

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

[December 12, 2024]

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.

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, 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 shared his personal experiences about recent ferry service disruptions and emphasized the importance of monitoring and resolving issues.

4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

Vice Chair Moyer reported that she had participated in an event that included a site visit and ferry ride along the future Mission Bay Ferry route with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Secretary Michael Regan and US House of Representatives Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi to discuss the regional benefits of the project supported by the EPA \$55 million grant.

Vice Chair Moyer recognized the achievements of staff in securing funding and acknowledged the contributions of political leaders, especially Speaker Emerita Pelosi and US Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein for their leadership, time, generosity, and support to the ferry system.

Director Dew shared updates on various events and projects including the Working Waterfront Coalition graduation of the first cohort on November 15 and collaboration on a high school group's transportation project.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF

Mr. Murphy introduced new staff Project Engineer Minh Tran who has worked with Elliott Bay Design Group and on the Washington State hybrid electric ferries program.

Mr. Murphy invited Director of Planning Michael Gougherty and Director of Operations and Customer Experience Thomas Hall to provide an update and progress on the pilot services which included the Redwood City Ballpark Service, the Oakland Alameda Water Shuttle, and *Sea Change* Demonstration Project. Staff shared their presentation about the pilot services that included route performance and customer and operational feedback.

Mr. Murphy thanked staff and Blue & Gold Fleet (Blue & Gold) for their efforts with the pilot projects.

Mr. Murphy provided an update on the list of projects that would be included in Plan Bay Area 2050 (Plan). He noted that the project management team which is composed of planning staff from different agencies around the region, reassessed the projects and were able to include the Berkeley project but not the Redwood City project. He said that a final decision and approval of the Plan was set for late January.

Mr. Murphy provided five written reports and expanded some comments about the regional transportation ballot measure before inviting staff to provide a report on the tsunami warning and the operations, ridership, and recovery report.

Emergency Response and Safety Analyst Cameron Bochman recapped the timeline of events leading up to the tsunami warning and the response, strengths, challenges, lessons learned, and next steps from the incident.

Project Development and Controls Joseph Ramey and Transportation Planner Gabriel Chan reported the impact of mechanical issues and poor weather on ferry operation system performance and ridership.

Mr. Hall explained the process used to communicate service issues to passengers and invited Blue & Gold President Patrick Murphy to provide further insight about taking a vessel offline and the policies and procedures that were developed to address future issues.

Mr. Murphy concluded the Executive Director's report and offered to answer questions.

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

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Dew made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2024
- b. Authorize the Execution of a Funding Agreement with the California Energy Commission for \$4,999,994 in Clean Transportation Program Funds

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

Vice Chair Moyer seconded the motion, and the consent calendar carried unanimously.

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

7. RECEIVE THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

Chief Financial Officer Erin McGrath presented this item recommending receiving the Independent Auditor's Reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. She provided a statistical overview of the financial statements and invited Maze & Associates (Maze) CEO Vikki Rodriguez to summarize the results of the audit. Ms. Rodriguez congratulated SF Bay Ferry for receiving a clean audit with no significant adjustments.

Director Alba made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-54 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, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono.

8. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SIGN THE EQUITY IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT PLEDGE

Government and Regulatory Affairs Specialist Terence Candell presented this item recommending authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Equity in Infrastructure Project (EIP) pledge. He explained that the EIP is a non-profit organization that advocates for policies that increase infrastructure contracting opportunities for historically underutilized businesses (HUB).

Director Alba made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-55 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, Dew, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono.

9. APPROVE ACTIONS RELATIVE TO RFP 24-006, 150-PASSENGER REEF VESSEL PROCUREMENT

Mr. Murphy introduced this milestone item relative to the 150-passenger Rapid Electric Emission-Free (REEF) vessel procurement emphasizing the actions supporting sustainability and innovation. He invited Director of Project Delivery and Engineering Timothy Hanners to present the item recommending approving a contract award to All American Marine Inc. (AAM) for the 150-passenger REEF vessels and an amendment to the contract with Aurora Marine Design to increase the contract amount and extend the period of performance for engineering support services.

Mr. Hanners shared his presentation on the 150 passenger REEF vessel design and construction contract award outlining the phases of electrification, vessel design and features, and the proposal evaluation and costs before inviting Mr. Candell to present the vessel procurement project Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal and participation.

Mr. Hanners provided background about AAM and acknowledged the AAM President Ron Wille who was in attendance. He noted key factors explaining the significantly higher costs compared to the independent cost estimate and provided a cost analysis for inflation-adjusted comparable vessels.

Wärtsilä North America, Inc. Business Development Manager Blake Jackson provided further explanation about increased costs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

University of California (UC) Berkeley School of Journalism graduate student and Richmond Confidential Reporter Andres spoke during public comment.

All American Marine President Ron Wille spoke during public comment.

The Directors expressed their concerns about passenger seating and the impacts of the increased costs and thanked Mr. Hanners for his in-depth report and for delivering on DBE participation.

Vice Chair Moyer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-56 approving this item.

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

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

10. WETA DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM REVIEW

Government and Regulatory Affairs Manager Lauren Gularte introduced this informational item on the WETA Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) review and the background on the challenges, efforts, and strategies to improve DBE participation. She introduced Colette Holt from Colette Holt & Associates who shared her presentation about the review which included the review objectives, review process, review findings, and program recommendations.

Mr. Candell analyzed each of the recommendations, the feasibility of implementation, the potential of the recommendation to increase DBE participation, and a rough estimation of the resources needed to implement the recommendations.

The Directors thanked Ms. Holt and staff for the comprehensive report.

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

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

12. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) (one or more cases)

Chair Wunderman recessed the meeting at 3:52 p.m., and the Directors met in closed session.

13. REPORT OF ACTIVITY IN CLOSED SESSION

Upon returning to open session at 4:28 p.m., Chair Wunderman reported that no action was taken.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

- Board Secretary

END