

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

(September 7, 2017)

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at the Port of San Francisco, Pier 1 in San Francisco, CA.

1. CALL TO ORDER – BOARD CHAIR

Chair Jody Breckenridge called the meeting to order at 1:19 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Breckenridge, Director Jeffrey DelBono, Director Timothy Donovan, and Vice Chair James Wunderman were in attendance.

3. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Breckenridge opened the meeting by inviting Directors, staff and guests to join her in a moment of silence for those affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma and the recent myriad wildfires in the western part of the country. She said that it had been a week since the hurricane devastation initially hit the Southeast and Gulf areas of the country and that damaged ports were just now reopening. Chair Breckenridge said that the post disaster protocols for maritime were very different than for land, and she emphasized the importance of educating legislators about those differences when seeking emergency response funding and support.

Chair Breckenridge also reported that on August 23 she had testified in Sacramento at the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Response. She said it had been an excellent educational opportunity to speak on ferry emergency response, including what was in the WETA Emergency Response Plan.

Chair Breckenridge said that as part of the California Governor's Military Council, she had also taken part in a bipartisan California Defense Summit. She said that because of the recent natural disasters, the subject of emergency response planning arose and that new capabilities had been identified for WETA which she would be discussing with staff to assure they were included in the WETA Emergency Response Plan. Chair Breckenridge added that as a result of this summit, top representatives from the California National Guard and California Governor's Office of Emergency Services would be visiting the Bay Area soon to specifically assess and discuss ferry evacuation and other issues related to the region's emergency response capabilities.

Chair Breckenridge extended special thanks to Vice Chair Wunderman and Director DelBono for their recent outreach in Sacramento, especially their Regional Measure 3 (RM3) educational and advocacy efforts.

Chair Breckenridge asked Directors to read through a letter sent to the Board from a rider concerned about the recent parking changes at the Harbor Bay Terminal in Alameda. It was agreed that it would be agendaized for Directors to receive an update from a City of Alameda representative on the matter at the next meeting.

4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Vice Chair Wunderman thanked Chair Breckenridge for the moment of silence and agreed that the recent disasters in Houston and the Caribbean were devastating. He noted that the biggest potential threat in California was a major earthquake, which would not allow for advance warning as a hurricane generally does. He added that recent disasters were strong reminders that a large piece of WETA's responsibility was to be prepared to respond to natural disasters of any sort.

Vice Chair Wunderman said that his and the Bay Area Council's priorities for the last few months have been shaping the RM3 conversation. He said that after many conversations, nearly every legislator and staff person in Sacramento was much more knowledgeable about WETA and the general value of ferry service in the region. He explained that there had been a lot of give and take in the process of crafting the details for the measure, and said WETA now had the support of the Bay Area Caucus. He said amendments could still be offered, that Governor Brown would still need to sign the bill, and that there would need to be major campaign efforts to help assure the measure passes but that he had never been more hopeful about funding for water transportation service in this region than right now.

Vice Chair Wunderman said he was aware that staff had been working with the Boulevard restaurant and other stakeholders on the waterfront to receive and respond to feedback about the Downtown Ferry Terminal Expansion Project construction. He said he wanted to thank staff for being responsive to the group and working diligently to try and meet their needs.

Director DelBono said he appreciated the work that staff and the Bay Area Council had been doing to help further the RM3 conversations and said that process was a team effort.

Director Donovan said it will be good to have some permanent structure in place for WETA's funding, and he also extended his appreciation to staff and the Bay Area Council for the RM3 efforts.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF

Executive Director Nina Rannells shared her written report with Directors and welcomed questions. She noted that ridership in July was up 7 percent and Labor Day ridership was also higher this year than last. Ms. Rannells added that the new vessel, the MV *Cetus*, had been added to the fleet and put into service in August.

Ms. Rannells thanked the Board and particularly Vice Chair Wunderman and Director DelBono for their work in support of WETA throughout the RM3 discussions. She said an amendment had been approved in the California Assembly on September 5 that clarified capital projects funding and included some crucial key language to support more control and flexibility for WETA operating funds.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a. Board Meeting Minutes – July 6, 2017
- b. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Clipper Memorandum of Understanding

Vice Chair Wunderman seconded the motion and the consent calendar carried unanimously.

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

7. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO R. E. STAITE ENGINEERING, INC. FOR THE NORTH BAY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY PILE RECONFIGURATION PROJECT

Senior Planner Chad Mason presented this item to approve contract award to R. E. Staite Engineering, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 for the North Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility Pile Reconfiguration Project, and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a contract and take any other related actions as may be necessary to support this work.

Director Donovan made a motion to approve the item.

Director DelBono seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

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

8. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO THE DUTRA GROUP FOR THE VALLEJO FERRY TERMINAL DREDGING PROJECT

Operations Manager Keith Stahnke presented this item to approve contract award to The Dutra Group in an amount not to exceed \$318,750 for the Vallejo Ferry Terminal Dredging Project and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a contract and take any other related actions as may be necessary to support this work.

Chair Breckenridge asked if staff had included the dredging that has to be done because of last winter's storms in its requests for emergency response reimbursement and Mr. Stahnke said yes.

Vice Chair Wunderman made a motion to approve the item.

Director Donovan seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

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

9. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

All business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

- Board Secretary

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