

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

*[January 12, 2023]*

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at the Port of San Francisco at Pier 1, San Francisco, 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 1:01 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair James Wunderman, Vice Chair Monique Moyer, 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 welcomed everyone to 2023 and looked forward to an exciting year and the agenda which included items that would inform policy for the organization going forward.

Chair Wunderman thanked the workers of the agency during this difficult time with the unusual weather that has had impacts on operations and service. He said that he appreciated the leadership and diligence of his fellow board members.

Chair Wunderman reminded everyone that December was former Director Anthony Intintoli's last meeting as a board member and that Governor Gavin Newsom named Director Dew as his replacement. After Chair Wunderman provided information on Director Dew's background and achievements, he administered the oath of office to Director Dew and subsequently, welcomed her to the Board.

**4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS**

Director Dew said that former Director Intintoli's commitment to the organization and the importance of ferry transportation to the City of Vallejo inspired her to join the Board.

Vice Chair Moyer thanked Director Dew for her willingness to serve and for all the service Director Dew gives to the community.

The Directors welcomed Director Dew and said that they looked forward to working with her. They offered their gratitude to the wonderful members of the agency for ensuring that everyone got where they needed to go safely.

**5. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Executive Director Seamus Murphy introduced Operations and Maintenance Manager Timothy Hanners to provide an update on the impacts weather has had on the service.

Mr. Murphy provided an update on the federal diesel particulate filter (DPF) earmark, WETA's alternative compliance plan, and State Operating Assistance fiscal cliff challenges.

Mr. Murphy introduced Public Information and Marketing Manager Thomas Hall and Planning and Development Manager Kevin Connolly to summarize 2022 ridership and weather impacts on ridership. They shared charts and graphs analyzing 2022 monthly and average daily ridership, trips and passengers per hour, hourly boardings, and other data.

Director DelBono stated that the service is no longer a traditional Monday through Friday commute service and that a different approach could be taken.

Chair Wunderman called for public comments.

Principal Planner Michael Gougherty provided an update on the public outreach for the Business Plan and meetings with the Business Plan advisory groups.

Mr. Murphy provided a report on other topics listed in his Executive Director's Report and offered to answer questions. He clarified that WETA was on track for the current fiscal year in response to Vice Chair Moyer, adding that the increases for the current fiscal year were primarily due to wages from the collective bargaining agreement and fuel prices.

WETA Attorney Steven Miller from Hanson Bridgett LLP provided a brief update on Regional Measure 3 (RM 3) in response to the Directors' inquiries.

The Directors expressed their concerns about several factors affecting ridership.

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director DelBono made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Adopt Resolution Regarding Remote Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361
- b. Board Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2022

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

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

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

## **7. APPROVE WETA'S 2023 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

Government and Regulatory Affairs Specialist Terence Candell presented this item approving WETA's 2023 Legislative Program.

Chair Wunderman commented that the program was pretty extensive but noted that when he was reappointed as Chair, he met with staff members from the Senate who were responsible for confirming his appointment and most of the questions he received were about emergency response. He felt that the questions focused on WETA's emergency function because of the agency name. He wondered if "emergency" should be removed from the agency name as he felt that the word "emergency" was misleading.

The Directors suggested discussing the agency name on a future agenda. Vice Chair Moyer expressed her appreciation for all the references and the collaboration with like agencies.

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

Director Alba made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-02 approving this item.

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

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

#### **8. ADOPT FINAL WETA FY2024–2028 SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN**

Transportation Planner Gabriel Chan presented this item adopting the Final WETA FY2024-2028 Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) and shared his presentation on the summary of changes that were made since the last presentation on the SRTP.

Mr. Chan presented the four scenarios with different ridership and revenue assumptions.

Mr. Chan said that WETA fell somewhere in between scenario one and three.

In response to Director Dew's question, Mr. Gougherty explained that the six-month pilot project was the cause for the small variance in the operating budget under each scenario.

Director DelBono stated that he wanted the ferries to be accessible to everyone. Mr. Murphy clarified that adoption of the SRTP did not obligate WETA to make any decision on fares or service.

Vice Chair Moyer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-03 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, DelBono, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: None.

#### **9. FISCAL YEAR 2024 FARE PROGRAM**

Senior Planner Michael Gougherty presented this informational item on the Fiscal Year 2024 Fare Program.

Mr. Gougherty provided information on the background of the fare program with the goal of encouraging further discussion. He thought that the Pandemic Recovery Program (PRP) was successful in improving ridership recovery, promoting diversity, attracting new riders, and reducing boundaries and barriers for transferring between various services. Mr. Gougherty highlighted recent data compared to 2019 ridership for other regional transit services.

Mr. Gougherty offered fare options and the implications of the change of fares for each of the options.

Chair Wunderman thanked Mr. Gougherty for his presentation. He stated that transit is valuable to society and that agencies with a high farebox recovery were the agencies most impacted by a fiscal cliff. He stated that he would like to maximize ridership and offer equity-responsible fares.

Chair Wunderman suggested keeping current fares as the standard fare such that it would no longer be affiliated with the PRP. Mr. Murphy clarified that a premium was charged on special event fares.

The Directors supported a fiscally responsible fare balanced with goals that were set and dynamic fares for special events. Mr. Murphy commented that outreach in multiple languages was being conducted to inform low-income communities of ferry accessibility.

Vice Chair Moyer commented that she would not be in favor of raising fares.

Mr. Connolly clarified the thought process behind the five-year fare program that included automatic increases generally based on inflation.

Vice Chair Moyer proposed revisiting WETA's fare policy annually for the next few years.

Director DelBono suggested ignoring farebox recovery and proposed lowering all fares to make ferry service available to everyone.

Mr. Connolly explained the constraints about offering more special event service.

Mr. Murphy said that an incremental fare increase to remain consistent with other transit operators was assumed by the PRP principles and could help strengthen WETA's case for state operating assistance.

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

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

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

- Board Secretary

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