

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

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

*(February 5, 2009)*

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at Alameda City Hall West, Room 201, Alameda, 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, Director Gerald Bellows and Director John O'Rourke. Director Beverly Johnson arrived at 1:15 p.m. Director Intintoli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR**

Chair Johnson noted that former WETA staff member Mary Culnane was present and thanked her again for her service to WETA. Chair Johnson added that *Gemini* was now in service on a morning run to Tiburon and would soon begin service to Alameda and Oakland.

**3. REPORT OF DIRECTORS**

None.

**4. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Executive Director Jon Stanley updated the board on the status of WETA's second vessel, *Pisces*, which was to set to launch in Washington that weekend. He noted that WETA consultant Charlie Walther was on site to witness the launch for WETA. Mr. Stanley noted that delivery was planned for March 2009 and that like *Gemini*, *Pisces* would go into service under a bareboat charter and was expected to be put into service on the Harbor Bay Isle route.

Mr. Stanley stated that work on the Transition Plan continued and that the internal staff review was proceeding with significant editing. He stated that once the review and editing was completed that WETA would convene the core team for a final review prior to a presentation to the WETA Board to be followed by release to the public. He noted that the three public meetings to be held in Vallejo, Alameda and San Francisco would be conducted and the public comments would then be incorporated into the draft Transition Plan. Mr. Stanley outlined the process further, stating that the final Draft Transition Plan would be presented to the WETA Board at the May meeting, after which comments/revisions would be incorporated for a Final Transition Plan presentation and adoption at the June meeting. He added that staff would brief each of the board members individually on the draft plan prior to the next Board meeting. Mr. Stanley also noted that staff continued to hold meetings with Vallejo and Alameda on the issues to be negotiated regarding the transition of ferry service to WETA.

Mr. Stanley added that the Emergency Response plan was also underway, with an internal outline prepared for a series of stakeholder meetings that would begin the following week. He said that a progress report and presentation would be provided to the Board at the March meeting, followed by another stakeholder meeting to be held in mid-March.

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Regarding the budget impasse in Sacramento, Mr. Stanley reported that Proposition 1B funds continued to be frozen. He noted that Manager of Planning and Development John Sindzinski had successfully completed the BCDC permit process for the South San Francisco terminal, which had been granted on January 15. Mr. Stanley concluded stating that WETA would continue to work with Kvichak Marine to resolve the best schedule solution for boats #3 and #4, whose budgets are potentially affected by this suspended Prop 1B funds, and that outreach letters to WETA's legislative advocates would be delivered in the next few weeks regarding funding issues.

#### **5. REPORTS OF STAFF**

WETA counsel Stanley Taylor of Nossaman LLP advised the Board that per diems for Board meetings were \$100.00 per meeting plus reimbursable expenses, as outlined by the Administrative Code. He added that expenses for other meetings attended by board members were reimbursable but did not qualify for a per diem.

#### **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Vice Chair Intintoli made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2009 Board of Directors meeting. Director Bellows seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

#### **7. TREASURE ISLAND REDEVELOPMENT PLAN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION**

Mr. Sindzinski introduced Jack Sylvan, Treasure Island Redevelopment Project Manager for the City of San Francisco, who gave an informational presentation regarding the City's plans to redevelop the former Navy base on Treasure Island as a sustainable community with 6000 housing units and recreational facilities. He noted that a key component of the project was providing alternative transit solutions to San Francisco in order to mitigate impact on Bay Bridge traffic.

Director Johnson asked if there was a flood plan. Mr. Sylvan said that construction would follow guidelines but noted that Treasure Island was already significantly higher ground than many areas on the Bay Area waterfront. Director Johnson then asked if there was a conveyance in place. Mr. Sylvan said that this will be worked on over the next six months but that the issues involved in the conveyance were not primarily about cleanup as was the case in Alameda.

Chair Johnson asked if the project was taking so long due to funding issues. Mr. Sylvan replied that the process of getting approvals and the complexity of the project and all the organizations involved was the most significant aspect of the process.

Director Johnson asked if the open space seen in the presentation existed currently. Mr. Sylvan indicated that it did not and would require demolition of existing structures.

Mr. Sindzinski noted that the ferry service would carry 3000 to 4000 passengers per day and require specially designed boats due to the unique nature of both the terminal and short transit distance.

Director Bellows asked after the fate of the firefighting school currently on the island. Mr. Sylvan suspected that it would move to the SE part of San Francisco but was unsure.

Chair Johnson asked if the jobs training facility on the island would be moved. Mr. Sylvan said that it was unlikely as they own the land outright, but that all parties were discussing ways to better integrate the facility.

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Director Johnson asked if there would be police and fire substations. Mr. Sylvan said yes and that they were assumed in the projected costs.

Vice Chair Intintoli asked how services would be paid for. Mr. Sylvan noted that Treasure Island was part of San Francisco and would be covered by the city's services.

Director Johnson asked how power would be provided to the island and if solar power would be included. Mr. Sylvan replied that power was currently provided via cable from Oakland.

Mr. Sindzinski concluded this item noting that the next month's agenda would include an agreement between WETA and the Treasure Island Development Authority that would have WETA administer the engineering studies for the ferry terminal. He added that a second agenda item would award this work to a consultant. He noted that this relationship with TIDA would solidify WETA's initial planning roles and responsibilities for the terminal and the service and responsibilities we would have once the facility is built and the service is up and running. He also noted that WTA's IOP called for San Francisco to build the Treasure Island terminal, purchase the vessels and to subsidize the services, but for WETA to actually be responsible for its operations.

#### **8. UPDATE ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM**

Nina Rannells, Deputy Director of Finance & Administration, presented this informational item regarding the impending Economic Recovery bill, the process by which funds may flow to WETA and the eligible high-priority projects for funding consideration.

Chair Johnson asked why RM2 funds could not be used to fund the EIRs that were currently on hold due to the frozen Proposition 1B funds. Ms. Rannells stated that MTC was reluctant to allocate to projects outside of Berkeley, Hercules, and South San Francisco but that this could potentially be discussed. She added that regarding RM2, MTC had indicated possible funding for vessels from RM2 funds which WETA could pay back from Prop 1B funding when that became available again.

Director Johnson asked how long Proposition 1B funds would be frozen. Ms. Rannells replied that they were suspended indefinitely and that the status of current contracts and projects would need to be assessed.

Vice Chair Intintoli asked if a bridge toll increase would provide additional funding. Ms. Rannells answered that there was a proposal from MTC to increase the bridge tolls but that it was specifically in regard to seismic retrofitting projects.

#### **9. AGREEMENT REGARDING SAN MATEO MEASURE A FUNDS FOR SERVICE BETWEEN SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO AND OAKLAND**

Mr. Stanley introduced Item 9 noting that due to issues surrounding Measure A funds, this item be carried forward to the next meeting. No action was taken.

#### **10. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

##### Public Comment:

Marina Secchitano of IBU read a proclamation attributing the achievements of Mary Culnane during her tenure at the WTA and WETA and wished her future success.

##### Public Comment:

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Jay Gardener of Adventure Cat gave a presentation on ZOE, his “Zero Onboard Emissions” design. ZOE has hard wings rather than soft sails and would utilize the wind power available in the Bay. He said that such a design was ideal for Berkeley and Treasure Island service. He reiterated that current ferry technology could not compare with BART on passenger miles per gallon and that an SUV driving across the Bay Bridge was 50% more efficient than currently operating ferries. He said that his technology offered 120 passenger miles per gallon compared to a current ferry's 13. He said that the only item needed to make a terminal compatible with ZOE was to provide 480V power to the site.

Director Johnson asked if there was a current prototype of the design and if so how big was it. Mr. Gardener said that he had a 65', 99 passenger vessel operating on the same principles. He added that he had a proposal submitted to CARB for a demonstration of the technology next winter. Chair Johnson thanked him.

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

Chair Johnson called the meeting into closed session at 2:40 p.m. Upon reopening of the meeting at 3:30 p.m. she reported that the Board had given direction to staff and representatives regarding Vallejo/Alameda Ferry Facilities and Oyster Point Marina Terminal real property negotiations.

Chair Johnson also reported that the Board had accepted Jon Stanley's resignation effective February 15 and appointed Nina Rannells as Interim Executive Director.

#### **Public Comment:**

On behalf of Bay Ship & Yacht, Wes Starrat invited board members and staff to tour their nearby facilities.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Secretary

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