

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

*(March 31, 2014)*

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**

Acting Chair Anthony Intintoli called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Directors present were Director Jeffrey DelBono and Director Timothy Donovan. Director DelBono led the pledge of allegiance.

**2. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR**

No report.

**3. REPORT OF DIRECTORS**

Director DelBono reported that he had spent the prior Wednesday lobbying for WETA projects, and the potential TIGER grant, with WETA federal representative Ray Bucheger of Lindsay Hart, LLP in meetings with congressional staffers. Director DelBono said that he had five or six meetings throughout the day and that it had been a great learning opportunity. He recommended that other board members and staff take advantage of similar opportunities in the future.

**4. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Executive Director Nina Rannells referred the Board to her written report and added additional comment on several items. First, she noted that staff had been able to successfully piggyback construction of a movable float onto the North Bay Operations & Maintenance Facility Waterside RFP. She then noted that the vessel *Bay Breeze* was back in the water and would hopefully be back in the Bay Area and ready for service at the end of April in time for service schedule changes. Ms. Rannells then updated the Board regarding the City of Alameda's Seaplane Lagoon project, noting that the City had adopted environmental documents at prior meetings.

Ms. Rannells also commented on the status of the potential Warriors arena, noting that neither the Warriors' developer nor the City of San Francisco was currently moving toward inclusion of a ferry terminal to service the stadium and that the maritime community was not reacting favorably. Director Donovan asked if the developers and the City were open to it, and Ms. Rannells replied that that it was unclear. She said that the overall stadium costs appeared to be higher than anticipated and that omitting terminal facilities may be related to cost concerns.

Ms. Rannells then discussed that staff was exploring possibility of applying for a TIGER grant for the Downtown San Francisco Terminal Expansion Project, noting that the project appeared to be well-suited for the program. She noted that staff had prepared a summary application to MTC for inclusion in their list of regional priorities for Federal TIGER grants and that staff would continue work on the application and to assess whether the project was a good fit for the program.

Regarding the Ferry Building, Director Donovan asked if anyone had considered locating bike share stations at the Ferry Building or other terminal locations. Senior Planner Mike Gougherty said that the program was still in pilot mode and that transit hub locations were currently limited to those near MUNI and Caltrain hubs. He said that WETA did have an interest in working with the program more as the project expands. Ms. Rannells noted that bicycle usage was up along with ferry ridership in general. Director Donovan asked if bicycles were being considered in the design of the new ferries. Manager of Operations Keith Stahnke replied that yes, bicycles were definitely part of the design process.

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Director Intintoli thanked Ms. Rannells for her presentation to the Vallejo City Council on February 25, saying that he had received several calls in appreciation.

Director DelBono asked if there had been any updates regarding Google's ferry pilot program. Ms. Rannells said that WETA staff had been given a presentation on the flexi-float Google had used in Redwood City and that Kevin Connolly, Manager of Planning and Development continued to reach out to them periodically regarding their interest in implementing a more permanent service.

#### **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director DelBono made a motion to approve the consent calendar which included the Board of Directors meeting minutes of February 6, 2014.

Director Donovan seconded the motion and the consent calendar carried unanimously.

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

#### **6. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO MANSON CONSTRUCTION CO. FOR DESIGN-BUILD CONSTRUCTION OF EAST BAY FERRY TERMINAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Gougherty presented this item requesting Board approval of related actions for the contract award for the East Bay Ferry Terminal Improvement Project including approval of a contract award to Manson Construction for design-build construction in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,762,200, authorization of the Executive Director to negotiate and execute the contract and to take any other related actions to support this work, and authorization of a budget increase in the FY 2013/14 Capital Budget in the amount of \$879,400 to support the contract award.

Director Intintoli asked for clarification regarding the budget change of \$879,400 for the work. Manager of Finance and Grants Lynne Yu noted the budget had been prepared before the extent of the work required had been fully identified. Mr. Stahnke added that the facilities had just been transferred from the City of Alameda and that the extent of the work needed was not fully known at the time WETA began planning this work.

Mr. Gougherty noted that Bill Cook, Project Manager from Manson Construction, was present and available for questions regarding the project.

Director DelBono asked if Manson was located in California. Mr. Gougherty replied yes, that they were headquartered in Richmond.

Director Donovan asked if there was a project labor agreement for this project. Ms. Rannells answered no, noting that it had been determined that the project labor agreement would be used for large projects, specifically the Downtown San Francisco Terminal Expansion Project, the Central Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility Project and the North Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility Project.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Cook noted that Manson Constructions was signatory to Local 34 and Local 3 agreements and would abide by prevailing wage and union procedures.

Director Donovan made a motion to approve the item. Director DelBono seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

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

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**7. APPROVE FY 2014/15 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS PLAN**

Ms. Rannells presented this item requesting that the Board approve the Administrative Support Professional Services Contracts Plan and authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with existing professional consultant firms for contract extensions for FY 2014/15 for general counsel, federal legislative representation, state legislative representation, marine oversight and support, accounting support, and Bay Crossings advertising and public information services.

Director Intintoli asked Ms. Rannells to come back to the Board with separate items describing each contract, the work to be completed and proposed annual compensation amount to be considered for Board approval, similar to prior years. Director Donovan requested details on when each contract had last gone out to bid and suggested that a report card system be used to evaluate performance. Director Intintoli agreed that a report card would be desirable.

Director DelBono made a motion to approve the item amended to add the inclusion of a report card evaluation process for the contracts. Director Donovan seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

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

**8. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO PERATA CONSULTING, LLC FOR STRATEGIC CONSULTING SERVICES**

Ms. Rannells presented this item requesting that the Board approve a contract award to Perata Consulting, LLC for strategic consulting services in an amount of \$90,000 and to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a final contract and take any other such related actions to support the work.

**Public Comment**

Jerry Bellows of the Maritime Administration and former WETA Board Member stated that he supported the contract, noting that Mr. Perata had been integral to the bipartisan effort to create the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority, WETA's predecessor agency, that he was well suited to the work at hand and would be an asset to WETA.

Director Donovan asked why only two responses were received considering the distribution to the large procurement list. Ms. Rannells replied that the list contained interested firms with diverse specialties and that she had been contacted by several interested parties who, for whatever reason, had decided not to submit proposals.

Director Donovan made a motion to approve the item. Director DelBono seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

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

**9. AUTHORIZE FERRY SERVICE CHANGES BEGINNING APRIL 26**

Ms. Rannells presented this item on behalf of Manager of Planning and Development Kevin Connolly, requesting that the Board authorize staff to enhance ferry service schedules beginning with the April 26 summer schedule change. Ms. Rannells delivered an overview of the proposed changes noting peak-period improvements to better accommodate increased commuter demand.

Director DelBono noted that he was a big supporter of increased service when feasible and asked if these changes would be a trial or permanent. Ms. Rannells replied that Vallejo changes were seasonal and that the Alameda/Oakland changes would be for the full year. Director DelBono asked if any

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surveys were planned. Ms. Rannells replied that a program of surveys was ongoing as part of service planning efforts.

Director DelBono commented that if more people had started using the ferry system during the BART strikes and had not stopped that WETA must be doing something right. Ms. Rannells said that the service enhancements proposed were in support of the premise that the first priority on existing funds and resources should be to support and grow existing Alameda/Oakland and Vallejo services as demand warrants. Staff has been closely monitoring ridership levels, trip utilization and customer comments, and believes that the recommended program of improvements will serve the existing and potential new patrons well.

Manager of Operations Keith Stahnke noted that the current schedule had put some runs at capacity, specifically noting the serious problem of occasional leave-behinds on the Harbor Bay service. He said that WETA continued to look at solutions such as back up buses and that the imminent return of the *Bay Breeze* from refurbishment should ease capacity issues. Mr. Stahnke also said that backup buses may be required more frequently on the Vallejo service. He noted that the changes at hand should alleviate many of the central bay capacity issues and that direct return service from AT&T Park for daytime Giants games may be desirable.

Director Intintoli asked what would happen if *Bay Breeze* returned behind schedule. Mr. Stahnke said that the current Harbor Bay service could be continued as-is and if needed, that Alameda/Oakland boats could be reassigned when desirable.

Manager of Public Information and Marketing Ernest Sanchez noted that *Bay Breeze* had a capacity of 249 and that her return would likely alleviate Harbor Bay leave-behinds. He also stated that weekend Alameda/Oakland on-time performance would be improved with the new schedule. Director DelBono suggested a late-night service be considered.

### **Public Comment**

Veronica Sanchez of Masters, Mates & Pilots said that MMP and IBU were both delighted that this new schedule would utilize an additional crew.

Director Donovan made a motion to approve the item. Director DelBono seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

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

## **10. DISCUSSION REGARDING BERKELEY AND RICHMOND EXPANSION FERRY SERVICES**

Ms. Rannells introduced Senior Planner Chad Mason, who delivered an overview regarding the proposed Berkeley and Richmond ferry services for discussion.

Director Intintoli said that while he would like to see ferry service expand, focus needed to remain on ensuring the health of existing services and that any new services would require the expansion cities to commit to and identify sources for operational funding.

Director DelBono said that this is one reason why a local strategic consultant would be helpful. He asked why Berkeley and Richmond had been prioritized as the next likely expansion cities. Ms. Rannells noted that South San Francisco had been the first expansion project due to fund availability and that while Berkeley had stalled; Berkeley and Richmond were the most advanced on environmental work. She further noted that Richmond service has a commitment of Contra Costa County sales tax funding to support service operation. Director Intintoli added that the emphasis on these sites had originally been driven by ridership studies.

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Director Intintoli suggested a field trip to the proposed Richmond terminal site, adding that it seemed clear that Berkeley was no longer viable without a new operating fund source. He added that the Berkeley environmental work should be completed regardless because so much had already been invested and in case a Berkeley terminal became desirable in the future.

Director DelBono asked if there appeared to be any interest left in Berkeley for a ferry terminal. Ms. Rannells said that there had once been considerable interest but that preferred terminal location had encountered numerous obstacles. She noted that the completed environmental work would be good for five years in the event that there was renewed interest in the project from Berkeley. Ms. Rannells pointed out that each of these projects required partnership with the cities and were not solely WETA's charge.

Director DelBono asked where the South Bay fit into expansion planning. Director Intintoli stated that at the time the potential terminal locations were identified, WTA had been a planning agency. He said that priorities had changed as WETA had been tasked with operations as well, and noted that a Board Retreat with the incoming directors should be planned as soon as possible.

### **11. ALAMEDA TERMINAL ACCESS PLANS**

Ms. Rannells introduced Senior Planner Mike Gougherty, who delivered a report on Alameda Terminal Access Plans.

Mr. Gougherty noted that staff had hosted initial workshops for Alameda residents and ferry riders near each terminal in the prior month. Ms. Rannells said that City of Alameda staff had been invited but unfortunately had not been able to attend. She pointed out that WETA's role required partnership with the cities and other transit agencies, adding that Mr. Connolly had successfully reached out to AC Transit and that WETA looked forward to more partnership with the City.

Director DelBono said that he appreciated the outreach work, noting that Alameda was only going to become more populated thanks to continued development and that now was the time to improve terminal access, specifically at the Main Street facility.

### **12. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON FARE POLICY STUDY**

Mr. Gougherty presented an informational update on WETA's Fare Policy Study, outlining current status and next steps.

Ms. Rannells noted that if the final study indicated a large discrepancy between what the fares are versus what they should be, that any increases would be eased into. Director Intintoli noted that there was no issue more sensitive to customers and that it was important not to go in as if new fares had already been decided. He emphasized the need to go into the cities to solicit input, especially if the justification for increases was related to fare consistency and not immediate fiscal need.

Mr. Gougherty said that staff would return to the Board with a proposed program to take to the public for input.

### **13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Bellows addressed the WETA Board and staff and stated that it had been an honor to work with all involved. He said that his experience on the Board of Directors had given him a great appreciation for the work that went into a long public works project and offered his assistance wherever it could be utilized in the future.

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**Public Comment**

Jesus Vargas of the City of Alameda Transportation Commission invited WETA staff to attend a Transportation Commission meeting and said that the commission was eager to keep a connection open with WETA now that former Board Member Beverly Johnson had moved on. Mr. Vargas suggested that regular briefings would be mutually beneficial along with sharing white papers and coordination regarding cycling issues. Director DelBono added that such a briefing could potentially be combined with an Alameda City Council meeting.

**14. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION AND REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

Director Intintoli called the meeting into closed session at 3:06 p.m. Upon reopening of the meeting at 3:48 p.m., he reported that the Board was pleased to announce a satisfactory performance evaluation of Executive Director, Nina Rannells, resulting in a 3% salary increase effective March 1, 2014, as previously agreed and included in her work contract.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Secretary

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