

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(March 10, 2011)

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 and Director John O'Rourke. Vice Chair Anthony Intintoli led the Pledge of Allegiance. Director Johnson arrived at 1:30 p.m.

2. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

None.

3. REPORT OF DIRECTORS

None.

4. REPORTS OF STAFF

Before delivering her report, Executive Director Nina Rannells noted that for the first time she had seen all four WETA vessels in service on the bay during her morning commute. She also reported that *Scorpio* was using only half the fuel of the other boats on the Vallejo service.

Ms. Rannells updated the Board on the status of the transition with the City of Alameda, noting that the service should transition to WETA within the next month or so. Regarding the service transition with the City of Vallejo, she said that Vallejo had agreed to the latest term sheet and anticipated that it would be presented to the City Council at the second meeting in April for approval.

Vice Chair Intintoli noted that meetings of the Vallejo City Council could be streamed online.

Ms. Rannells reported that later that day Vallejo city staff would host the last of four public input meetings regarding proposed service cuts to the Baylink service. She noted that WETA staff was helping to facilitate these meetings and that the proposed cuts would predominantly affect the complementary Route 200 bus service.

Chair Johnson asked how the meetings had been received. Ms. Rannells said that the first meeting had been challenging and that the format had been changed to better engage the riders and solicit their input. She said that one of the clear themes that had emerged was the need for an early ferry and for one additional late bus. She added that Marty Robbins of Baylink was already at work to modify the proposals in response to the input from riders.

Manager of Planning and Development John Sindzinski then reported on the status of the South San Francisco terminal, noting that construction of the float at Manson Construction in Richmond, CA was being completed and that piles were currently being driven at the Oyster Point terminal site.

Mr. Sindzinski said that while the construction project was moving along quickly, some minor issues had arisen in the final design of the gangway and that start of passenger service may be delayed

until early 2012. Chair Johnson expressed some disappointment at this news. Ms. Rannells noted that plans for the start of service were underway and would be brought forward to the Board as the project is further developed.

Mr. Sindzinski then reported that BCDC had approved the priority parking area plan for the Berkeley terminal the previous week, noting that the new plan increased the existing green belt and utilized existing spillover parking in the marina.

Public Comment

Paul Kamen of the Berkeley Waterfront Commission noted that it was the same area that his dragon boat team utilized for parking and that he felt the plan was workable.

Vice Chair Intintoli commented that the Mayor of Vallejo had suggested a change to WETA's enabling legislation that would allow for a permanent seat on the WETA Board of Directors to represent the City of Vallejo and any other city whose service had been assumed by WETA. He added that he was also concerned that all of the Board members had terms that would expire at the same time and that it would be preferable that the terms be staggered.

Chair Johnson said that these issues should be examined more closely but expressed concern regarding initiating new legislation that could affect WETA. Ms. Rannells said that she would initiate a dialogue on the matter with WETA's state legislative representative Barry Broad.

Vice Chair Intintoli then noted an item in the federal legislative report regarding the loss of earmarks for the current year and asked how this would affect WETA. Ms. Rannells replied that she was receiving weekly updates from WETA's federal legislative representative Peter Friedmann. She noted that one change they were monitoring was that the FY 2011 Ferryboat Discretionary Fund would now be distributed through the Department of Transportation staff rather than through earmarks.

Ms. Rannells added that there would likely be progress on the Transportation Authorization bill this year and that Mr. Friedmann was continuing to look for ways to best position WETA to receive an annual commitment of funds through this bill.

Public Comment

Veronica Sanchez of Masters, Mates & Pilots asked if the cancellation of \$1.5 million in earmarks for Vallejo and Berkeley have an effect on the fuel tank project in Vallejo.

Ms. Rannells replied that the project would not be affected and that the project would likely be going out to bid within the next few months.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Chair Intintoli made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2011 Board of Directors meeting. Director Bellows seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

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

Finance and Grants Manager Lynne Yu introduced this item requesting the Board approve a list of FY 2010-11 Proposition 1B Waterborne projects for transmittal to the California Emergency Management Agency, and to authorize the Executive Director, Attorney and Finance and Grants Manager to execute grant program documents required to obtain funding.

Ms. Rannells clarified that the issue date for the bonds was not yet known.

Vice Chair Intintoli noted that funds would be required to operate the City of Vallejo's parking garage and suggested that WETA keep in mind ways to help Vallejo fund those operations where possible, adding that he was concerned that parking fees could be a deterrent to ferry ridership.

Ms. Rannells replied that the funds at hand were not eligible for that project but that the parking issue was on her radar and that WETA would continue to be in dialogue with the City of Vallejo over the coming years regarding this issue.

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

7. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTING CLIPPER CARD REGIONAL ELECTRONIC FARE INSTRUMENT

Planner/Analyst Mike Gougherty presented this informational item regarding implementation of the Clipper fare payment program on the WETA system, noting that staff was in early discussions with MTC regarding potential implementation of Clipper timed to coincide with the initiation of South San Francisco service.

Mr. Gougherty stated that WETA had secured the services of Booz Allen Hamilton through an on-call planning agreement with Jacobs Engineering to assist with developing draft business rules and fare collection equipment needs for WETA, after which they would deliver a cost estimate for implementation of the Clipper to WETA.

Ms. Rannells said that it was an aggressive schedule for implementation and challenged Mr. Gougherty to meet it. She noted that Golden Gate Ferry had been the first operator to implement the Clipper system on ferries. Staff had hoped to follow their Clipper business model, but the number of WETA routes and terminal facilities will require a different approach for the WETA ferry services.

8. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION AND REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Chair Johnson called the meeting into closed session at 1:50 p.m. Upon reopening of the meeting at 3:05 p.m. she reported that no action had been taken.

9. ADJOURNMENT

All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Secretary
