

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

*(August 21, 2008)*

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at the offices of the San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission, San Francisco, CA.

**1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Charlene Haught Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Directors present were Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Anthony Intintoli and Director Gerald Bellows. Director Bellows led the Pledge of Allegiance. Director Beverly Johnson arrived at 1:20 p.m.

**2. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR**

Chair Johnson noted that future Board meetings would be held on a more regular schedule. After some discussion it was resolved that meetings would be moved to the third Wednesdays of the month.

**3. REPORT OF DIRECTORS**

None.

**4. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Executive Director Jon Stanley noted it had been one month since he joined WETA and that staff had done a great job of bringing him up to speed on the projects and challenges ahead.

Mr. Stanley reported that SB 1093 was in the final stages of passage and expected to go through once the budget impasse is cleared in Sacramento with further details to be presented later in the meeting. He noted that WETA had issued an RFQ for consulting assistance in putting together the Transition Plan required by the legislation and that WETA had begun to collect the information and data necessary to put together the Plan as well as to develop a five year plan going forward. He added that WETA was working with Vallejo and Alameda as well as MTC on the Plan.

Mr. Stanley stated that the terminal project in South San Francisco is proceeding slowly due to funding issues as a result of delays in finalizing the lease agreement with the San Mateo County Harbor District and that WETA was not yet received funding from the San Mateo County Measure A sales tax. He added that both items would be discussed in depth later in the meeting.

He further updated the Board on the status of emergency response planning which had continued with the hiring of Bill McCammon as a consultant to assist with plan development and readiness review as well as with possible additional grant funding, noting that WETA's charter includes emergency planning but outside funding has not been identified. Mr. Stanley added that WETA had prepared a draft RFQ for additional consulting assistance.

Mr. Stanley reminded the Board that the first two vessels are scheduled to be delivered in December and March respectively and that staff is working on agreements with current operators to place the vessels in service after delivery.

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Regarding WETA's legislative outreach and strategy, Mr. Stanley noted that WETA had been working with Sacramento and Washington consultants to develop this year's strategy for sponsorship and funding and will be reaching out to key members of the State Senate and Assembly and to key members of the congressional delegation in the next few months to lay the groundwork for continued WETA funding and legislative support.

Mr. Stanley also noted upcoming "Lunch for the Office Bunch" events on September 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. In closing, he thanked the Board for taking the time to speak with him individually over the previous month.

#### **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Bellows noted an error in the minutes for the June 19, 2008 Board of Directors meeting.

Vice Chair Intintoli made a motion to approve the minutes with Item 5 corrected to note: "Vice Chair Intintoli made a motion to approve the item. Director Bellows seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously." Director Johnson seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Director Bellows also asked if any action had been taken by MTC regarding the Pier 9 berthing project. Deputy Director of Finance and Administration Nina Rannells reported that MTC had approved the funding request.

#### **6. APPROVAL OF THE DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PLAN AND OVERALL ANNUAL DBE GOAL**

Community Relations Manager Shirley Douglas presented the FY 2008/09 DBE Plan for approval. Ms. Douglas noted that no comments had been received on the plan.

Director Johnson made a motion to approve the item. Director Bellows seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

#### **7. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION – SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO PROJECT UPDATE**

Manager of Planning and Development John Sindzinski presented this item regarding the status of the South San Francisco project. He presented a schedule to the Board and noted that WETA would hold off advertising for construction bids until the lease with San Mateo County Harbor District was finalized.

Mr. Stanley added that Measure A talks were ongoing and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority had been seeking collateral for the funds. Ms. Rannells added that this was still under discussion. Vice Chair Intintoli noted that SB 1093 calls for five year operating plans and asked if that wasn't sufficient for the County. Ms. Rannells responded that they were looking for collateral for their capital investment more than a projection of viability. Vice Chair Intintoli asked if this meant the boats, and Ms. Rannells replied that it did although that would not be a feasible solution.

Vice Chair Intintoli noted that this would be an issue for all new services as WETA is underfunded for operating and even capital expenses. He noted the need for WETA to be ready to access any additional funding that becomes available as \$15 million will not be sufficient to operate additional ferry services as well as new capital projects. Mr. Stanley agreed and noted that he was in touch with Brian Kelly in Sacramento and that there is a possibility that more funding would be available when a revised plan is submitted but that 1B funds were only available for Emergency Response. Director Johnson asked if 1B funds would be available for

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the Transition Plan. Ms. Rannells replied that 1B funds are for capital projects only, and that the next round of 1B funds would be appropriated through the State budget process this year.

Director Johnson asked how much on the funding for the project was in-hand and what was still needed before proceeding. Mr. Sindzinski said that all of the funding would be needed before proceeding. Ms. Rannells added that Measure A money would be used to fund the long term lease and the terminal and that it was critical to resolve this funding before the project can move forward. Mr. Sindzinski further stated that the lease must be finalized soon to allow time to check firms and meet seasonal construction windows. Chair Johnson asked if the delay created any opportunity to reduce expenses related to the terminal. Mr. Sindzinski replied that any changes made now will only add expense and that the latest construction window has already been missed due to stalled lease negotiations with the Harbor District.

Public Comment:

Veronica Sanchez of Masters, Mates and Pilots asked if the RM2 funds were already available to WETA. Ms. Rannells replied that they were scheduled to be available in January 2009 but that WETA was in talks to see if earlier was possible. Ms. Sanchez asked if it was a problem that terminal construction would begin before the funds were available. Ms. Rannells replied that it was not an issue as the project was already delayed due to the lease issue and missed construction window.

**8. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION – EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

Manager of Operations Keith Stahnke presented an overview to the Board on Emergency Response Planning Activities. He reviewed the existing organizational structure and outlined WETA's role in emergency response for the region.

Director Johnson asked if WETA's emergency response role would include coordinating transit connections. Mr. Stahnke replied that WETA would have some role in updating MTC and OES and they would coordinate connections. Director Johnson asked if FEMA was a possible source of funding for these planning activities and disaster preparedness. Mr. Stahnke said that they were, specifically for reimbursement for the Emergency Response Plan. He added that Bill McCammon would be working on identifying additional sources of funding for these activities.

Mr. Stanley added clarification that Mr. Stahnke's presentation was intended to illustrate the challenges of creating the plan, not the plan itself.

Public Comment:

Veronica Sanchez expressed a concern over the viability of coordinating 850 busses in the East Bay in the event the I-80 corridor is shut down. She added that an emergency response plan would need to cover all locations.

Mr. Stahnke responded that there were any number of scenarios that would need to be addressed and that his presentation was specific to a San Francisco evacuation. Vice Chair Intintoli asked if the connecting busses would be WETA's responsibility or not. Mr. Stahnke replied that WETA would have a coordination role. Mr. Stanley added clarification that WETA's responsibility was limited to delivering passengers to the dock and that its role beyond that was limited to assisting with coordination.

Vice Chair Intintoli noted that it would take many years to acquire sufficient vessels for such an evacuation. Mr. Stahnke replied that there were already 40 vessels in the Bay that could be used in emergency response. Chair Johnson asked if WETA had coordinated use of these boats with FEMA. Mr. Stahnke reminded the Board that WETA would be releasing an RFP for

emergency response charters that would not activate until needed for emergency response. He added that the initial response from the various operators indicated that they would be receptive to the charters.

**9. NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM/STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Mr. Stahnke presented this item regarding WETA's adoption the NIMS and SEMS, both of which are required for compliance.

Vice Chair Intintoli made a motion to approve adoption of NIMS. Director Johnson seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Director Bellows made a motion to approve adoption of SEMS. Vice Chair Intintoli seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

**10. UPDATE ON SENATE BILL 1093**

Ms. Rannells presented an informational item on the status of SB 1093, which WETA had worked on cooperatively with the cities of Alameda and Vallejo, noting that it had passed out of the Assembly on August 12 and the Senate that morning.

Director Johnson asked for clarification on the \$600,000 of RM2 funds for the transition. Ms. Rannells explained that that amount was support for the initial year for all three organizations, including funding for a plan consultant and expenses. Director Johnson asked how that was coordinated. Ms. Rannells said WETA has asked Alameda and Vallejo to provide estimated costs and that ultimately WETA would present MTC with a budget for reimbursement to WETA and the cities.

Chair Johnson asked if WETA would be required to accept old boats from the cities. Ms. Rannells replied that WETA would not be required to do anything, but that the Transition Plan will specifically identify all the elements of the current state of the systems including the costs of operations and the state of each system's assets, including what it would take to bring vessels up to CARB requirements.

**Public Comment:**

Gary Leach, Vallejo Public Works Director expressed thanks to Ms. Rannells and the WETA Board for help in bringing the plan to fruition.

**11. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION AND REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Johnson called the meeting into closed session at 2:30. Upon reopening of the meeting at 3:20 she reported that direction had been given to staff regarding lease negotiations with the San Mateo County Harbor District.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Secretary

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