

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(November 5, 2009)

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at the WETA offices at Pier 9, Suite 111, San Francisco, CA.

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Anthony Intintoli called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Directors present were Vice Chair Intintoli, Director Gerald Bellows and Director John O'Rourke. Chair Charlene Haught Johnson arrived at 1:20 p.m. Director Bellows led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

None.

3. REPORT OF DIRECTORS

None.

4. REPORTS OF STAFF

Executive Director Nina Rannells noted that October had been a busy month for WETA with the South San Francisco groundbreaking and a tabletop emergency response exercise immediately followed by the unanticipated Bay Bridge closure.

Ms. Rannells introduced Operations Manager Keith Stahnke who gave a detailed review of how ferries participated in providing a supplemental transit option during the closure. Mr. Stahnke noted the substantially increased ridership figures for the week and the services added by the Alameda-Oakland Ferry, Harbor Bar Ferry, Vallejo Baylink and Golden Gate Ferry to meet passenger demand. He said that staff participated in daily updates with MTC and Caltrans, and also noted an oil spill in the Bay and mechanical problems with a Baylink vessel, each of which added additional challenges. Mr. Stahnke noted that the added services were successful overall and that no problems had been reported. He also noted the successful transit of a professional basketball team by Blue & Gold for a Rockets v. Warriors game during the bridge closure.

Mr. Stahnke then reported on WETA's third vessel, *Scorpio*, noting that emissions testing and trials had been successful and that signoffs finalizing the vessel transfer to WETA could happen as soon as the following Thursday. He said that depending on available weather windows, the vessel could potentially arrive in the Bay within the next two weeks. Mr. Stahnke added that after US Coast Guard certifications and crew training, *Scorpio* would enter service under charter to the City of Alameda.

Mr. Stahnke then noted that *Gemini* would soon be one year old and out of her warranty period, and that the vessel would be hauled out and inspected for any needed work within the next few weeks.

Ms. Rannells then introduced Michael Gougherty, who recently joined WETA in the position Transportation Planner/Analyst. She noted that Mr. Gougherty holds a Master in City Planning from U.C. Berkeley and had most recently served as a planning consultant to BART.

Vice Chair Intintoli then reviewed the 2010 meeting schedule included in the board packet. Ms. Rannells noted that it followed the same first Thursday of each month schedule as 2009.

Vice Chair Intintoli also noted that AB 1203, which had been stalled on the Governor's desk awaiting signature, had now been signed.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Chair Intintoli made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2009 Board of Directors meeting. Director O'Rourke seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

6. AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO FERRY TERMINAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

Manager of Planning and Development John Sindzinski presented this item requesting Board authorization to release of Requests for Proposals for two South San Francisco ferry terminal contracts, including a contract to construct the terminal float and gangway systems and a contract for pier and landside terminal facilities.

Mr. Sindzinski reviewed the status of the South San Francisco terminal project and the timeline for the RFPs, noting that if approved, recommendations to award would be brought back to the Board in February.

Director O'Rourke made a motion to approve the item. Director Bellows seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

7. AUTHORIZE ENTERING INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO FOR COORDINATED PLANNING OF THE DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO FERRY TERMINAL BERTHING EXPANSION PROJECT

Mr. Sindzinski then presented an item to authorize the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Port of San Francisco regarding coordinated planning and environmental work associated with the expansion of berthing facilities and related amenities at the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal.

Ms. Rannells noted that this and the following item were interrelated and important parts of WETA's capital program, and that now was the time to move forward on these items. She added that the Port of San Francisco was a key partner for WETA's success in meeting the need for increased capacity at the ferry building for Treasure Island and other services.

Mr. Sindzinski reviewed the MOU, noting the premise for the agencies to work in partnership to expand the ferry terminal facilities, with WETA serving as the lead in developing new ferry berthing facilities and amenities and the Port serving as the lead for any related land-use improvements.

Director Bellows asked if the MOU had already been negotiated. Mr. Sindzinski replied that the MOU had been worked out with the Port over a five month period.

Director O'Rourke asked who would be building the vessels to serve Treasure Island. Mr. Sindzinski replied that this is still to be determined, but that the vessel construction funding would be handled as part of the Treasure Island redevelopment program and not by WETA.

Public Comment:

Veronica Sanchez of Masters, Mates and Pilots noted that as this was a long term project, and given WETA's mandate for emergency response, that WETA should look for ways to avoid delays and consider what could be done with existing facilities with a minimum of environmental work. She

noted that the boats already exist and that the need for increased landside facilities was a key issue.

Ms. Sanchez also referred to Attachment B to the Draft MOU, suggesting that as the Port has pre-existing challenges regarding parking, clarification should be made limiting WETA's involvement with parking issues to ferry terminals.

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

8. AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO FERRY TERMINAL BERTHING EXPANSION PROJECTS

Mr. Sindzinski presented this request to authorize, by motion, the release of Request for Qualifications for environmental review and design services for the expansion of berthing facilities at the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal.

He noted that with the exception of the South San Francisco-Oakland service, WETA's plans to expand ferry transit on the Bay as many as seven new routes will be operating with San Francisco's Downtown Ferry Terminal as their destination and that expansion would be required to meet the need for additional capacity. Mr. Sindzinski reviewed the timeline for issuing the RFQs and noted that recommendations to award contracts would be brought back to the Board in February.

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

9. AWARD OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE CENTRAL BAY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Mr. Sindzinski presented this item to approve award of a professional services contract to kpff Consulting Engineers for the design and engineering of the Central Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility in Alameda. He reviewed the qualifications of kpff and noted that ICF, formerly Jones and Stokes, would be doing the environmental work.

Vice Chair Intintoli asked who currently owned the land. Mr. Sindzinski indicated that it was currently held by the Navy, and that the City of Alameda has authority for issuing a long term lease and WETA would be negotiating for a 65 year lease.

Chair Johnson asked what WETA would receive for \$200,000. Mr. Sindzinski replied that the contract would result in design plans that would allow the project to move forward.

Director O'Rourke asked if any other locations were available through the Port of San Francisco. Mr. Sindzinski replied that many locations had been looked at but that anything available on the San Francisco side would require tens of millions in infrastructure work and that the Alameda site had emerged as the most suitable.

Director Bellows asked if there would be parking available at the Alameda location. Mr. Sindzinski replied that there was a sizable lot near the location and that parking would be arranged with the City of Alameda.

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

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Berkeley Marina resident James McVaney suggested that WETA continue to consider funding a portion of the Bay Trail through the Berkeley Marina to encourage support from the community and to address traffic and parking issues.

Marina Secchitano of the IBU offered congratulations on the South San Francisco terminal groundbreaking. She then suggested that WETA hold a celebration for the arrival of Scorpio as it would be encouraging for people to see projects being completed during difficult times. Ms. Secchitano also suggested that any future boats be larger than Scorpio's 199 passenger capability in order to increase evacuation capacities.

Chair Johnson noted that a key aspect of consolidating ferry services would be the ability to re-assign current vessels in order to reflect capacity requirements in a variety of situations including bridge closures and emergency response.

Berkeley resident David Fielder stated his concern that WETA was not fully aware of the opposition to the Berkeley Ferry Service project. He stated that the Citizens for East Bay Parks voted against the location of the Berkeley terminal, and noted that the Waterfront and Transportation Commission had supported the project with strong reservations, including the Transportation Commission's concern that the road leading to the terminal site may be subject to liquefaction. He noted that the Planning Commission had declined to support the project by a vote of 2 to 1. He concluded by stating that these concerns would remain regardless of the project's support from the Berkeley City Council and strongly urged WETA not to proceed at the selected terminal location.

11. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION AND REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Chair Johnson called the meeting into closed session at 1:53 p.m. Upon reopening of the meeting at 3:12 p.m. she reported that no action had been taken.

12. ADJOURNMENT

All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Secretary
