

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(June 19, 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 1:05 p.m. Directors present were Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Anthony Intintoli and Director Gerald Bellows. Vice Chair Intintoli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Johnson reported that a meeting of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) had been held June 18. The Committee, which had previously existed under the WTA, was pleased to be able to offer its support under WETA although SB 976 did not require the establishment of a CAC. Chair Johnson also reminded the Board about a Board retreat scheduled for August 29. She also reiterated the Board's desire to schedule future Board meetings in Alameda and Vallejo. Vice Chair Intintoli asked if a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) would be established. Interim Executive Director Nina Rannells said a TAC may be reconstituted if needed in the future.

3. REPORT OF DIRECTORS

None.

4. REPORTS OF STAFF

Interim Executive Director Nina Rannells noted that she and Operations Manager Keith Stahnke met with Laura Phillips of Bay Area Super Urban Area Security Initiative (SUASI) who operates under the Federal arm of DHS. SUASI coordinates emergency response plans between cities, transportation agencies and special districts. Chair Johnson noted that there seemed to be numerous similar agencies. Ms. Rannells noted that SUASI specifically deals with funding and coordinating the various plans and resources available. Mr. Stahnke added that SUASI has a regional perspective as opposed to city or county plans, and that this is specifically relevant to the emergency response capabilities offered by ferries.

Ms. Rannells announced that WETA had received a letter from OHS on June 17 confirming their approval of \$25 million in Prop 1B funds. She noted that this was the first funding WETA would receive from OHS and will go to support environmental studies, South San Francisco vessels and terminal, design in Berkeley, ER float and maintenance barge, and Vallejo maintenance facility.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Chair Intintoli made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2008 Board of Directors meeting. Director O'Rourke seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2008/09 BUDGET

Ms. Rannells presented an overview of the 2008/2009 budget. She specifically noted the inclusion of \$500,000 allocated for the Emergency Response Plan required by SB 976 and 1093. Vice Chair Intintoli asked if that would be enough. Ms. Rannells noted that this only included costs for WETA and not the individual cities. Vice Chair Intintoli asked what the source would be for the cities. Ms. Rannells said that was unclear and may require legislative change and that the issue was not yet closed.

Vice Chair Intintoli noted that he was concerned that he sees a great deal of increased responsibility but does not see an increase of operational funding. Ms. Rannells agreed with this concern, noting that MTC's focus with RM2 funding is for expansion only. Vice Chair Intintoli notes that this needs to be addressed, as Vallejo's current problem with fuel costs will become WETA's problem next year.

Ms. Rannells also pointed out that the Spare Vessels would be received soon and may either be a cost or a revenue source depending on how they end up being used. She noted that any use of the vessels including Bareboat Charter would be brought to the Board for approval.

Chair Johnson asked about status of Pier 9 berthing. Ms. Rannells said that the Board had previously approved the environmental documents and funding request and that MTC would take action on the request in July. Chair Johnson also asked if additional insurance would be needed for the Spare Vessels. Ms. Rannells answered that it will be determined by how they are put into use but that they would be insured.

Director Bellows asked for more information regarding the oyster monitoring item. Manager of Planning and Development John Sindzinski explained the process and timeline. Vice Chair Intintoli asked about funding for dredging. Ms. Rannells indicated that it is budgeted into construction costs but that ongoing dredging expenses can't be determined until service is underway. She also noted that dredging would be an issue addressed in the transition plan. Mr. Sindzinski added that dredging varied considerably by location and that South San Francisco may only require every 20 years while Hercules may require every two weeks. Ms. Rannells said that the Army Corps of Engineers would also have some dredging responsibilities.

Public Comment:

Mr. Gary Leach, Vallejo Public Works Director, commented that the Army Corps used to dredge Vallejo due to the location of the Navy base but no longer did so.

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

7. AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR FOUR FERRY TERMINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Manager of Planning and Development John Sindzinski presented this item regarding the awards of contracts for environmental assessments of four terminal sites and noted a memo that updated the agenda item. He reviewed the award process which involved selection panels that included WETA as well as representatives from each of the respective cities.

Director Bellows asked if any of the proposals were close calls. Mr. Sindzinski noted that CH2M Hill and ESA were very close for the Antioch proposal but that all of the proposals were from established firms who do quality work. The award recommendations were based on how the firms meet WETA's needs while also being sensitive the needs of the individual cities.

Public Comment:

Mike Bernick of Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold, LLP noted that he works with three of the cities involved and that WETA has a good selection process and has selected four good firms.

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

8. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION – FERRY CONSTRUCTION

Manager of Marine Engineering Mary Culnane gave a presentation to the Board on the status of ferry construction. She began with an outline of the RFP process and reviewed the status of the vessels currently under construction.

Public Comment:

Marina Secchitano of IBU commented “here here” on the focusul.

Director Bellows asked if the vessels will be towed from Settle or will be under their own power. Ms. Culnane noted that they will be delivered under contract from Nichols and that they will come down under their own power. The delivery time will be dependent on weather conditions.

9. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION AND REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Chair Johnson called the meeting into closed session at 1:55. Upon reopening of the meeting at 2:40 she reported that Mary Culnane had been appointed Interim Executive Director for the period July 11 through July 20, 2008. Chair Johnson also reported that Jonathan Stanley had been appointed WETA Executive Director beginning July 21, 2008.

10. ADJOURNMENT

All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Secretary
