

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(April 5, 2012)

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 1:09 p.m. Directors present were Vice Chair Anthony Intintoli, Director Gerald Bellows and Director Timothy Donovan. Chair Johnson led the pledge of allegiance.

2. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Johnson introduced Director Donovan replacing John O' Rourke, who had moved to a new position for the international office of the IBEW supervising multiple jurisdictions in Northern California and asked that a trip to WETA's various sites be arranged for the Board members. She also extended a warm welcome to South San Francisco Vice Mayor Pedro Gonzalez.

Chair Johnson invited members of the public to comment on items.

3. REPORT OF DIRECTORS

None.

4. REPORTS OF STAFF

Chair Johnson was interested in the status of the June 4 event for the Oyster Point Ferry Terminal. Executive Director Rannells introduced Manager of Transportation Services Ernest Sanchez. He stated that WETA was working with consultant Shirley Douglas who is handling the arrangements for the event, public relations firm MacKenzie Communications, Inc and with Robert Anthony Strategic Marketing and Design on developing the materials for the event.

WETA is planning its first major outreach event on April 25 with various transportation coordinators who provide transit information for their employees and work in coordination with transit agencies. This luncheon event will include ferry schedule orientation, Clipper operation and suggestions for more effective outreach effort. WETA is also working with the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance on providing coordinating bus service.

Executive Director Nina Rannells offered to answer any questions regarding her written report and the legislative report to the Board. Director Bellows wanted to know the status and cause of the fire onboard the *Scorpio*. Ms. Rannells stated that there was nothing conclusive at this point from the inspection that had taken place last week. She noted that the process involved inviting all parties involved in building and operating the boat and WETA to observe the opening of the control panel in the area of the fire. Mr. Sanchez added that no definite source had been identified but a few things were ruled out but that the process would continue with all interested parties.

Ms. Rannells mentioned that the WETA state bill had been amended with the language that was brought forward but did not have the schedule of committees the bill would go through.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Chair Intintoli made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 1 and March 15, 2012 Board meetings. Director Bellows seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

6. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO ADOPTING A FARE STRUCTURE FOR THE NEW SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO FERRY SERVICE

Ms. Rannells introduced this item offering the public an opportunity to comment on the fare structure followed by an action for the new South San Francisco ferry service. Chair Johnson formally opened the public hearing and invited members of the public to comment.

Public Comment

South San Francisco Vice Mayor Pedro Gonzalez asked if the fares were different for cash and Clipper. Manager of Planning and Development John Sindzinski replied that the fares were the same for both.

Citing no speakers and no further comments, Chair Johnson closed the public hearing.

7. ADOPT A FARE STRUCTURE FOR THE NEW SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO FERRY SERVICE

Mr. Sindzinski followed up on the previous item stating that these were one way fares. Ms. Rannells stated that these fares were based upon projected ridership with a fare box recovery of 20-25%. She added that based upon \$250,000 operating costs for FY2011/12 that \$200,000 would be covered by grants and \$50,000 by fares.

Vice Chair Intintoli asked how the fares were established. Ms. Rannells stated that staff looked at many factors in developing the fares including the cost of the service, regional cost-effectiveness criterion for use of RM2 funds and willingness to pay. WETA and the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance (Alliance) surveyed potential riders and that the positive response indicated potentially acceptable fares in the \$6-8 range and was comparable to the current cost of a BART ride with parking. Another measure considered in setting the fare is the current fare for other Alameda services. The SSF fare was set slightly higher to reflect its commute-only nature, which results in an expensive service due to labor costs, and the longer trip time, which requires more fuel. Ms. Rannells indicated that \$7 was a reasonable place to start with the intent of achieving MTC's guidelines of a 40% fare box recovery in three years which she felt was going to be a challenge. She noted that this was an expensive service as a commute peak period service with labor and fuel being the primary cost drivers.

Mr. Sindzinski added that public comment had been requested through WETA's website. Approximately 50-60 of the 120 people who visited the site during the comment period read the notice and only one substantive comment had been received requesting that fares be more in line with the Alameda fares.

Ms. Rannells further added that the fare includes a free transfer to new shuttle services arranged through the Alliance. There will initially be two shuttle routes, including one that takes passengers to employers east of Highway 101. WETA successfully partnered with the Alliance to receive a grant from the San Mateo County Transportation Authority to support the shuttle operation. San Mateo County sales tax funds will support 75% of the cost of the shuttle and Regional Measure 2 funds will fund the balance. Ridership on the routes will be monitored and reviewed in six months in order to ensure that the services are appropriately serving the ridership needs. Genentech will also provide a shuttle for its employees to their SSF campus. Mr. Sindzinski added that a new employer has leased a portion of a large office building in the area, and that he has been told that they will also be sponsoring a shuttle to the ferry terminal.

Mr. Sanchez reminded the Board about the free East Bay parking and added that the shuttles were coordinated with ferry arrivals and departures. Ms. Rannells reminded the Board that, as a part of the Alameda service transition, WETA had negotiated with the Port of Oakland to extend free parking to all ferry service patrons. While parking is free at this time, due to low utilization of the lot at Jack London Square, the Port of Oakland has reserved the right to institute a minimal fee for ferry patrons in the future in the event that parking demand increases and the lot becomes impacted. Director Donovan asked if there were discounts offered to large employers. Mr. Sindzinski stated that companies provide transit benefit subsidies to their employees through the Clipper program.

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

8. APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2011/12 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO FERRY SERVICE AND AUTHORIZE FILING APPLICATION WITH THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR REGIONAL MEASURE 2 OPERATING FUNDS

Manager of Finance and Grants Lynne Yu presented this item to the Board requesting approval of actions related to the FY 2011/12 operating budget for the South San Francisco ferry service and authorization to file an application with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for \$200,000 in FY2011/12 Regional Measure 2 operating funds to support operations.

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

9. APPROVE ON-CALL DREDGING CONSULTING AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIST AND CONTRACT AWARD

Mr. Sindzinski presented this item noting that seven firms had been selected to provide on-call design and construction management services for dredging projects and that these firms are qualified and that WETA had worked with several of the firms in the past.

Public Comment

Len Cardoza of Weston Solutions introduced himself representing one of the firms on the on-call list and invited questions from the Board.

Public Comment

Veronica Sanchez with Master, Mates & Pilots noted that the captains on WETA ferries were also captains on the tugboats that she was watching the dredging contracts to provide opportunities for her members.

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

10. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION AND REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Chair Johnson invited members of the public to comment on items before going into closed session. She called the meeting into closed session at 1:46 p.m. Upon reopening of the meeting at 3:04 p.m. she reported that no action had been taken.

11. ADJOURNMENT

All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Secretary
