

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

*(July 1, 2021)*

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session via videoconference consistent with California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Orders N-25-20, N-29-20, and N-09-21 to ensure social distancing and help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair James Wunderman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He welcomed directors, staff, and meeting guests and noted that the meeting was being recorded. Chair Wunderman advised guests about offering public comment and how guests could sign up to speak throughout the meeting.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair Wunderman, Vice Chair Monique Moyer, Director Jessica Alba, and Director Anthony Intintoli were in attendance.

**3. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR**

Chair Wunderman reported that it was a very exciting morning for the WETA with the ribbon cutting celebration and opening of the Seaplane Lagoon Ferry Terminal which was delayed because of the pandemic. He took the opportunity to thank the City of Alameda, the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC), Alameda County, Alameda Point Partners, AC Transit, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), elected officials including City of Alameda Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft and California Attorney General Rob Bonta, directors, staff, and others for their partnership and hard work.

**4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS**

Director Moyer offered her congratulations to the team and all the partners for the opening of the Seaplane Lagoon Ferry Terminal and thanked all for their hard work, dedication, and vision. She stated that she was extremely honored to have been named as Vice Chair of the WETA Board by Governor Newsom and thanked the WETA family for their support.

She said that the conversations are continuing and that return-to-office plans are much more defined. She added that many of her clients were moving forward with their plans and would be returning to the office as early as next week but expected a real uptick in the number of people commuting back to their offices in the third and fourth quarters of the calendar year. With access to transit being an important issue, she was delighted that WETA was doing its part to support transportation. She reported that she was glad to see the efforts and the support of the community with the outstanding vaccination rates in the Bay Area.

The directors congratulated staff for the opening of Seaplane Lagoon and Director Moyer on her appointment.

Director Alba reported on her participation in meetings related to the MTC Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force and shared her excitement that the Redwood City Port Commission voted to advance the business plan for the Redwood City Ferry Terminal project.

## **5. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Executive Director Seamus Murphy reported on the distribution of COVID relief funding, ferry capacity restrictions, the amendment to mask mandates on transit, and the status of the concessionaire amenity onboard.

Mr. Murphy first commended Public Information & Marketing Manager Thomas Hall for coordinating the Seaplane Lagoon ribbon cutting event and then invited him to provide an update on the Vallejo low tides and the Pandemic Recovery Program marketing campaign. Mr. Hall reported that the May and June low tide episodes resulted in slight morning ridership decreases and that additional measures and resources would be taken to manage and handle the runs impacted by the July low tide episodes. He said that the marketing campaign that was presented in May was moving forward and highlighted the completion of WETA's first video YouTube ad.

Mr. Murphy provided five written reports and offered to answer questions and invited Program Manager/Analyst Lauren Gularte to provide supplemental information on the federal update of three bills and Planning & Development Manager Kevin Connolly to report on ridership and recovery. Mr. Connolly said that this would be the last pandemic recovery report on ridership and that going forward, to measure effectiveness, WETA would be tracking new service ridership.

Mr. Murphy said that the long term plan was do some comprehensive surveys of the passengers once they have an opportunity to settle in with the new service and schedule.

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

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Board Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2021

Chair Wunderman called for public comments on the consent calendar, and there were none.

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

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

## **7. AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SIX-MONTH PILOT PROGRAM BETWEEN SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO AND DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO FERRY TERMINAL**

Mr. Murphy presented this item recommending authorization to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a six-month, weekday ferry service pilot program between South San Francisco and the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal.

Mr. Murphy said the program was consistent with the recovery program in trying new things and similar to WETA's practice of doing business by contracting with a private operator. He explained that all WETA vessels are in service or reserved as spares to support the current service and that other strategies needed to be explored for expansion opportunities.

Mr. Murphy said a major employer is set to open a large campus in January and that launch for this service was targeted for that same time frame.

Mr. Murphy invited Operations & Maintenance Manager Timothy Hanners to speak on the details of the procurement process, schedule, and technical considerations.

Mr. Murphy said that the risk would be on the respondents to do their due diligence and have an understanding of the service and what ridership and fare revenue would look like on this route in response to Chair Wunderman.

Chair Wunderman expressed his concern that the workers for this program be treated in a similar, respected way as those Blue & Gold Fleet crews in terms of labor relations. Mr. Murphy agreed that this issue and other WETA standards be maintained and taken into account through the evaluation process.

Chair Wunderman added that the Bay Area Council has been focused on the tremendous growth of the bioscience industry and wanted to do anything to help the industry flourish.

Director Intintoli expressed his concern for funding of this program using existing funding sources and the need to find new, additional subsidies to expand service. Mr. Murphy said that WETA shared the same caution and would not make a decision that would negatively impact the financial sustainability of the agency in the near term.

Director Moyer appreciated supporting the community and commended the team on the thoughtfulness of the idea. With the due diligence and gathering of information that needed to be done by every potential bidder to the many employers, she asked if WETA could help streamline the process to be cognizant of people's time.

Director Murphy explained that the pilot service was limited to no more than a year and that the future operation of a more permanent service would be dependent upon the success of the pilot and availability of WETA vessels in response to Director Alba. He requested that the Board offer some flexibility in adjusting the evaluation criteria and scoring on the RFP to uphold the WETA standards including labor and customer experience and reminded the Board that the award of a contract would be brought to them for approval.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

South San Francisco City Manager Mike Futrell, Genentech Senior Transportation Program Manager, San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA) representative Don Cecil, Stripe Head of Workplace Peter Travers, and International Organization of Master, Mates & Pilots representative Carolyn Horgan thanked WETA for their commitment to South San Francisco and offered their support of the pilot program recommendation.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific Regional Director Robert Estrada expressed his concern about maintaining and preserving labor relations and the unionized workforce in order to support the program.

Mr. Murphy stated that the relationship with organized labor was important but that WETA was limited in terms of what can be required in a procurement. Chair Wunderman said that he would ensure that nothing compromises the commitment to the WETA workforce in an opportunity to expand the service.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item with the flexibility to adjust the evaluation criteria and scoring on the RFP as clarified by WETA Legal Counsel Steve Miller of Hanson Bridgett LLP.

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

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

**8. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO CURTIN MARITIME CORP. FOR DREDGING AND MARINE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE VALLEJO TERMINAL DREDGING PROJECT**

Senior Planner/Project Manager Chad Mason presented this item recommending approval of the following actions relative to the *Terminal Dredging – Vallejo* project (Project):

1. Approve contract award to Curtin Maritime Corp. (Curtin) of Long Beach, California for Marine Construction Services in the amount of \$1,332,597.50 and authorize a contract contingency of 15 percent for a total sum of \$1,532,487.13; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract and take any other related actions as may be necessary to support the Project.

Mr. Mason reported that five bids were received and that the bid submitted by Lind Marine as the apparent lowest bidder was determined to be not responsive to the bid requirements and was rejected. Mr. Miller clarified that bidding irregularities existed that under the law could not be waived.

Mr. Mason said that he anticipated that work would begin in early August pending contract approval lasting approximately six weeks and that the passenger float would be returned to Pier 48 ½ by the end of September in response to Director Intintoli. He added that dredging is required every three to four years and that silt build-up is accelerating and reminded the Board that staff would be exploring long-term solutions to reconfigure the terminal to avoid dredging altogether in response to Chair Wunderman.

Ms. Gularte prompted the Board that Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) was scarce in the maritime construction business and that both Golden Gate Highway Transportation and Bridge District and WETA had in the past reached out to marine and vessel construction businesses providing information on becoming a DBE.

Director Intintoli asked that staff advise Congressman Mike Thompson's staff of future dredging cost in an attempt to encourage more federal participation for dredging the whole Napa River area.

Mr. Mason clarified that the all the proposed bids listed did not include a contingency and that bidders were required to remain within their base bid. He said that the contingency was added on by WETA for unanticipated expenses and for use at WETA's discretion and noted that this award would be WETA's first contract with Curtin in response to Director Moyer.

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

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item.

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

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

**9. APPROVE EMPLOYMENT OF LYNNE YU AS ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR LIMITED DURATION APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Murphy presented this item recommending approval of the part-time employment of Lynne Yu, retired annuitant, as Acting Chief Financial Officer for a limited duration while recruiting a permanent replacement.

Mr. Murphy explained that the action would be similar to the approval of her employment taken in January and was necessary to stay consistent with CalPERS retired annuitant requirements adding that the approval of the budget converted the position of Finance & Administration Manager to Chief Financial Officer.

Chair Wunderman expressed his appreciation of Ms. Yu, her work, and congratulated her on her promotion.

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

Director Moyer made a motion to approve the item.

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

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

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

No further public comments were shared.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

- Board Secretary

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