

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

[September 12, 2023]

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at Hanson Bridgett LLP, 425 Market Street 26th Floor, San Francisco, CA and via videoconference.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Wunderman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Wunderman, Vice Chair Monique Moyer, Director Jessica Alba, Director Jeffrey DelBono, and Director Pippin Dew were in attendance.

WETA Attorney Steven Miller of Hanson Bridgett LLP noted that Chair Wunderman was participating remotely for the record under the just cause exception of the Brown Act teleconference requirements.

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.

Chair Wunderman proposed moving Item 12 – Public Comment for Non-Agenda Items ahead of Item 10 – Recess into Closed Session with the approval of the Directors to give guests the opportunity to provide public comment for non-agenda items without having to wait through the entire closed session.

3. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Wunderman stated that he was participating remotely because he was recovering from hip replacement surgery. He said that he had been riding the ferry regularly before the surgery and noticed the increase in ridership and the resulting challenges to the service with missed runs. He was pleased to see WETA at the very top of the list in terms of ridership recovery and wanted to maintain that reputation of being the best provider of transit with the goal of getting back to 100 percent pre-pandemic ridership.

Before turning the discussion over to the Directors, he thanked Vice Chair Moyer for covering the meeting for him last month in his absence.

4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Vice Chair Moyer noted that it was especially busy around her offices with the Dreamforce Conference. She reported that her clients were making a concerted effort to require staff to return to the office and noted the impact of the return to office on ridership.

Chair Wunderman said moving the Dreamforce Conference out of San Francisco (City) would be a huge loss for the City and the Bay Area.

Director Alba thanked staff for being transparent and sharing information about the mechanical failures and the plan of action with the Board and the ferry riders.

Chair Wunderman congratulated Director DelBono on his reappointment. Director DelBono said that he too has noticed the increase in ridership especially on the weekends during his ferry rides.

The Directors thanked Chair Wunderman for being at the meeting and wished him a smooth and speedy recovery.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF

Executive Director Seamus Murphy began by introducing two new staff members, Digital Communications Specialist Alexis Matsui and Transportation Planning Intern Noelani Fixler. He said that Ms. Matsui was most recently the senior multimedia producer for an advocacy organization and would be working with the Public Information and Marketing group utilizing her graphics expertise to enhance marketing and customer communications including social media.

Mr. Murphy said that Ms. Fixler was most recently the Lead Senior Transportation Network Management Intern for the University of California, (UC) Berkeley Parking and Transportation Department and that her resume read more like a seasoned transportation professional than a planning intern. He added that Ms. Fixler was appointed the Vice Chair of the Berkeley Transportation and Infrastructure Commission and will be honored at the WTS San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Annual Scholarships and Awards Gala for being awarded the WTS Molitoris Leadership Scholarship which serves to motivate and reward women who demonstrate leadership in the transportation industry to ensure essential leadership skills and perspectives of women are included in planning transportation systems of the future.

Mr. Murphy congratulated Director DelBono on his reappointment.

Mr. Murphy introduced Customer Experience Specialist Rafael Regan to summarize the changes and implementation of the new ticket validation process that were recently put in place intended to help smooth the loading and unloading of riders.

Mr. Murphy reported that no trends were emerging related to the financial statements but that fuel prices were on the rise and that a \$3 million federal Congressional spending request was successfully added to the House Appropriations bill by Congressman John Garamendi.

Mr. Murphy introduced Transportation Planner Gabriel Chan to provide the ridership report. Mr. Chan introduced Operations Analyst Joe Ramey who shared his presentation on tracking ferry on-time performance and service reliability generated by WETA's real-time vessel tracking system, Swiftly. Mr. Ramey clarified that late trips were any trips that arrived five minutes or more past the scheduled arrival time, noting that 97 percent of noncancelled trips were arriving on time within the five minutes of the scheduled arrival time in comparison to 93 percent for other selected public ferry operators.

Mr. Ramey introduced Blue & Gold Fleet (Blue & Gold) Operations Manager Aden Anderson who explained the common service disruption causes and Blue & Gold's response process.

Chair Wunderman thanked staff for their report and the detailed presentation on the cause and effects of WETA's service disruptions.

In response to Director DelBono, Mr. Murphy recognized that last-minute cancellations are disruptive to passengers and said that WETA offers a benefit such as free rides or free concessions to acknowledge the inconvenience. Mr. Murphy commended Mr. Anderson and the Blue & Gold team for doing a tremendous job focusing on recovering from these issues as quickly as possible.

Mr. Murphy said that WETA would be doing an independent review of its engineering and maintenance program to understand if there is anything that can be done to minimize the mechanical breakdowns and to notify passengers as soon as possible of service disruptions enabling passengers to make

alternative transportation arrangements. He noted that WETA offers a new text message- based notification tool that does not require the use of the San Francisco Bay Ferry application software.

Operations and Maintenance Manager Timothy Hanners explained that vessels are required to be dry docked every two years for Coast Guard certification. He said that WETA has requested an extension on the dry dock work due to limited vessel availability from ongoing projects including the Gemini class conversion and other vessel upgrades. He added that reliability should improve once engine and gearbox issues have been fixed.

The Directors thanked staff for the operations and ridership report.

Vice Chair Moyer said that she was excited to see WETA's participation in the Bay Ferry VI Exercise and in Fleet Week's annual Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) exercise.

Mr. Murphy commented that WETA has been pushing to get all the issues resolved with the *Sea Change* to get it into operation. He said that the issues are related to the software and other equipment on board and not to the hydrogen propulsion.

Mr. Murphy provided five written reports and offered to answer questions.

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

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director DelBono made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2023
- b. Approve Amendment to Agreement with Jacobs for Construction Management Services Related to the Alameda Main Street Ferry Terminal Refurbishment Project
- c. Ratify Contract Award to Bay Ship and Yacht Co. for MV *Intintoli* Dry Dock and Jet Work
- d. Approve a Contract Award to Bay Ship and Yacht Co. For MV *Lyra* Dry Dock and Jet Work
- e. Approve Sole Source Contract Award to Northern Lights Power & Energy, Inc. for MV *Gemini* Class Swing Main Engine
- f. Approve Sole Source Contract Award to HamiltonJet Inc. for MV *Pyxis* Class Waterjet Control System Upgrades

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

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

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

7. AWARD CONTRACT TO WARTSILA NORTH AMERICA, INC. FOR FLEET ELECTRIFICATION AND SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR SERVICES

Mr. Hanners introduced this item recommending approval of contract award to Wartsila North America, Inc. for Fleet Electrification and Systems Integrator Services, and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement and take any other related actions to support this work before introducing team members Aurora Marine Design President Shaun Green, Wartsila Senior Sales Manager Dave Adams, and Principal Consultant Ellen Joslin Johnck, RPA to present the item.

Mr. Green shared his presentation including an overview of the four phases of the electrification program, explained the needs and responsibilities of the electrical system integrator, the criteria that resulted in the selection of Wartsila, and the electrification project team organizational chart. Mr. Adams clarified Wartsila's role and the purpose of the systems integrator.

Chair Wunderman recalled that the Board had determined that the system integrator was needed for this new technology.

The Directors thanked staff for their efforts on presenting this complex subject and expressed their excitement about the project.

Vice Chair Moyer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-35 approving this item.

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

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

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

8. APPROVE ENTERING INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF ALAMEDA AND OTHER PARTIES FOR A HARBOR SEAL HAUL-OUT MONITORING CAMERA AND RIGHT OF ENTRY AGREEMENT AT THE CENTRAL BAY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Planning and Development Manager Kevin Connolly introduced this item recommending approving the following actions relative to the Harbor Seal Haul-Out Monitoring Camera at the Central Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Alameda, Teknosocial LLC, Alameda Unified School District (AUSD), the College of Alameda, and the Alameda Point Harbor Seal Monitors for the conduct of a project to install and use a camera on the roof of the Central Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility to monitor harbor seal haul-out activity; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to grant a Right of Entry Permit for installation and maintenance of a camera and associated equipment on the roof of the Central Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility.

Mr. Connolly introduced Teknosocial LLC Manager Andrew Wiedlea to talk about the project. Mr. Wiedlea said that the project is an effort to create a participatory science framework which would be used to enhance education opportunities for students.

The Directors thanked Mr. Wiedlea and looked forward to regularly hearing about the study findings.

Director DelBono made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-36 approving this item.

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

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

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

9. MAIN STREET TERMINAL CLOSURE SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Connolly introduced this informational item on the Main Street Terminal service adjustments that were being made to accommodate riders during the closure of the Main Street Terminal for renovation and replacement of key waterside components.

Mr. Connolly said that the adjustments being made were an important consideration to minimize any disruptions to Oakland riders. He noted that the closure of the Main Street Terminal created an opportunity to develop a new pilot service between Mission Bay and South San Francisco with existing

vessels and crews which can be accomplished within existing budget limits. He asked Public Information and Marketing Manager Thomas Hall to discuss passenger notification.

Mr. Hall said that a robust communication plan was developed to ensure that passengers were aware of the disruption. He noted that Customer Experience Specialist Rafael Regan would be hosting onboard ferry chats on many of the South San Francisco runs.

The Directors appreciated the efforts to create clarity and the opportunity for transit alternatives.

Mr. Murphy added there was a second pilot with the TNC partnership. Mr. Hall confirmed that WETA would be reaching out to the Oyster Point employers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Member of the public Christi thanked staff for suggesting alternatives but preferred avoiding the drive to Oakland.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments were shared.

11. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation
- b. Public Employee Performance Evaluation; Conference with Labor Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957(b)(1) and 54957.6
Title: Executive Director
Agency Designated Representative: Jim Wunderman

Chair Wunderman stated that WETA would not be holding a closed session for pending litigation. The Directors recessed into closed session at 3:40 p.m.

12. REPORT OF ACTIVITY IN CLOSED SESSION

The Directors returned to open session at 5:01 p.m.

Chair Wunderman reported that the Board met in closed session to discuss the compensation and terms of agreement of Mr. Murphy.

The Board offered the following:

- a. Extend the term of the contract by five years to December 31, 2028
- b. Increase compensation by 6 percent from \$304,080 to \$322,325
- c. Change the timing of the performance evaluation consistent with the fiscal year

Chair Wunderman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-37 approving this item.

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

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

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

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

- Board Secretary
END