

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

*(December 8, 2022)*

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at Vallejo City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA and via videoconference consistent with AB 361 as codified in Government Code Section 54953.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair James Wunderman called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair James Wunderman, Vice Chair Monique Moyer, Director Jessica Alba, Director Jeffrey DelBono, and Director Anthony Intintoli 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 was excited to hold the final Board of Directors meeting in Vallejo where WETA would be offering a fond farewell to former City of Vallejo Mayor and WETA Director Intintoli for his many years of leadership and service to the Vallejo community.

Chair Wunderman commented that he enjoys taking the ferry to work every day and added that being able to take the ferry was reason enough to return to work. He said that safety is the first and foremost issue for public transit riders according to Bay Area Council surveys followed by reliability.

**4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS**

Vice Chair Moyer thanked those who made the effort to attend the meeting in person. She noted that she had the opportunity to take the ferry to the meeting and acknowledged the WETA and Blue & Gold Fleet team for creating a positive rider experience. She reported that most employers are requiring employees to return to work two to three days a week noting that companies are adopting zero carbon neutrality plans with the goal to get their workforce out of cars.

Director Intintoli was very happy to report that it was his last meeting and that it was being held in Vallejo where he started. He introduced his wife Helen, sister Margaret Rose, and City of Vallejo Councilmember Pippin Dew.

**5. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Executive Director Seamus Murphy thanked the Directors for their comments. He acknowledged Customer Experience Specialist Rafael Regan for coordinating WETA's involvement in the Alameda Light Yacht Parade and the crews who participated. He congratulated Planning and Development Manager Kevin Connolly and his team for receiving the Taipei Design Award Program Social Innovation Award for the Alameda Seaplane Lagoon Terminal.

Mr. Murphy noted that San Francisco Bay Ferry had launched its merchandise store, The Aft Deck, at [sfbfshop.com](http://sfbfshop.com).

Mr. Murphy shared his presentation and provided an update on the efforts of the regional network management (RNM) including the preliminary short / near-term RNM structure. He noted that the continued and increasing cost for this effort required new funding.

Chair Wunderman said that he had made a case that WETA have a defined seat on the RNM Executive Board due to WETA being a regional operator.

Vice Chair Moyer congratulated everyone involved with the 2022 Taipei Design Award for Public Space Design and Social Innovation for rehabilitating the waterfront factoring in ecological and natural elements into the design of a commuter space. She commented that she looked forward to hearing more about the Bay Ferry VI exercise.

Mr. Murphy cautiously reported that fare revenues were ahead of budget and that fuel prices were coming down dramatically.

Mr. Murphy invited WETA's new legislative advocates Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange (Shaw-Yoder) Partner Matt Robinson and Legislative Advocate and California Transit Association Executive Director Michael Pimentel to provide an update on the state legislative situation, budget discussions, and other issues including operating shortfalls.

Mr. Pimentel reported that Shaw-Yoder was scoping out a new legislative proposal to provide a sales and use tax exemption for the purchase of zero-emission ferries by public ferry operators like the structure offered for the purchase of zero-emission buses by public transit agencies. Mr. Robinson noted that the estimated \$10 to 15 million dollars saved based on discussions with WETA staff could be used to address some of the fiscal cliff issues.

Chair Wunderman thanked Mr. Robinson and Mr. Pimentel for their report.

Chair Wunderman mentioned that he would like to see the return of manufacturing maritime vessels in the Bay Area.

Director DelBono asked Shaw-Yoder to arrange meetings with the legislators to grow WETA's profile along with more funding.

Mr. Robinson reported that Speaker Anthony Rendon will continue in that role until June 30 and that Speaker Designee Robert Rivas would take over on July 1 in response to Director DelBono. He also reported new Speaker pro Tempore Christopher Ward was appointed. Mr. Pimentel added that Shaw-Yoder was working on getting WETA in front of key officials at regulatory agencies who will be overseeing major funding programs with complete autonomy as to how the monies are directed.

Mr. Robinson said that it may be possible to repurpose future capital monies for operations in response to Director Alba.

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

Mr. Murphy invited Public Information and Marketing Manager Thomas Hall to provide a marketing update. Mr. Hall informed the Board of active ongoing marketing campaigns and campaigns being considered for the winter and spring seasons.

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Adopt Resolution Regarding Remote Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361
- b. Board Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2022

- c. Authorize Release of a Request for Proposal – MV *Intintoli* and MV *Mare Island* Replacement
- d. Authorize Release of a Request for Proposals for Gemini Class Mid-Life Refurbishment
- e. Adopt 2021 Metropolitan Transportation Commission Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

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

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

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

**7. RECOGNIZE THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF ANTHONY J. INTINTOLI, JR. AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY AND ITS PREDECESSOR SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER TRANSIT AUTHORITY FROM 2000 TO 2022**

Mr. Murphy thanked Director Intintoli for his work and guidance.

The Directors recognized Director Intintoli for his legacy, honesty, integrity, and leadership and thanked him for his friendship, kindness, and dedication to WETA and to the community.

Director Intintoli thanked the Directors for their comments.

Chair Wunderman invited members of the public to speak on the item.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

District Director Tiffanee Jones for State Assemblymember Lori Wilson and District Director Thomas Bartee for State Senator Bill Dodd thanked Director Intintoli for his service and achievements and presented him with two certificates, one on behalf of District Senior Representative Melvin Orpilla for US Representative Mike Thompson and the other from the State of California from the offices of Senator Dodd and Assemblymembers Wilson and Timothy S. Grayson.

Councilmember Dew thanked Director Intintoli and said she hoped to carry on his vision, dedication, and financial responsibility.

Member of the Public Russ Barnes offered words of appreciation and congratulations.

Vallejo Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Vice Chair Beau Defehr spoke on behalf of Past Vallejo Chamber Chair Shawna Gilroy thanked him for his support.

Helen Intintoli expressed admiration for her husband, confirmed his dedication, and thanked everyone for acknowledging his wonderful character.

Chair Wunderman invited remote participants to speak on the item.

Master, Mates & Pilots Regional Representative Captain Sly Hunter and Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU) Regional Director Robert Estrada offered words of appreciation and congratulations. Mr. Estrada read a resolution for the record that was passed by IBU.

Former Executive Director Nina Rannells acknowledged his principles and integrity and thanked him for leading the transition of the Vallejo Ferry Services.

The Directors and speakers thanked his family for their sacrifices for enabling Director Intintoli to serve on the Board.

Chair Wunderman read Resolution No. 2022-47, and the Directors presented Director Intintoli with the signed resolution and the MV *Intintoli* life ring replica.

Vice Chair Moyer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-47 approving this item.

Director Intintoli thanked the WETA Board, staff, and the San Francisco Bay Ferry crews for a fantastic 22 years.

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

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

**8. RECEIVE THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
ENDING JUNE 30, 2022**

Chief Financial Officer Erin McGrath presented this item to receive WETA's annual financial reports for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, as audited and prepared by Maze & Associates, consisting of the following documents:

- A. Memorandum on Internal Control and Required Communications
- B. Basic Financial Statements
- C. Single Audit Report
- D. Measure B Fund Financial Statements
- E. Measure BB Fund Financial Statements

Ms. McGrath noted the importance of the COVID relief money and the absence of the liabilities associated with retiree responsibilities.

Ms. McGrath introduced Maze & Associates Vice President David Alvey who provided a more in-depth explanation of some of the reports. He thanked the WETA finance group for their help.

Ms. McGrath confirmed the fluctuation of funds in response to Director Intintoli.

Ms. McGrath acknowledged new Accountant Sherry Saephanh and Retiree Lynne Yu who assisted with cleaning up a few items and filling the Grants Manager position.

Vice Chair Moyer thanked the audit team for a clear, comprehensive report, the gratifying comments from Mr. Alvey, the disclosure of the pension obligations, and for ensuring that WETA's funds were insured either by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insured or collateralized with pledged securities. She asked for more information on WETA's insurance program, what is covered and how limits were determined. Ms. McGrath provided a very brief explanation of WETA's insurance program and offered WETA's insurance program as a future agenda item.

The Directors congratulated the finance group for the clean audit.

Chair Wunderman noted the timeliness WETA's audit and that future audits may not include supplemental federal funding.

Director DelBono made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-48 approving this item.

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

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

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

**9. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO FOTH & VAN DYKE AND ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR ON-CALL DREDGING SUPPORT SERVICES**

Senior Planner/Project Manager Chad Mason presented this item approving contract award to Foth & Van Dyke and Associates, Inc. (Foth) for on-call professional services to support the ongoing system-wide dredging program for a total amount not to exceed \$1 million for a five-year term.

Mr. Mason stated that several facilities in the WETA system require regular dredging to maintain operations, including Harbor Bay, Richmond, South San Francisco, Vallejo, and both the Central and North Bay Operations & Maintenance Facilities.

Mr. Mason noted that Foth has extensive experience working on WETA dredging projects and has identified two Small Business Enterprise (SBE) subcontractors and an additional one pending SBE certification.

Director Intintoli made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-49 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, Intintoli, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

**10. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARDS TO MACKENZIE, DAVIS & ASSOCIATES COMMUNICATIONS, AND UNDERGROUND AGENCY FOR MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES**

Mr. Hall presented this item approving contract awards to three firms: MacKenzie, Davis & Associates Communications, and Underground Agency for marketing and public relations services in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$350,000 per year for all three contracts over a seven-and-a-half-year term and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute agreements and take any other related actions to support this work.

Mr. Hall stated that WETA has historically used marketing and public relations consultants to support a wide breadth of work undertaken by staff. This outside support has allowed WETA to scale up its marketing and public information capacity given limited staff resources and the agency's dynamic needs.

In response to Director Alba, Mr. Hall said that the three firms would be able to provide a variety of support and that he would be having a creative meeting with the firms to determine any specialized services offered by each firm.

Director Alba made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-50 approving this item.

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

Vice Chair Moyer seconded the motion, and the item passed unanimously.

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

**11. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARDS TO NEXT STEPS MARKETING AND INTERETHNICA, INC. FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES**

Mr. Hall presented this item approving contract awards to two firms: Next Steps Marketing and InterEthnica Inc. for community outreach services in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$200,000 per year for both contracts over a seven-and-a-half-year term, and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement and take any other related actions to support this work.

Mr. Hall emphasized that significant importance was placed on a clear understanding of WETA's needs and a well-articulated proposed approach to meet those needs, in addition to the qualifications of the proposer. He added that the response to these prompts in the RFP helped the evaluation panel determine proposers highly likely to be successful in developing and executing outreach campaigns on behalf of WETA.

Director Intintoli made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-51 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, Intintoli, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

**12. 2022 ONBOARD PASSENGER SURVEY REPORT**

Mr. Hall presented this informational item and shared his presentation on the 2022 Onboard Passenger Survey Report.

Mr. Hall reminded the Board that WETA undertook onboard intercept surveys every three years to gather important data about passengers and San Francisco Bay Ferry to help improve service and increase ridership with the most recent full survey being completed in late 2017 and a supplemental Richmond-only survey completed in 2019 following the launch of that route. He said that WETA produced an onboard intercept survey in February 2021 to get a snapshot of pandemic ridership with only three routes active running minimal service.

Mr. Hall said that WETA contracted with CDM Smith to perform an onboard intercept survey on all routes on July 26-28, 2022, and on active weekend routes on August 27-28, 2022.

Mr. Hall presented the most notable findings including information on passenger satisfaction, new ridership growth, demographic changes, other findings, and plans for future surveys.

The Directors thanked Mr. Hall for his informative presentation.

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

**13. REVIEW AND PROVIDE INPUT ON WETA'S DRAFT 2023 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

Government and Regulatory Affairs Specialist Terence Candell presented this information item requesting Board member input on WETA's Draft 2023 Legislative Program.

Mr. Candell highlighted two new areas: a statewide effort to provide short-term state transit operations funding and a WETA bill proposal to exempt the purchase of zero emission public transportation ferries from the state sales and use tax.

Mr. Murphy stated that input from the Board would be considered with the final program being brought back in January for final approval.



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

**14. WETA FLEET ELECTRIFICATION STUDY: FUTURE BATTERY TECHNOLOGY, COST PROJECTION, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Mr. Murphy introduced this informational item and Berkeley Environmentally Aware Consulting Network (BEACN) Project Manager Shannon Paulson to lead the discussion.

Ms. Paulson introduced the BEACN team (Project Manager Eula Billaut, Associate Consultants Emma Azhan, Saniya Shrotriya, MaryClare Rovere, Luna Hohner, Paige Thionnet, and Lima McDonough).

The BEACN team shared their presentation that included the project overview on battery technology, an analysis of environmental and social impacts, the end-of-life plan, next steps, and offered final recommendations. The BEACN team noted that this innovation was happening rapidly.

The Directors thanked the BEACN team for their technical, comprehensive report.

The BEACN team are undergraduates studying the various fields (Chemical Engineering, Environmental Economics and Policy, Materials Engineering, and Society and Environment. who are motivated to do their part to fight climate change along with social issues and tackling challenges.

**15. AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FLOAT TO SUPPORT A TRANSITION TO ZERO EMISSION VESSELS**

Operations and Maintenance Manager Timothy Hanners thanked the BEACN team for their report and Aurora Marine Design Naval Architect Connor Bennett for his work with the team. Mr. Hanners introduced this item recommending authorizing release of a request for proposals for construction of a float to support a transition to zero-emission vessels

Director Intintoli made a motion to 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, Intintoli, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

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

Chair Wunderman noted the great captioning work, and Mr. Murphy stated that WETA would work on the additional request.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

- Board Secretary  
\*\*\*END\*\*\*