

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

(November 3, 2022)

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 apologized for the delay and called the meeting to order at 3:14 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair James Wunderman, Director Jessica Alba, 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 reported that approximately 150 to 200 people were in attendance at the Marine Log Ferries conference in San Francisco. He said the main subject was zero-emission ferries and that he was proud that WETA was a host for the region.

Chair Wunderman provided the keynote address with a history of the Bay Area ferry system and the direction its heading, and Executive Director Seamus Murphy reported on the progress of shoreside charging.

Chair Wunderman said that zero-emission vessels give WETA the opportunity to create its own destiny and become a leader in the maritime industry on reducing greenhouse gases and pollution.

4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Director Intintoli said that he had a very nice experience when two passengers on the ferry ride today who he did not know told him that they love the ferry service and appreciated what WETA was doing.

Director Alba said that she met many industry professionals at the Marine Log Ferries conference and enjoyed the tour on the MV *Dorado*.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF

Mr. Murphy said the Ferries conference offered WETA the opportunity to showcase what was being done at WETA and to increase education within the industry. He noted that WETA staff was also in Houston attending the Electric & Hybrid Marine Expo North America Conference and Exhibition to meet with industry partners about WETA's upcoming zero-emissions vessel procurements.

Mr. Murphy introduced WETA's new Grants Manager Jennifer Raupach. Ms. Raupach served most recently as the Principal Analyst of the Capital & Grants Programs at the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District.

Mr. Murphy introduced Customer Experience Specialist Rafael Regan to provide an update on WETA's real time information system.

Mr. Regan shared his presentation on the recent improvements using general transit feed specification (GTFS) data allowing for real-time trip information and an upgrade to the new Swiftly rider alert system from the BayAlerts text notification system. Chair Wunderman thanked Mr. Regan for his presentation and the improvements that were implemented.

Mr. Murphy introduced Transportation Planner Arthi Krubanandh to provide the highlights of the Clipper Means-Based Transit Fare Discount Pilot Program, Clipper START. Ms. Krubanandh handed the presentation over to Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) staff Clipper Program Coordinator Helise Cohn and Principal of Transit Programs William Bacon who provided an update and described the next steps for the Clipper START program being offered on 21 transit providers in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Ms. Cohn shared her presentation on the eligibility requirements, transit operator discounts, outreach, applicant and ridership information, and findings.

Ms. Cohn reminded the Board that Clipper START launched in July 2020 with four operators and San Francisco Bay Ferry joined the program in November 2020 offering a 50 percent discount on single ride fares noting that approximately 1,600 trips were taken on San Francisco Bay Ferry in September using Clipper START.

Ms. Cohn said that actual enrollment has exceeded the 15,000 expectation in response to Chair Wunderman. In response to Director Alba, she added that the validation process was easier with the 200 percent of the federal poverty eligibility level which is consistent with Lifeline and state benefits programs and that the pilot program was extended from 18 months to 3 years.

Chair Wunderman thanked Ms. Cohn for her presentation. He called for public comments, and there were none.

Mr. Murphy introduced WETA Attorney Steven Miller from Hanson Bridgett LLP to provide updates and changes to the Brown Act that will impact how WETA holds its meetings.

Mr. Miller reminded the Board that the State Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 361 allowing for flexible remote meeting procedures during a declared state of emergency. He said that Governor Gavin Newsom announced that the state of emergency was going to expire on February 28, 2023, and as such, AB 361 will no longer provide the Board the flexibility for remote attendance.

Mr. Miller clarified the choices allowing remote participation which included the traditional Brown Act teleconference rules that have been in place and the new rule for just cause or emergency circumstances of which must publicly be disclosed at the outset of the meeting. He further clarified that the new teleconference procedures were limited to two times in a calendar year and required the participation of a quorum of the Board in person.

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

Chief Financial Officer Erin McGrath said that fuel prices continue to be volatile but were trending on budget at \$4.20 per gallon in response to Chair Wunderman. She added that fuel prices were being tracked every week and would provide a graph for the next meeting.

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

6. ADOPT RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 TO HOLD REMOTE PUBLIC MEETINGS

This item recommended adopting a resolution making findings pursuant to AB 361 to hold remote public meetings.

Director Intintoli made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-40 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, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Moyer.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Board Meeting Minutes – September 1, 2022
- b. Approve Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2023
- c. Approve Amended and Restated Clipper Memorandum of Understanding with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Bay Area Transit Operators
- d. Authorize Release of a Request for Proposals for Independent Year End Audit Services
- e. Authorize Release of a Request for Proposals for Human Resources Consulting Services

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

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

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

8. APPROVE ENTERING INTO A NEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH REDWOOD CITY AND THE PORT OF REDWOOD CITY FOR THE PLANNING AND DESIGN PHASES OF THE REDWOOD CITY FERRY TERMINAL PROJECT

Planning & Development Manager Kevin Connolly presented this item recommending approving entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Redwood City (City) and the Port of Redwood City (Port) for the planning and design phases of the Redwood City Ferry Terminal project (Project).

Mr. Connolly said that this item was a follow up on the previous MOU between the three parties and that the Project is wholly funded by Measure A sales tax revenues from San Mateo County. He noted the inclusion of support letters from long standing supporters of the Project but indicated that major employers from the business community have declined to submit letters of support as requested by Vice Chair Monique Moyer thus far.

Mr. Connolly stated that this phase would allow for a more thorough study of the dredging and permitting issues and the relationship between future operations and recreational users.

Director Intintoli expressed his concern about funding issues. Mr. Connolly stated that some level of outreach to employers and stakeholders to find out what the future holds in terms of employment and ridership that would be included in the WETA Business Plan and the Feasibility Study in response the Chair Wunderman's question about the environmental review phase.

Chair Wunderman noted that this was a long-term project and that this phase was not about WETA committing funding but to determine if the project could move forward on its own merits.

PUBLIC COMMENT

State Assemblymember Kevin Mullin Field Representative Daniel Vainish, Port of Redwood City Port Commissioner Lorianna Kastrop, Bay Area Council Vice President of Public Policy Emily Loper on behalf of the Waterfront Mobility Committee, and Seaport Industrial Association Executive Director and Chamber San Mateo County Board Member Greg Greenway spoke in support of moving forward with the MOU.

Director Alba supported moving forward so that WETA would be ready when funds and ridership were available.

Director Alba made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-42 approving this item.

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

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

9. AUTHORIZE REVISED SEA CHANGE HYDROGEN-POWERED VESSEL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Mr. Murphy presented this item recommending approving the implementation of a demonstration project to operate the *Sea Change* hydrogen-powered vessel as part of the San Francisco Bay Ferry network for a total of three years and authorize the Executive Director to take steps to facilitate the project including:

- Execute an amendment to WETA's Operating Contract that allows Blue and Gold Fleet to lease the vessel and operate it in WETA service
- Negotiate and execute agreements with private and public sector project sponsors to secure funding that supports project implementation, and limits WETA financial commitment to less than \$500,000

Initiation of the Demonstration Project is conditioned upon completion of any applicable Title VI requirements, permitting, and environmental review processes.

Mr. Murphy stated that final payment for construction and delivery of the vessel by the vessel's original investors is contingent on a guarantee that the vessel would be leased for a minimum of three years.

Chair Wunderman emphasized that this project would give WETA the opportunity to show leadership in the world of zero-emission vessels. He said that he was impressed with the hydrogen fuel presentation at the Marine Log Ferries Conference by Dr. Joe Pratt, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Technology Officer for Zero Emission Industries.

Director Alba appreciated the demonstration project enhancement and hoped to get clarity on the funding situation.

Director Intintoli made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-43 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, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Moyer.

10. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO AURORA MARINE DESIGN FOR ON-CALL ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES

Operations & Maintenance Manager Timothy Hanners presented this item recommending approving a contract award to Aurora Marine Design for on-call professional engineering consulting services to support ongoing ferry system capital programs, planning efforts, construction management, and vessel design for a period of five years.

Mr. Hanners said that the Aurora Marine Design team has extensive experience working on similar projects for WETA and other organizations. The work under this contract will be assigned as needed on a task order basis and may include services related to planning, engineering, solicitation development and administration, and marine vessel and facility construction management.

Mr. Hanners said that Aurora Marine Design has demonstrated a comprehensive ability to adapt to variable demands of the upcoming complex projects to meet WETA's zero-emission goals.

Director Intintoli made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-44 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, Intintoli, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono, Moyer.

11. AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF DRAFT 2022 SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Transportation Planner Gabriel Chan presented this item recommending releasing the draft 2022 Short Range Transit Plan for a 30-day public comment period.

Mr. Chan shared his presentation on the five-year planning horizon which included the background, schedule, assumptions, three MTC required planning scenarios and one additional WETA scenario. He said that final approval would occur in December or January.

Mr. Chan said the scenarios assumed current pandemic recovery fares but escalate with inflation about 3 percent per year. He said that assumptions applied to all transit agencies in an effort to standardize everything in response to the Directors.

Director Alba expressed interest in seeing the difference between the pre-pandemic and pandemic recovery fares and the comparison to some of the other transit agencies.

Chair Wunderman commented that no other transit agency had Regional Measure (RM) 3 possibly coming online in 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richmond Ferry rider Kyle Maudlin wanted to learn more about ways to increase ridership.

Chair Wunderman commented that the arbitrage of not going back to work is being led by the employees.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve this item.

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

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

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

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Wunderman called for public comments on non-agenda items, and there were none.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting in memory of former Association of Bay Area Governments Executive Director Ezra Rapport at 4:49 p.m.

- Board Secretary

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