the channels open – but scientific data is #1.



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

1. Work with the rail authority to restore the rail link.
2. Help to build the aquaculture support facility.
3. Promote the Fairhaven Business Park.
4. Provide the facilities the Evergreen needs and help them to find cargo for their ships to carry.
5. Maintain effective relationships with dock owners and operators.
6. Participate in the development of the town of Samoa and its adjacent industrial lands.
7. Work with RCAA to promote
 - Water trails
 - A trail connecting Eureka and Arcata
 - Sediment reduction and salmon enhancement grants
8. Work with the five municipalities to develop a comprehensive approach to managing storm water pollution.
9. Find the money to do what needs to be done.
10. Cooperate with the Shellfish Technical Advisory Committee.
11. Promote the Adopt the Bay program.
12. Promote an inter-agency dialogue, especially with Arcata, about the vision for the bay and how to coordinate individual plans and initiatives.

