

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

(February 3, 2022)

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at WETA Central Bay Operations & Maintenance Facility at 670 W Hornet Ave, Alameda, 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. 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.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Wunderman commented that expectations to return to work in person soon have dropped and that businesses have not committed to when this would occur. He commended the entire WETA team for its accomplishments over the past year, noting how well WETA has done relative to other agencies. He noted the efforts of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force (Task Force) to present the public with a Bay Area transit transformation action plan for a more reliable and resilient transportation system for the post pandemic future.

4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Director Intintoli said that he attended a meeting of the Government Affairs Committee of the Vallejo Chamber.

Director DelBono said that he was glad to be back in person and looked forward to a better year.

Vice Chair Moyer was pleased to attend this Board meeting in person. She reported that CBRE hosted a roundtable of technology companies to focus on plans for the return to office in person and digitally, following the guidelines for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on social distancing and masking, as well as local rules. She added that company surveys showed that mandating a return to office would have an impact on employees resigning and noted the importance of making the workplace attractive to inspire employees to come back.

Director Alba thanked Chair Wunderman for his ongoing participation with the Task Force.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF

Executive Director Seamus Murphy stated that WETA was one of the first government agencies to hold a hybrid meeting and thanked staff for doing the work to make it possible.

Mr. Murphy said that WETA put together its first annual report, *The State of San Francisco Bay Ferry 2022*. He said the report details the agency's accomplishments in 2021, current status, and outlook for the next year of work. He added that the report included a preview of the business plan and that it

would be used as an advocacy piece for the improvements and the progress that WETA wants to make going forward and as a rider communication piece. He thanked Public Information & Marketing Manager Thomas Hall and his team for putting the report together stating that WETA would make it a regular practice to report this information going forward.

Mr. Murphy introduced Blue & Gold Fleet (Blue & Gold) Operations Manager Aden Anderson to provide an update on the impact of the Omicron variant on operations and service delivery. Mr. Anderson said that Pier 39's Human Resources (HR) Department, the unions, and dispatchers have been working together and have not had to cancel any service due to COVID absences.

Mr. Murphy summarized five written reports in the Board meeting materials. He then asked WETA General Counsel Madeline Chun of Hanson Bridgett LLP to give a quick update on the delivery of ferry service for Treasure Island. She reported that Prop SF had filed a request to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to operate unscheduled Treasure Island service from San Francisco at a reduced fare from what had been previously authorized. The administrative law judge assigned to the proceeding has issued a proposed decision to grant the request, which is scheduled to go to the full Commission for approval on February 10.

Mr. Murphy reminded the Board that WETA has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of San Francisco that specifies that WETA will assume and operate this service as soon as the time is right. He added that the City has proposed the establishment of a toll to access the island, in order to subsidize public transit on the island, including ferry operations under WETA. Mr. Murphy said that the Board will be receiving the results of the Treasure Island Ferry Service Study providing information about ridership demands phasing in and the cost of providing ferry service.

Mr. Murphy invited Chief Financial Officer Erin McGrath to provide the financial budget update. Ms. McGrath shared her presentation on the midyear budget review and a multi-year analysis of the financial sustainability of WETA.

The Directors thanked Ms. McGrath for her presentation and asked staff to bring back ideas for promotions and to look for opportunities to attract more riders.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelly commented that there was a new COVID variant.

Blue & Gold President Pat Murphy said that Blue & Gold as members of tourism associations has spent a lot of time publicizing and marketing San Francisco Bay Ferry in the tour and leisure market.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Adopt a Resolution Regarding Remote Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361
- b. Board Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2022
- c. Authorize Release of a Request for Proposal for State Legislative Representation Services

Chair Wunderman called for public comments on the consent calendar, 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. RECEIVE REDWOOD CITY FERRY DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN

Chair Wunderman invited City of Redwood City Councilmember Diane Howard to offer public comment before calling on staff to present the item. Councilmember Howard spoke in support of ferry service to Redwood City. Chair Wunderman thanked Councilmember Howard for her years of service and dedication.

Planning & Development Manager Kevin Connolly began by recognizing WETA's partners for this project 1) City of Redwood City (City) Management Analyst II Giovanna Erkanat and Senior Transportation Planner Jessica Manzi, 2) Port of Redwood City (Port) Executive Director Kristine Zortman, and 3) San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA).

Mr. Connolly said that the Redwood City Ferry draft business plan (business plan) would also be presented at the Redwood City Port Commission, the City of Redwood City Council, and finally, the SMCTA. He clarified that the Board will be seeing business plans developed for other projects with different focuses that are determined by WETA's local partners. He said that the business plan for Redwood City focused on business effectiveness, cost effectiveness, and feasibility since constructability and engineering were of less concern.

Mr. Connolly introduced CDM Smith Client Service Leader Vice President Bill Hurrell who shared his PowerPoint presentation on the elements of the business plan which he said was built off of the feasibility study and would be updated throughout the life of the project.

Chair Wunderman thanked Mr. Hurrell for his presentation and for bringing to light some of the real advantages and some of the challenges associated with the project.

The Directors expressed their concerns and questions about wake, walking distance to employers, bus/shuttle service connections, outreach/equity plan, accessibility, ridership estimates, green transportation, and the synergies with public and recreational access and asked that their comments be incorporated and addressed in the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

In response to Vice Chair Moyer's question, Chair Wunderman invited Chamber San Mateo County Board Member, Chair of the Chamber Transportation Committee and Seaport Industrial Association Executive Director Greg Greenway to address the question of how the business community views the project. Mr. Greenway stated that the support from the business community and from all of the stakeholders that the Chamber represents is overwhelming. Mr. Greenway spoke in support of the WETA's Board acceptance of the plan and encouraged anything that could be done to expedite service.

Chair Wunderman commented that he specifically joined the WETA Board to address transportation opportunities on the Peninsula.

Port Commissioner Lorianna Kastrop expressed her and the Port's enthusiastic support of the project.

Ms. Zortman spoke in support of receiving the business plan and advancing Redwood City into the next steps for future ferry service.

PROP SF Director of Client Development and Business Operations Alex Kryska said that PROP SF had operated the private ferry service shuttle out of Redwood City in the past and congratulated everyone on the project.

Vice Chair Moyer asked for clarification about "accepting" versus "receiving" the business plan. Mr. Murphy suggested that the process of receiving the report may be related to SMCTA's requirements for funding the environmental review and subsequent stages of the project. Mr.

Connolly confirmed that this action was needed to provide evidence that the business plan has been communicated and provided to the respective boards.

Vice Chair Moyer made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2022-07 to state that the business plan had been "received but not read or reviewed" by the Board. She explained that she was reacting to the statement stating that the WETA Board was the first to receive the plan and had the responsibility to give guidance to the bodies that followed. Director DelBono seconded the motion.

Ms. Zortman commented that the Port Commissioners would be asked "to acknowledge receipt" of the business plan based upon their legal counsel's advice as well as their obligations in the MOU with WETA and the City.

With Director Moyer's consent, Director Alba made a motion to further amend Resolution No. 2022-07 to state that the Board "acknowledges receipt" of the business plan. Director Alba clarified that her motion would amend the resolved clause of Resolution No. 2022-07 as follows: "RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby acknowledges receipt of, but has not read or reviewed, the Redwood City Ferry Draft Business Plan."

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

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

Chair Wunderman noted that this Board meeting was being held at the WETA Ron Cowan Central Bay Operations & Maintenance Facility and noted that the late Mr. Cowan, developer of Harbor Bay, was the father of the ferry service and led efforts to pass legislation in support of ferry service. Chair Wunderman asked staff to explore the possibility of obtaining funding commitments from major employers for the project who would benefit from the expansion.

8. AUTHORIZE PUBLIC OUTREACH TO EXTEND FISCAL YEAR 2022 PANDEMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM

Principal Planner Michael Gougherty presented this item recommending authorization by the Executive Director to initiate a public outreach process to collect feedback on the extension of the Fiscal Year 2022 Pandemic Recovery Program for up to one year, through Fiscal Year 2023.

The Directors expressed their support for gathering input and their appreciation for all the efforts in finding new ridership.

Director DelBono made a motion 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. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No further public comments were shared.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

- Board Secretary
END