

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(February 4, 2010)

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

Chair Charlene Haught Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Directors present were Vice Chair Anthony Intintoli, Director Gerald Bellows, Director Beverly Johnson and Director John O'Rourke. Vice Chair Intintoli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

None.

3. REPORT OF DIRECTORS

None.

4. REPORTS OF STAFF

Executive Director Nina Rannells advised the Board that work continued with CalEMA regarding Proposition 1B funding including the fast tracking of future payments. She noted that the state had paid outstanding invoices but that the larger issue of upfront payment had not been resolved and that discussion was ongoing.

Regarding the South San Francisco project, Ms. Rannells noted that the price proposals on the Terminal as well as the Float and Gangway RFPs would be coming in soon, and that contract awards would likely be on the agenda of the April Board of Directors meeting.

Ms. Rannells pointed out recent press regarding the funding challenges facing the City of San Francisco's Treasure Island project and said that WETA continued to work with city staff regarding the ramp up of ferry service rather than a full capacity service that would begin on day one. Director Johnson noted paperwork issues with the former Navy base in the City of Alameda had gone on for several years and suggested that Treasure Island service start may not be an immediate concern.

Ms. Rannells then advised the Board that the cities of Richmond, Antioch, Martinez and Redwood City had each been actively seeking to restart projects that had been placed on hold due to Proposition 1B funding issues. Ms. Rannells said that she was reluctant to retrigger these projects until the funding issues had been satisfactorily resolved but that she looked forward to meeting with the cities to discuss potential optional funding sources.

Chair Johnson said that she hoped the cities would not lose enthusiasm for the project as they had been supportive of WETA's program.

Director Johnson asked how much new outreach WETA representative Barry Broad had been pursuing in Sacramento. Ms. Rannells noted a stakeholder engagement strategy was being developed as a key part of the WETA marketing plan. Chair Johnson noted that with Senator

Perata termed out, new advocates were needed in the state legislature. Director Johnson suggested that boardmembers should schedule a day for travel to Sacramento to meet directly with legislators and suggested that Mr. Broad could arrange such meetings. She added that an RFQ for legislative services may encourage him to set up a lobbying effort as early as February or March.

Ms. Rannells noted that the Board-requested a summary of grant funds is included as an attachment to the Executive Director's report and that the summary of WETA employee benefits requested would be brought forward at a future meeting. She also reminded the Board that the March meeting would be held in Vallejo and would include a presentation and tour of the Vallejo ferry facilities.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director O'Rourke made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included minutes from the January 7, 2010 Board of Directors meeting and an approval of board member travel to Washington, DC. Vice Chair Intintoli noted that this trip would provide an opportunity to advocate for WETA projects at a federal level with Congressman Miller and others, and would also help build relationships with Solano County officials who would be important to WETA in the future with both the Vallejo ferry services and other projects in the county.

Director Bellows seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

6. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

Chris Miley and Zach Seal, assistants to Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan of Oakland, gave a presentation regarding a free Broadway Shuttle which would service the Broadway corridor between Uptown and Jack London Square in Oakland beginning in June 2010 and requested that WETA make a \$300,000 funding commitment to the project.

Director Johnson asked if the informational kiosks related to the shuttle service would include ferry and other transit connection information. Mr. Seal said that the details still needed to be resolved, but noted that NextBus and wayfinding information would be incorporated into the three signs.

Director O'Rourke asked if these signs would be backlit and if they would incorporate advertising possibilities. Mr. Seal said that Clear Channel, the sign provider, would sell ads on one side of the signs and that ad revenue for the shuttles would be predominantly provided by ads on information brochures and on the buses themselves. He said he was unsure if the signs would be backlit.

Chair Johnson asked for the source of the 2,500 estimate for daily ridership. Mr. Seal replied that it was based on 1,000 riders a day from the previous shuttle. He noted that the previous shuttle ran for three hours a day instead of the 12 hour days anticipated for the new service and that this suggested a potential ridership of 2,500.

Director Johnson asked what the timeline would be if WETA were to making a funding commitment. Mr. Seal indicated that he would discuss this with AC Transit as they would be operating the service. He suggested that it would likely need to occur within the next three months. He also noted that AC Transit had committed to operating the buses at 50% cost for the first two years of service.

Ms. Rannells said that while the shuttle was a great project, WETA planning staff had concerns over how much the shuttle would actually support ferry service.

Director Johnson said that it may be an opportunity for WETA to show how ferries can connect the region and to showcase WETA's presence.

Ms. Rannells said that more specific information was needed to demonstrate that the shuttle service would have any impact on ferry ridership and also noted that the shuttle route terminated several blocks from the ferry terminal. Mr. Seal said that it was a possibility that the Jack London Square stop could be moved closer to the ferry. Ms Rannells asked when the term for the grant began. Mr. Seal said it would be good for two years from the start of service.

Director Bellows pointed out that the shuttle was a potential connector between BART and the ferry terminal. Ms. Rannells noted that this connection would not necessarily be relevant to existing services but could have some relevance to South San Francisco service once it starts.

Director Johnson proposed that the Board direct staff to meet with Councilmember Kaplan's office and bring a recommendation to the Board in April.

Ms. Rannells said that staff could look at it further but also noted that it was unlikely that an unallocated \$300,000 would appear in WETA's budget within that time frame. Mr. Seal said that even a smaller commitment could give the shuttle service an opportunity to seek additional funding partners.

Manager of Planning and Development John Sindzinski noted his concern that AC Transit was currently cutting services and that adding feeder services to terminals would continue to be a challenge. Vice Chair Intintoli agreed that this would also be an issue in Berkeley and Solano County and that WETA needed an overall policy.

Ms. Rannells said that she was concerned that other transit systems would be looking to WETA to subsidize their services. She noted additionally that in the case of the Broadway Shuttle there was no indication that it would actually increase ferry ridership or support current riders. Director Johnson reiterated that she thought the shuttle would be an opportunity to show WETA's support.

Director O'Rourke suggested that staff examine the issue further and return with a recommendation. Chair Johnson agreed and thanked Mr. Miley and Mr. Seal for their presentation.

7. AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR PIER 9 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AND A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR RELATED CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Mr. Sindzinski presented this item requesting Board approval to release a RFQ for construction management services and an RFP for project construction for the Pier 9 ferry berthing project. He noted that with the arrival of Taurus there would soon be four WETA vessels in the Bay, and that as mooring spaces are in limited supply the construction of berthing facilities at Pier 9 would be an asset to WETA operations. He noted that the contracts would be design-build.

Director Johnson stated that she was aware of many recent projects which had come in at 40% below engineer's estimates and that she hoped these would as well. Mr. Sindzinski said the estimates included in the item already considered that likelihood.

Public Comment:

Veronica Sanchez of Masters, Mates and Pilots asked if the floats were movable in order to respond to changing needs in an emergency. She also asked if they would be accessible if there was significant damage to Pier 9 in an earthquake as she has seen at Pier 48 in Loma Prieta.

Mr. Sindzinski replied that the floats could be moved to any location that had a guide pile and that the floats could be moved within days. Regarding emergency access, he noted that access to floats at the Pier 9 location would not at any time be open to the public.

Chair Johnson remarked that the estimates seemed high for berthing facilities for only two boats. Mr. Sindzinski reiterated the need for a location to moor them and pointed out that the structures would have a 50 year lifespan.

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

8. APPROVE VESSEL UTILIZATION PLAN AND ASSOCIATED AGREEMENTS

Ms. Rannells presented this item authorizing the Executive Director to execute associated bareboat charter and funding agreements for the utilization of WETA's fourth vessel, *Taurus*, anticipated to arrive in the Bay in late April.

Vice Chair Intintoli asked what the status of the Blue & Gold contracts was. Ms. Rannells said that the cities of Vallejo and Alameda were both in negotiations with Blue & Gold to extend the current contracts, and that although WETA was not a direct party to the negotiations staff would continue to be involved at the periphery. Vice Chair Intintoli asked that WETA be as closely involved as possible and to monitor any contracts WETA would become a party to as a result of the transition.

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

9. AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR INSURANCE BROKERAGE AND CONSULTING SERVICES

Manager of Administration and Business Services Melanie Jann presented this item requesting authorization to release an RFQ for brokerage and consulting services to assist WETA in identifying risk levels and obtaining appropriate property and liability insurance coverage.

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

10. APPROVE PROPOSITION 1B PROGRAM OF PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZE AGENCY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Manager of Finance and Grants Lynne Yu presented this request for Board approval of a list of FY 2009/10 Proposition 1B Waterborne projects for transmittal to the California Emergency Management Agency and authorization for the Executive Director, Attorney and Finance and Grants Manager to execute the grant program documents required to obtain funding.

Director Johnson asked that if WETA made a commitment to the Oakland shuttle project if it would come from these funds. Ms. Rannells noted that this item was regarding capital projects, and funds to support the shuttle would need to come from RM 2 operating funds.

Public Comment:

Veronica Sanchez of Masters, Mates and Pilots said that both MMP and the IBU supported these capital projects but asked for clarification regarding the \$5 million noted for San Francisco docking facilities supporting the Treasure Island service in light of WETA's desire to implement a ramp-up service.

Ms. Rannells responded that the Treasure Island service would represent the first real need to increase capacity at the Ferry Building terminal. She noted that increased capacity would be required over time and in order to meet emergency response needs as well.

Mr. Sindzinski added that the current facilities were already near capacity.

Ms. Sanchez expressed a concern that the needs of Treasure Island and San Francisco facilities stay in sync. Mr. Sindzinski replied that they would be purposely designed for flexibility. Ms. Rannells added that these funds were allocated for design, and that there would be a long environmental process ahead. She also noted that these funds would expire and needed to be spent on the front end.

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

11. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION AND REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Chair Johnson called the meeting into closed session at 2:30 p.m. Upon reopening of the meeting at 2:55 p.m. Vice Chair Intintoli reported that no action had been taken.

12. ADJOURNMENT

All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Secretary
