

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

(December 12, 2019)

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – BOARD CHAIR

Chair Jody Breckenridge called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

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

3. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Breckenridge said that since the last meeting she had visited the City of Martinez waterfront and had discussed plans for land use and development in the area with Martinez representatives.

4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Vice Chair Wunderman said he had been very interested to read recently about the state of Washington's plans to purchase new hybrid ferries and convert its major vessels to hybrid technology. He said WETA should watch these developments closely and evaluate the process and outcome. Vice Chair Wunderman added that each vessel that WETA purchases has a lifetime of at least a generation, and he emphasized public expectations were that WETA will be moving to a ferry fleet with greener technology as well. Vice Chair Wunderman said that public agencies have a responsibility to provide leadership and do whatever is possible to help mitigate the crisis of global warming. He said WETA should be at the forefront of these efforts.

With Board consensus, Chair Breckenridge reordered the meeting agenda to allow Martinez Mayor Rob Schroder, who needed to leave the meeting early, the opportunity to speak to the Board about a non-agendized matter immediately following the Reports of Directors instead of at the end of the meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

City of Martinez Mayor Rob Schroder thanked Chair Breckenridge for her visit to the waterfront and he urged Directors to form a working group devoted to further exploring the feasibility of bringing WETA ferry service to Martinez. Mayor Schroder noted that downtown Martinez was the county seat of Contra Costa and that the new downtown county administration building currently under construction was expected to be completed in the next 8 months. Mayor Schroder said that Martinez spent more than \$800,000 to dredge the marina in 2017, and additional funds were being sought to assure Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility and possibly create a subsidy for future public ferry service. Mayor Schroder said plans were moving forward, with support from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and the City of Antioch, for a pilot commuter ferry program between Antioch and Martinez. He said Martinez had recently submitted its Marina Trust Lands Use Plan, which included potential ferry service, to the State Lands Commission. Mayor Schroder said Martinez has committed \$500,000 over the next two years to develop a waterfront marina master plan which would allow Martinez to examine

more fully waterfront options including public ferry service. Mayor Schroder reiterated his request that Directors form a working group to further explore the possibility of bringing WETA ferry service to Martinez.

Chair Breckenridge asked that staff consider this request and, if recommended, agendaize a discussion on forming the working group requested by Mayor Schroder for a future meeting.

6. REPORTS OF STAFF

Executive Director Nina Rannells provided her written report to Directors and welcomed questions. She noted that WETA's Engineering & Maintenance Administrator Tim Hanners, WETA's Operations & Maintenance Manager Keith Stahnke, and she had attended the annual International *WorkBoat* Show in New Orleans December 4 through 6. Ms. Rannells said she had presented an overview of WETA's system and vessel program at the show and that WETA had received a Significant Boats of 2019 Award for its new *Pyxis* class vessels. Ms. Rannells noted that the new WETA vessels were the first in the country to test new EPA Tier 4 engines.

Chair Breckenridge asked whether green technologies and the power challenges presently facing California (the State) had been discussed at either the California Transit Association (CTA) Fall Conference or the Harbor Safety Committing Meeting that staff had attended in November.

Ms. Rannells explained that she had been working with CTA over the last year to create a ferry-specific membership, which was adopted by the CTA Board at the November meeting, so that CTA could better serve WETA in its state and federal transportation advocacy work. Ms. Rannells further noted that she had attended meetings at the CTA conference in which green technology related to buses, a primary focus for the CTA, had been discussed. She explained that these discussions brought to light the power resource challenges and costs, far exceeding those for diesel fuel, experienced by early adopters of all-electric battery technology on buses, and said that this will likely translate to ferries as well.

It was noted that, in exploring all-electric or hybrid-electric technology possibilities for the WETA fleet, a fundamental consideration will be access to sufficient power on the San Francisco waterfront to recharge vessel batteries. Chair Breckenridge said the military was presently tackling the challenges of shoreside access to power within the State. She said staff would return to the Board in the near future with an informational item for discussion to include these and other details of what will be required to move WETA to a greener fleet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Bellows of MARAD said he had the opportunity to board the Red & White Fleet's plug-in hybrid electric passenger vessel, the *Enhydra* ferry, and tour the engine room. He said the vessel's configuration was similar to what he imagined WETA's hybrid vessels might eventually look like.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director DelBono made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Board Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2019

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

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

8. RECEIVE THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019

Finance and Administration Manager Lynne Yu presented this item to receive the independent auditors' reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Ms. Yu introduced David Albee, Partner at the audit firm Maze & Associates, who provided an overview of the audit reports. He noted that there were no issues or material weaknesses identified during the course of the audit.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item.

Vice Chair Wunderman seconded the motion and the item passed.

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

9. APPROVE SEAPLANE LAGOON FERRY TERMINAL OPERATING AGREEMENT AND LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF ALAMEDA AND THE BILL OF SALE WITH ALAMEDA POINT PARTNERS

Planning & Development Manager Kevin Connolly presented this item to approve the Seaplane Lagoon Ferry Terminal Operating Agreement and License Agreement with the City of Alameda and the Bill of Sale with Alameda Point Partners. Mr. Connolly noted a correction to the Item explaining that the Bill of Sale would be between Alameda Point Partners and WETA not between the City of Alameda and WETA. Mr. Connolly acknowledged the work done to bring new ferry service to Alameda Point over the last five years by a number of partners from the City of Alameda including Director of Base Reuse & Community Development Debbie Potter, Base Reuse Manager Michelle Giles, Assistant City Attorney Lisa Maxwell, Jennifer Ott, Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, City Manager Eric Levitt, Councilmembers Malia Vella and Jim Oddie, Vice Mayor John Knox White, and Director of Planning, Building, and Transportation Andrew Thomas.

In response to a question from Chair Breckenridge, Mr. Connolly said the Seaplane Lagoon Ferry service area had been studied for eel grass and the site had been mitigated for in-water hazardous materials.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

City of Alameda Director of Base Reuse & Community Development Debbie Potter said that these Agreements were a very big deal for the City of Alameda and its residents, and she noted that the planned ferry service was driving investment in the former naval base redevelopment. She thanked Ms. Rannells and the Board for their leadership throughout the process of bringing the new service to Alameda. Ms. Potter said that Alameda staff had been working on a paid parking solution for all three Alameda ferry terminal sites and on getting an AC Transit bus to stop at the new Seaplane Lagoon terminal when it opens for service in August 2020.

Mr. Bellows asked if the new Seaplane Lagoon service area would require dredging.

Mr. Connolly said that because of the deep water surrounding the planned pier site, dredging was not expected to be required. Ms. Rannells noted that should those conditions change, dredging will be WETA's responsibility under the agreement.

Director DelBono made a motion to approve the item.

Director Intintoli seconded the motion and the item passed.

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

10. ALAMEDA/OAKLAND – SEAPLANE LAGOON SERVICE CHANGES OUTREACH

Public Information and Marketing Manager Thomas Hall presented this informational item on public outreach regarding the Alameda/Oakland and Seaplane Lagoon service and changes. He provided an overview of the early ridership outreach on the Alameda and Oakland service routes with surveys, and staff plans to ramp up that engagement by employing various methods to include onboard information ambassadors, paid mass media advertising, pop-up engagement workshops on WETA vessels, social media posts, a dedicated online microsite, and WETA's BayAlerts notification system.

In response to questions from Directors, Mr. Hall said outreach plans would also include community meetings in Oakland's Brooklyn Basin to target the area's residents and developers.

Vice Chair Wunderman suggested that staff talk with Richard Robbins of Wareham Development because he is a wonderful resource for networking in Oakland and Emeryville and a region maverick.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bay, Ship & Yacht Co. Director of Business Development Richard Maguire asked how many people drive from Oakland over to Alameda to catch the ferry.

Mr. Connolly said very few.

11. APPROVE CONTRACT AMENDMENTS WITH MAVRIK MARINE INC. AND GLOSTEN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SECOND NEW COMMUTER CLASS (OPTION) VESSEL

Mr. Stahnke presented this item recommending the Board approve contract amendments with Mavrik Marine Inc. and Glosten for construction of a second new commuter class (option) vessel.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item.

Vice Chair Wunderman seconded the motion and the item passed.

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

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No further public comments were shared.

Chair Breckenridge thanked guests for attending the meeting and wished everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season.

With all business concluded Chair Breckenridge adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

- Board Secretary

END