

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(August 29, 2008)

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met at the offices California Maritime Academy, Vallejo, CA.

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Charlene Haught Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:30a.m. Directors present were Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Anthony Intintoli, Director Gerald Bellows, Director Beverly Johnson and Director John O'Rourke.

2. MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS, REVIEW AND REVISE

The discussion among the Board members elicited the following points:

- Ensure that WETA has an operational focus, along with design focus. It is important to successfully transition the existing Vallejo and Oakland/Alameda ferry services per the legislation. The challenge will be to balance consolidation of existing service while at the same time expanding service.
- It will be important to raise operating funds sufficient to support the capital projects that WETA undertakes. Failure to maintain and expand service will make it difficult to maintain legislative support.
- It is important to complete the South San Francisco ferry terminal and go into service, while maintaining momentum for the subsequent identified sites.
- Legislative strategy – both Federal and State – are key to maintaining support and funding stream. One of WETA's challenges is to identify, legislators and political leadership who will champion the WETA cause - in support of both the regular public service responsibility, and the emergency response responsibility. Lack of funding to support the expansion of the system to a fully realized system is a continuing challenge.
- Need to build a regional lobby of cities/developers/employers and agencies to successfully lobby for the support that WETA needs.
- Possible funding sources and partnerships could be local businesses, such as refineries. Public/private partnerships must be explored.
- Need to connect with other emergency response agencies to ensure that the WETA role is understood and integrated into the regional response planning.

This discussion continued later in the day with a review of the mission and vision statements developed for WETA in the April, 2005 retreat. The members then discussed appropriate revisions to those statements in light of the Authority's new and expanded role as a result of SB 976 and SB 1093.

The revised draft mission statement is: *"WETA is a regional agency with responsibility to develop and operate a comprehensive Bay Area regional public water transportation transit system. WETA shall also provide water transportation services in response to natural or man-made disasters."*

The revised draft vision statement is: “Establish and operate a regional ferry system that connects communities, reduces congestion, and provides an emergency response capability.”

Members then asked staff to further refine the above statements along with goals and objectives. They agreed to the following as key goals of the vision:

- Safety
- Cost Effectiveness
- Environmental responsibility
- Cooperative community relationships

3. COMMITTED PRIORITIES

For this agenda item, staff reviewed with Board members the current FY 2008/09 committed projects per the approved budget. The projects are described in the budget summary package submitted for approval at the June 19, 2008 Board meeting.

- **SB 976 and SB 1093 Requirements**

Staff provided a brief summary of both of the bills mandating the formation of the WETA.

- **Implementation and Operations Plan**

Each currently budgeted project was briefly reviewed for the Board.

- **Vessel Deployment Plan**

Staff is continuing to work on the Bareboat Charter proposal with MTC to make productive use of Gemini and Pisces when they are delivered in December 2008, and March 2009.

- **Other projects**

Staff reported that the Pier 9 Layover Berth should be completed by Summer 2009.

Staff reported on a recent meeting with the Treasure Island project representatives from the SF Mayor’s office who may be helpful in moving the SF Docks improvements along to support both the TI project as well as WETA needs for dock space to support emergency planning/response.

4. STRATEGIC ISSUES AND DIRECTIONS

- **Funding Realities/Managing Expectations**

Staff provided a review of the budgets and funding sources for each of the identified FY 2008/09 projects reviewed earlier. South San Francisco, the first “expansion” project per the schedule is currently delayed while funding from Measure A is worked out with San Mateo County Transit Authority, and while lease negotiations continue for the ferry terminal site with the San Mateo County Harbor District. Other current projects have funding sources identified for this year. RM2 funding is also available for near-term operations, and to support development of the Transition Plan.

Staff also presented a longer range discussion with a summary of funding sources and budget estimates for the expanded ferry service system contemplated by the *Implementation and Operations Plan* approved in July 2003.

Members indicated the following general priorities and expectations for the next few years that supports taking on an operations role while expanding the WETA emergency and general transportation ferry system as follows:

- Successful assumption of the Vallejo and Oakland/Alameda service as analyzed by the Transition Plan
- Continued high priority to complete SSF and Berkeley/Albany – the first two near-term expansion terminals
- Completion of the Emergency Response Plan for WETA
- Build-out of system infrastructure to support these top priority items

Staff provided a listing of current Federal and State legislators that are or could be involved in WETA support initiatives. Members discussed each name, and provided staff with insight/suggestions as to strategies to gain legislative support. Staff indicated a desire to increase use of the State and Federal legislative advocates (lobbyists) and will initiate a briefing from them to the Board at a future Board meeting this Fall.

- **Organizational Evolution – Moving from Design into Operations**

With respect to “marketing” WETA, Director Johnson stated that WETA needed a “brand” for its service. Staff will take for action. Vice Chair Intintoli indicated that development of the Transition Plan will begin the process of WETA identifying organizational changes that may be required to execute the “operations” aspect to our charter. Focus on operations is critical now as we contemplate assumption of existing services in Vallejo and Oakland/Alameda, as well as further expansion.

5. ADJOURNMENT

All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Secretary
