

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

*(February 16, 2017)*

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at the Craneway Skyway & Conference Center, 1414 Harbour Way South, Marina District at Ford Point in Richmond, CA.

Chair Jody Breckenridge introduced Mayor of Richmond Tom Butt and invited him to give opening remarks. Mayor Butt thanked and welcomed the Directors and staff to Richmond. He stated that the Richmond Ferry Terminal Project was important to the City of Richmond and that the City was going to do its part to build ridership and identified several City projects that were to contribute toward the success of the service.

Mayor Butt recognized meeting attendees Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay, Councilmember Eduardo Martinez and City of Richmond staff.

**1. CALL TO ORDER – BOARD CHAIR**

Chair Jody Breckenridge thanked Mayor Butt and subsequently called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair Breckenridge, Director Jeffrey DelBono, Director Anthony Intintoli, and Vice Chair James Wunderman were in attendance.

Chair Breckenridge made a change in the meeting order and invited Assemblymember Jim Frazier to speak. Assemblymember Frazier stated that the priority in the state legislature was transportation funding. Following a summit briefing along with his meeting with the Governor, he said that progress was being made since he began pushing the funding bill two years ago. He noted that the Governor wanted the bill signed by April 6 before spring break and that it would take a bipartisan vote.

Assemblymember Frazier has been working on Regional Measure 3 (RM3) for the past two years and is Chairman of the Select Committee for improving Bay Area transportation systems. He expects the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to work with all the counties to receive their support and demonstrate need but will not allow an expenditure plan in RM3. He asked that WETA reinvest in California companies in purchasing goods and services. He said that service would grow as a result of ridership expanding into Berkeley, Hercules, Redwood City and most importantly, to Antioch.

Assemblymember Frazier voiced his appreciation, admiration and support. Chair Breckenridge thanked him for making a special trip to the meeting and the open door with his staff.

**3. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR**

Chair Breckenridge said that she had just returned from a gathering in Sacramento called California Maritime Leadership Symposium and had an opportunity to speak about WETA in its dual role as a transportation system and its emergency response role. She had met Councilmember Martinez at the gathering and thanked him for attending tonight's meeting. She noted that the primary focus was freight

and the handling of freight by equipment and vehicles but that there was significant discussion on green technology and the great support for electric vessel technology.

#### **4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS**

Vice Chair Wunderman expressed his appreciation to the City of Richmond for their support and his excitement about the Richmond service. He informed the group that the Bay Area Council had recently conducted a poll and that transportation is clearly on the minds of the public. He reinforced the importance of RM3 and had met with Assemblymember Frazier and the Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee Jim Beall yesterday.

Vice Chair Wunderman stated that it was important for WETA to be aggressive and well prepared to defend its requests outlined in the Strategic Plan. He said that his view is that WETA should be a leader and move toward cleaner vessels and that his vote for future boats would be operating on batteries.

Director DelBono thanked the City of Richmond and also expressed his excitement about bringing service to Richmond. He supports the project labor agreement and along with the good paying jobs it will bring to Richmond.

Director Donovan joined the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

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

Executive Director Nina Rannells thanked the Board, the City of Richmond and the public for their attendance. She said that the WETA has been working on the project for several years and looked forward to the service and its success. She referred the Board to her written report and noted that she had some verbal updates.

Ms. Rannells informed the Board that the MV *Hydrus* arrived on Tuesday after a two-day trip from Seattle, stopping once for fuel. After dry docking at Bay Ship & Yacht for some final work and training, she expected the boat to be in service in approximately four weeks. She added that MV *Cetus* was making a lot of progress and was launched from Seattle and will be at Whidbey Island where her cabin will be mounted.

Ms. Rannells clarified for the audience that RM3 would be an additional toll on Bay Area bridges which would be used to fund future transportation projects. She said that Richmond service was going to be funded for the first ten years as a commuter service with a minimum service schedule through Measure J Funds and that WETA would be seeking RM3 funds to support a more robust and long-term Richmond schedule and service.

Ms. Rannells said that she and Planning and Development Manager Kevin Connolly attended the first in a series of MTC meetings to discuss potential RM3 projects. Kevin Connolly provided a presentation to the group on WETA projects contained in the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Rannells said that WETA was approached and asked to use renewable diesel in ferry operations as a part of an initiative spearheaded by the San Francisco's Mayor Lee to have all ferry operators convert to the form of fuel. The City of San Francisco has converted their vehicle fleets and are encouraging others operating in and to the City to do the same. WETA staff is in the beginning stages of looking at what it would take to make this change, which involves, amongst other things, testing and approval from the ferry engine manufacturers.

Ms. Rannells informed the Board that WETA was randomly selected to participate in an FTA drug and alcohol compliance audit. She indicated that it was standard procedure and that it would take a look at

how WETA's contract operator, Blue & Gold Fleet, administers and manages its program in accordance with FTA rules and requirements.

Ms. Rannells said WETA was preparing for its March shoulder schedule, including starting Mare Island service, and for the beginning of Giants baseball service.

Operations Manager Keith Stahnke provided an overview of the service disruption and impact of winds, rain and debris from storms to all WETA services. He said debris was causing propeller damage and clogging the waterjet propulsion system. He noted that three vessels recently suffered propeller damage from debris requiring two to be dry docked

Chair Breckenridge provided additional comment related to emergency response. She noted that there was recent discussion regarding credentialing at the most recent Harbor Safety Committee meeting and the challenges in an emergency response scenario. She said that at the meeting this morning the Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach approached her to collaborate and elevate the issue in a proactive manner to ease access noting that this would be predominantly handled through the two Marine Exchanges.

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar which included:

- a. Board Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2017

Director DelBono seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, DelBono, Donovan, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None.

## **7. RICHMOND FERRY TERMINAL PROJECT UPDATE**

Senior Planner Chad Mason presented this informational update on the Richmond Ferry Terminal Project which would establish a new ferry route between the existing San Francisco Ferry Terminal and a new ferry terminal on the Ford Peninsula in the City of Richmond which included an overview of upcoming activities and milestones.

Staff has developed a plan that would allow WETA to start construction of the project in 2017 and be in a position to open the new facility for use as early as 2018. A Funding Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority will fund the operation for a minimum of 10 years.

Vice Chair Wunderman asked for a more definitive date for the start of Richmond service. Mr. Mason noted that the start date would be dependent upon the construction schedule for the terminal and vessels and said that he anticipated that construction would take approximately a year and that service could start as early as mid-2018 depending upon weather and construction progress.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

City of Hercules Councilmember and Liaison to WETA Roland Esquivias congratulated WETA and the City of Richmond and expressed his support for the project. He extended an invitation to WETA to the grand opening of Hercules Traffic and Bayfront celebration and Hercules' efforts in easing traffic and congestion on I-80.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

City of Hercules City Manager David Biggs expressed the City of Hercules' support for the project and that the success of the service would bode well for service expansion. He said that the City of Hercules was happy to make the Measure J funds committed to Hercules available to the City of Richmond. He

said that the City of Hercules and partners launched “Let’s Get Highway 80 Moving” Coalition. Mr. Biggs said that the City of Hercules was having a town hall meeting led by Congressman Mike Thompson and Congressman DeSaulnier.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jay Gardner of Wind + Wing Technologies stated that his company was working to provide zero emission propulsion in the local passenger market and other sectors of the maritime industry. He suggested that future WETA vessels be built with electric drive trains and challenged the Board to plan for the future with zero emission transportation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Veronica Sanchez of Master, Mates & Pilots and Peter Engel, Director of Programs for Contra Costa Transportation Authority, both thanked WETA and the appreciation of working with Ms. Rannells and Mr. Mason and expressed excitement and support for the service.

**8. APPROVE A PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHMOND FERRY TERMINAL PROJECT**

Ms. Rannells presented this item to approve entering into a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council for the construction of the Richmond Ferry Terminal Project and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute the final agreement and take other such related actions to support this project.

Ms. Rannells noted that worked this PLA follows the Master PLA developed by WETA in December 2013 and that she had worked closely with Greg Feere of the Contra Costa County Building & Construction Trades Council to develop the agreement before the Board for consideration.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dan Torres, representing fire sprinkler workers, spoke on behalf of the Contra Costa Building Trades Council and thanked the WETA for entering into a PLA and looks forward to a successful Richmond ferry project.

Chair Breckenridge commented that a new Charter School was working together to put together a Board and opening in the near future for grades 6 through 12 focused on maritime and looking for potential sites in Oakland or Vallejo. She encouraged the school to talk to the unions and trades council about apprenticeship type programs.

Director Donovan made a motion to approve the item.

Director DelBono seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, DelBono, Donovan, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None.

**9. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY REAL ESTATE AGREEMENTS REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE RICHMOND FERRY TERMINAL**

Mr. Mason presented this item to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute all necessary real estate agreements required to construct, operate and maintain the Richmond Ferry Terminal Project. Staff outlined the three primary agreements which include a lease agreement with the City of Richmond that would grant WETA property rights to the proposed site, a shared use maintenance agreement with Ford Point that establishes parameters for WETA and Ford Point to share the parking area and to equitably share costs for ongoing maintenance activities, and a temporary

construction, maintenance and facility easement between WETA and Ford Point to allow construction activities on Ford Point property at the plaza and passenger shelter area of the terminal. Chair Breckenridge asked about total parking spaces and the amount available to the ferry and about other public transit and shuttle modes. Mr. Mason stated that there are over 300 spaces and use of spaces has not yet been determined and that AC Transit currently services the area; however, further analysis and coordination will be completed as it gets closer to the service start date.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item.

Director Wunderman seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, DelBono, Donovan, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None.

**10. AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHMOND FERRY TERMINAL PROJECT**

Mr. Mason presented this item to authorize the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Construction of the Richmond Ferry Terminal Project. This project will construct a new terminal at Ford Point in Richmond, California. Project work includes construction of a new fixed pier, passenger waiting area and shelter, gangway, passenger loading float and expansion of an adjacent parking facility. The project includes landscaping and public access improvements to the Bay Trail, as well as construction of a new kayak launch in keeping with regulatory agency requirements.

Vice Chair Wunderman asked why a Request of Qualifications isn't used initially and voiced his concerns about low bids. Mr. Mason responded that it would be an added step and that the RFP takes qualifications into consideration as a part of the technical scores.

Vice Chair Wunderman made a motion to approve the item.

Director Donovan seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, DelBono, Donovan, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None.

**11. APPROVE ACTIONS RELATED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF FERRY SERVICE FROM THE NORTH BAY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY SITE ON MARE ISLAND**

Mr. Connolly presented this item to authorize initiation of service to/from the North Bay Maintenance and Operations facility terminal site on Mare Island beginning on March 6, 2017 and to approve use of the standard WETA short hop fare of \$1.60 for travel between Mare Island and the Vallejo Terminal, and to incorporate the Mare Island short hop fare into the 2015-202 WETA Fare Program.

Director Intintoli referred to a question from the Rotary Club asking if there be direct service to San Francisco. Mr. Connolly confirmed that there would be not be direct service from Mare Island to San Francisco. He further noted that public outreach had already been initiated and that schedules would be adjusted seasonally.

Director Donovan asked if service would increase ridership and possible future direct service to San Francisco. Mr. Connolly said anything was possible but that service increases from this new short hop were likely to be modest.

Chair Breckenridge asked if free parking would be an incentive for people to depart for San Francisco from Mare Island. Mr. Connolly said that he thought that the additional travel time and limited trip selection would likely negate the benefit of free parking for most people. He noted that parking at the

Mare Island site was controlled by Lennar Mare Island and that WETA and Lennar Mare Island staff would monitor the parking situation as services are started.

Director Intintoli asked staff to keep in contact with the City about a future parking facility.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item.

Director Donovan seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

Yeas: Breckenridge, DelBono, Donovan, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None.

**12. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Todd Roberts of Marine Group Boat Works (MGBW) presented the WETA with boat renderings from surplus materials from recent projects completed at MGBW and voiced his appreciation for the work.

WETA thanked MGBW for their work.

Mr. Gardner asked WETA to come back about how it was going to go about greening its vessels. Chair Breckenridge commented that discussions about the issue were already underway.

Zach from the fire department said department was open to joint training opportunities.

All business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Board Secretary