

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(May 10, 2018)

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at the Port of San Francisco, Pier 1 in San Francisco, CA.

1. CALL TO ORDER – BOARD CHAIR

Chair Jody Breckenridge called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Breckenridge, Vice Chair James Wunderman, and Director Anthony Intintoli were in attendance.

3. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Breckenridge congratulated staff and WETA's federal representatives in Washington, D.C. on the recent \$5 million 2017 Passenger Ferry grant awarded to WETA by the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) for the mid-life refurbishment of the MV *Solano*.

Chair Breckenridge noted that Directors had received three pieces of correspondence to review; a copy from Alameda resident Christine Lok of a letter she sent to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission expressing her Harbor Bay Ferry Terminal parking concerns; a letter to WETA from Dana T. Aftab, Executive Vice President of Business Operations at Exelixis, Inc. requesting that WETA grant landing rights to Tideline Marine Group at its Harbor Bay Ferry Terminal to facilitate the company's private ferry service for the company's employees; and a letter from Shirley Quitugua, a passenger who left her purse behind on a WETA vessel, commending WETA and its contract operator, Blue & Gold Fleet, for the stellar customer service she had received during her retrieval process.

Chair Breckenridge said she will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to engage representatives on Capitol Hill and will report back on those efforts at the June Board meeting.

4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Vice Chair Wunderman reported that he will also be traveling to Washington, D.C. with the Bay Area Council (BAC) the following week and he said he would be joined by WETA Executive Director Nina Rannels on the trip. He congratulated staff on the recent FTA \$5 million grant award.

Vice Chair Wunderman said that he had met with ferry administrators in New York since the last Board meeting, and he explained that the \$300 million program had grown to about a \$1 billion program. He explained that the system had substantial oversight now from the New York City Economic Development Corporation. Vice Chair Wunderman said that WETA's east coast counterpart was its ally in Washington.

Vice Chair Wunderman thanked BAC Director Emily Loper for her tireless work on water transit in the Bay Area and noted that more than 625 entities and prominent individuals - from all different walks of life - have endorsed Regional Measure 3 (RM3) and that more endorsements were expected soon. He said wide and far reaching support for the measure continued, and that absentee voters likely already had their ballots in hand.

Director Intintoli said that he and Ms. Rannells had made a presentation to the Vallejo City Council since the last Directors' meeting and that it had gone very well.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF

Ms. Rannells shared her written report with Directors and welcomed questions. She noted that it was Bike to Work Day and that the record set for bicycles onboard a WETA ferry was 89 bikes on a South San Francisco trip on March 9, 2018. She added that the highest average number of bikes that travel on current WETA routes was 55 on the Alameda/Oakland route. Director Intintoli said that passengers were very appreciative of having increased bicycle capacity on the newer WETA vessels.

Ms. Rannells said that there would be a small gathering to honor Charlene Haught Johnson at 11 a.m. on June 14 at the North Bay Maintenance and Operations Facility on Mare Island in Vallejo. She added that the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) was expected to complete its initial sign-off of WETA's newest ferry, the MV *Argo*, soon and the vessel was expected to arrive in San Francisco the following week and begin service soon afterward.

Ms. Rannells said that she and Planning & Development Manager Kevin Connolly would meet the next day with Oakland A's President Dave Kaval to discuss the team's plans for a new ballpark.

Ms. Rannells introduced Program Manager/Analyst Lauren Gularte who shared an overview of a recent Oakland Airport emergency response training event that exercised the region's Vessel Mutual Assistance Plan and a mock water to ferry rescue in the bay. The exercise included WETA, Bay Area firefighters, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other regional ferry systems, and Bay Area agency emergency response partners, she said, and it tested the Oakland Airport's Water Rescue Plan by transporting mock airplane emergency survivors in the bay from life raft level up to a WETA freeboard ferry vessel. Ms. Gularte said the next step in this process was for the airports to create a checklist for ferry captains.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar which included:

- a. Board Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2018
- b. Authorize Release of Request for Proposals for Mobile Ticketing Platform

With several minor and non-substantive edits to her report summary in the April Board Meeting Minutes, Chair Breckenridge seconded the motion and the consent calendar carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Josefowitz.

7. APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE FY 2018/19 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET AND RELATED ACTIONS

Finance & Grants Manager Lynne Yu presented this item to approve adoption of the FY 2018/19 Operating and Capital Budget and related actions. Chair Breckenridge said she supported the item's attached agency organization chart and said she looked forward to seeing the study details for the compensation study recently completed for WETA staff so she can better understand the analytics involved in the results. She also commended Ms. Yu for her fine work on providing clarity with her assumptions and footnoting throughout the budget item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous meeting attendee asked whether fares on WETA ferries are subsidized and Chair Breckenridge said yes. The attendee suggested that WETA add additional trips on the South San Francisco route for people who want to use the ferry recreationally, especially on weekends, as a means to better serve seniors and increase agency revenue. She asked if RM3 passes in June if it will provide

more funding for WETA to expand and increase service. Directors said the measure would certainly increase funding for the agency to increase and expand service well beyond its present offerings.

Vice Chair Wunderman made a motion to approve the item.

Director Intintoli seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Josefowitz.

8. AUTHORIZE FILING APPLICATIONS WITH THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR FY 2018/19 REGIONAL MEASURE 1 AND REGIONAL MEASURE 2 OPERATING AND CAPITAL FUNDS

Ms. Yu presented this item to authorize filing applications with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for FY 2018/19 Regional Measure 1 and Regional Measure 2 operating and capital funds.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item.

Chair Breckenridge seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Josefowitz.

9. APPROVE PURCHASE OF COMMERCIAL INSURANCE POLICIES FOR FY 2018/19

Administration and Business Services Manager Melanie Jann presented this item to approve the purchase of commercial insurance policies for FY 2018/19. Ms. Jann introduced Seth Cole from Alliance Insurance Services who clarified the difference between a \$15,000 deductible for public official liability coverage of Board decisions in the recommended policy, and the \$20,000 deductible for the employment practices liability coverage. Mr. Cole also noted that \$15,000 was generally the minimum amount for a deductible in the industry for this coverage type.

Chair Breckenridge made a motion to approve the item.

Director Intintoli seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Josefowitz.

10. APPROVE AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH NEMATODE MEDIA, LLC FOR FERRY TICKET SALES AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN FY 2018/19

Public Information and Marketing Manager Ernest Sanchez presented this item to approve an amendment to the agreement with Nematode Media, LLC for ferry ticket sales and information services in FY 2018/19. Chair Breckenridge asked what measurement tools were used to monitor this work and said she would like to see some reporting on the Nematode results for WETA to show what the cost of this expense is providing for the public tax dollars WETA is spending.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Representing MARAD, Jerry Bellows said that employees working at the Bay Crossings store in the Ferry Building have provided him with excellent customer service.

Vice Chair Wunderman made a motion to approve the item.

Director Intintoli seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Josefowitz.

11. APPROVE FY 2019-2022 TITLE VI PROGRAM

Program Manager/Analyst Lauren Gularte presented this item to approve the FY 2019-2022 Title VI program.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item.

Chair Breckenridge seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Josefowitz.

12. OVERVIEW OF ONBOARD RIDERSHIP SURVEY

Senior Planner Mike Gougherty presented this informational item and provided a slideshow overview of the WETA Onboard Ridership Survey that was administered in November 2017. He explained that the survey had been taken on vessels across all routes, had asked riders to rate various services, and had posed a series of questions on rider travel patterns, demographics, and attitudes.

Mr. Gougherty noted that the findings of the survey were consistent across all four of WETA's service routes and he highlighted some of its findings, including:

- Most WETA ferry riders are work commuters aged 25 to 54 years
- The majority of the passengers surveyed ride the ferry at least three days a week
- WETA ferry riders typically have higher median incomes than the average household in the communities the agency serves
- Fewer seniors, youth and disabled people utilize the ferry in comparison to other modes of regional public transit
- Typically, ferry riders' race/ethnicity is consistent with that demographic in the communities served
- Proportionately more passengers are either relatively new riders (fewer than three years) or long-time loyal riders (more than ten years)
- Overall passenger satisfaction remains high in relation to other major regional transit services
- The vast majority of riders who reach WETA terminals on bicycles bring their bikes onboard the ferry with them versus parking or storing their bikes at the terminal
- The most common method of reaching WETA ferry terminals is driving alone
- The ferry is rarely the only option for riders; most passengers choose it over riding BART, transbay buses, or driving alone
- Passengers want more frequent off-peak service, especially during late morning, midday, and late evening/night periods

Mr. Gougherty said that a final, more detailed report of the survey and its results will be provided within the next few weeks. He explained that the database with all of the raw survey data will also be accessible to cull any additional available information that might be of interest to Directors.

With the departure of Vice Chair Wunderman and Director Intintoli, the meeting lost quorum at 3:20 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Genentech Senior Transportation Program Manager Heather Salem asked if employer information had been captured in the survey results. Mr. Gougherty explained that it had not, and explained that the destination information would likely clarify the number of respondents traveling to or from Genentech.

An anonymous attendee asked if the slideshow presentation would be available online and Ms. Rannells said it will be posted.

13. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

An anonymous attendee said the problem with spotty WiFi when vessels are out on the bay is like a domino effect during inclement weather. She asked if WETA wanted to keep WiFi low intentionally. She also said that she had tried to plan a trip to Tiburon the prior weekend but had found that the schedules changed, the website had not been updated, and only one trip was available to meet her needs.

All business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

- Board Secretary

END