

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

*[June 5, 2023]*

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair James Wunderman called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair James Wunderman, Director Jessica Alba, Director Jeffrey DelBono, and Director Pippin Dew were in attendance.

Chair Wunderman led the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed directors, staff, and meeting guests and noted that the meeting was being conducted in person and by videoconference and was being recorded. He advised guests about offering public comment and how guests could sign up to speak throughout the meeting.

**3. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR**

Chair Wunderman said that he has noticed increased ridership on his ferry rides.

**4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS**

Director Dew reported that the WETA sponsored Vallejo Pista Sa Nasyon event was very popular and well attended.

**5. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Executive Director Seamus Murphy noted that WETA was receiving attention from journalists who qualified for the Hearst National Writing Championship. The finalists were asked to write two articles including one about Bay Area ferries.

Mr. Murphy introduced Planning and Development Manager Kevin Connolly to provide an update on the Oakland Alameda Estuary ferry service being planned by a partnership of public and private organizations and agencies. He stated that all the necessary pieces – landing agreements, insurance, service plan, and grant funding had been secured for a summer trial; however, PropSF, the selected contract operator, was unable to secure a vessel that is compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and that WETA would work towards starting service in spring 2024.

Mr. Murphy stated that workforce has been a popular topic at WETA Board meetings, and one of WETA's biggest challenges when it comes to identifying Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) contractors that can work on WETA projects. He asked Government and Regulatory Affairs Manager Lauren Gularte to introduce the presentation on the Working Waterfront Coalition (WWC) and speakers Bay Crossings Owner Bobby Winston to provide some background on the WWC and former City of Richmond Director of Community Services Sal Vaca to present the plan.

Vice Chair Monique Moyer arrived at 1:08 p.m.

Mr. Winston said that the WWC is an employer-led effort to recruit and train the next generation of workers and has been laying the groundwork for this regional effort for almost a year and has landed about \$1 million in state grants. He introduced Mr. Vaca who shared his presentation.

Mr. Vaca said that the WWC included marine maintenance and repair industry employers, ferry services and operators, labor, machinist institute, workforce development boards, community-based organizations, Alameda County Reentry Program, and the California State University Maritime Academy (Cal Maritime) with a working Board who would bring their energy, expertise, connections, and resources to develop a world-class training program.

Mr. Vaca listed some of the shared priorities of WETA and the WWC and asked the WETA Board to enhance its partnership with the WWC.

Chair Wunderman congratulated and thanked Mr. Winston and Mr. Vaca for their thoughtful and informative presentation. He said that understanding the needs of the region is critical. Chair Wunderman said that he appreciated the focus on high schools and wanted to know if the training programs could be brought to the community colleges. Mr. Vaca explained that the focus up to this point has been on short-term training and that the community college schedule does not offer the requisite flexibility.

In response to Chair Wunderman's question about the potential of bringing shipbuilding back to the Bay Area, Mr. Vaca said that a focused training program would be required with a very specialized set of skills that are not currently available.

Director DelBono shared some of his experiences and the appreciation of his role models who provided some guidance and direction as a juvenile.

Vice Chair Moyer shared that the facilities management world was facing the same problem and appreciated the foresight as WETA was relaunching its Strategic Plan. She commented that trade fairs and community college night classes have been good pipelines for their efforts in reaching adults wanting to change careers.

The Directors thanked Mr. Winston and Mr. Vaca for their work and their presentation and offered their support.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

California State Assemblymember Lori Wilson District Director Tiffanee Jones spoke in support of the WWC program and asked to be kept aware of the progress. She thanked Mr. Winston and Mr. Vaca for their work and said that Assemblymember Wilson's office was in full support of the program.

International Association of Machinist (IAM) Directing Business Representative Don Crosatto, West Oakland Jobs Resource Center Executive Director Joyce Guy, Alameda County Workforce Development Board Executive Director Rhonda Boykin, Marine Exchange Executive Director Scott Humphrey, Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU) San Francisco Regional Director Robert Estrada, IBU San Francisco Regional Director Marina Secchitano, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District DBE Program Administrator Artemise Davenport, Master, Mates & Pilots Representative Carolyn Horgan, Blue & Gold Fleet President Captain Pat Murphy, and Ship Assist Captain Drew Kerlee spoke in support of the WWC program and offered their help to make the program a success.

Mr. Murphy provided five written reports and offered to answer questions. He introduced Transportation Planner Gabriel Chan to provide the monthly ridership report.

Mr. Chan stated that his report included the full month of April and that April ridership has brought WETA back to the summertime high of 2022.

Public Information and Marketing Manager Thomas Hall said that WETA was getting into the streaming market on Hulu and had launched some Latino social media influencer outreach. He noted that extra trips would be added for Pride weekend.

Mr. Hall followed up with the results of the March and April customer experience survey. He stated that approximately 400 passengers responded and that a few of the categories receiving the lowest score such as wi-fi and concessions were already being addressed.

The Directors thanked staff for their reports.

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2023
- b. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2023
- c. Extend Participation in Clipper START Pilot Program

Chair Wunderman called for public comments, and there were none.

Director DelBono made a motion to approve the consent calendar.

Director Alba seconded the motion, and the consent calendar carried unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, DelBono, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

## **7. APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2023/24 BUDGET AND SALARY SCHEDULE**

Chief Financial Officer Erin McGrath presented this item approving the fiscal year 2023/24 budget and salary schedule. She stated that the budget was similar to what was presented last month with some changes in allocations.

Director Alba asked how the planning and administration budget compared to other agencies. Ms. McGrath said she would check other agencies. Mr. Murphy said that WETA was consulting with industry peers through the American Public Transport Association (APTA) on how to best organize and effectively grow to implement large capital programs.

Chair Wunderman called for public comments, and there were none.

Vice Chair Moyer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-20 approving this item.

Director DelBono seconded the motion, and the item passed unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, DelBono, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

## **8. AUTHORIZE RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS RELATED TO FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE FISCAL YEAR 2023/24 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET**

Ms. McGrath presented this item authorizing resolutions and actions related to funding to support the fiscal year 2023/24 operating and capital budget.

Chair Wunderman called for public comments, and there were none.

Director Alba made a motion to adopt Resolutions 2023-21, 2023-22, and 2023-23 approving this item.

Director Dew seconded the motion, and the item passed unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, DelBono, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No further public comments were shared.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

- Board Secretary

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