

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
For January 17th, 2006

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held its meeting on January 17th, 2006 at the San Francisco Port Pier 1, Bayside Room 1. The meeting began at 9:30am.

Call to Order and Introductions: Chair Mark Kasanin called the meeting to order followed by a round of introductions. He asked the audience to sign in on the sign in sheet outside of the door, and take a speaker card if anyone would like to speak during the public comment section.

Chair Kasanin introduced himself and briefly informed the audience of the role of the TAC. The TAC is an independent group of experts created to advise the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority Board of Directors on certain technical and environmental matters.

Chair Kasanin asked the audience to notify the WTA if any member or interested party was not notified of this meeting, or if any contact information has changed. The TAC member list can be viewed by going to www.watertransit.org/techadv_members.html, in addition anyone can request changes or addition by calling the water transit authority at (415) 291-3377 or by email: email@watertransit.org.

Chair Kasanin asked Ross Sargent, Chief of Port Safety for the US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, to inform the audience of the recent change to the US Coast Guard. On Aug 26, 2005 the Legacy Unit of the Coast Guard, the San Francisco command center for small boats, search and rescue, and law enforcement stations combined with the marine safety office and the vessel traffic service to satisfy the nationwide initiative to sectorize large ports of command.

Chair Kasanin introduced Charlene Haught Johnson, President of the Board of Directors.

Report of Board President, Charlene Haught Johnson: President Johnson thanked the audience and member for their interest in the TAC and the WTA. The TAC has been holding these meetings for the last five years. She also noted that in the initial phase the TAC meeting had about 75 people in attendance, after which the attendance dropped. President Johnson stated that the number of people in the audience today indicates a renewed interest in the activities of the TAC.

Chair Kasanin noted that due to such high attendance in the beginning, the TAC was divided up into Ad-hoc committees, dealing with certain issues separately. The TAC was created to inspect the WTA's staff and consultant's work as well as to create a forum for public discussion for the technical and environmental aspects of the implementation of a

large scale ferry system. Chair Kasanin introduced Steve Castleberry, the CEO of the WTA.

Report of Chief Executive Officer, Steve Castleberry: Mr. Castleberry noted that the WTA implementation plan was approved by the state three years ago. The original mission of the agency was to help the state determine whether or not to invest in more ferry service. The WTA is now working on a South San Francisco route, a Berkeley/Albany route (both funded by Regional Measure 2) improvements at the ferry building, and constructing our first spare vessels. Mr. Castleberry stated that the TAC's attendance was much higher in the beginning because of the amount of controversy over the Implementation and Operations plan, whereas now attendance is much lower. In addition, the WTA is working regularly with members of the TAC on many projects. Mr. Castleberry stated that he appreciates the TAC's involvement and noted that there continues to be an opportunity for the TAC to advise the board.

Mr. Castleberry mentioned that there are three new WTA employees. Shirley Douglas is the new Manager of Community & Government Relations. Ms. Douglas was the Vice President of Marketing and Business development at Bechtel for 26 years. Mr. Castleberry noted that the WTA is excited because of Ms. Douglas's role in project completion while at Bechtel, most notably the BART extension to SFO and the Santa Clara County highway improvements. Shirley will be focusing on marketing initiatives in Oakland, Alameda, South San Francisco, and a Bay Area wide ferry conference late this spring.

Mr. Castleberry introduced Keith Stahnke, the new Manager of Operations. Mr. Stahnke was Vallejo Baylink's Senior Captain and the Commissioning Captain for both the Vallejo and Solano Ferries. Mr. Stahnke's experience with getting new boats in service will be very helpful to the WTA in the coming months. His first tasks will be working on the Regional Maritime Contingency Plan and creating operation plans for the Alameda Service expansion.

Mr. Castleberry introduced, Nina Rannells the new Grants Manager who will be starting next week. Ms. Rannells was the Grants Tackle Program Manager for Golden Gate Bridge & Highway Transportation District. She has a fantastic reputation with the WTA's funding partners and will be a great addition to the agency. Ms. Rannells first task will be to get started on the paper work required for the WTA to be a federal transit recipient.

Chair Kasanin noted that the next Community Advisory Committee meeting is February 8th, 2006.

Informational Presentation: Draft Regional Maritime Contingency Plan Update, Mary Frances Culnane, Manager of Marine Engineering WTA.

Ms. Culnane did a power point presentation describing the need for creating the Regional Maritime Contingency Plan.

Chair Kasanin asked whether or not emergency responsibilities would apply to boats other than ferries. Ms. Culnane stated that it is a comprehensive maritime plan which includes all operators and companies that the WTA may need help from in the event of an emergency.

Scott Humphrey asked about Mary Culnane's reference to the Vessel Mutual Assistance Program (VMAP). Ms. Culnane stated that the VMAP exercise on November 10th 2005, at the Port of San Francisco, exemplified this plan.

Chair Kasanin commented that both bare boat and time charter templates should be in the RMCP.

Informational Presentation: Eligibility Criteria Discussion, Kenneth Peel, Office of Emergency Services (OES). Kenneth Peel did a power point presentation on eligibility criteria required for state and federal assistance from the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mr. Peel apologized that Charles Ramabad was not able to be present today.

WTA Board Director, Marina Secchitano asked if the WTA was the reimbursable entity and distributed the funds to the individual operators who had deployed their boats in an emergency situation, would the WTA be audited or would the individual operators be audited. Mr. Peel answered that the WTA would be the responsible party and therefore would be the agency that is audited.

Veronica Sanchez, representing the Bay Planning Coalition, asked what the reimbursement time frame from FEMA/OES. Kenneth Peel answered that the normal time frame is about 30 days. The initial funding phase can take up to 60 days, and any subsequent funding will generally take about 30 days. After the initial request, it is the responsibility of the recipient to submit requests for funds to cover the next 30 days.

Chair Kasanin asked whether or not a funded agency has to deal with FEMA directly. Mr. Peel responded that only in the beginning is there direct contact with FEMA, after that, all communication to or from FEMA goes through OES.

Richard Maddux, Blue & Gold fleet asked about a training session at the Bill Graham auditorium in San Francisco regarding this subject. Mr. Peel answered that there is a training session for all San Francisco City employees and to contact him via email for further information at kenneth_peel@oes.ca.gov.

Informational Presentation: Spare Vessel Procurement Update, Mary Frances Culnane, Manager of Marine Engineering WTA. Mary Frances Culnane gave a quick update on the Spare Vessel Procurement process. The Request for Proposals was released on July 12th, 2005. The vessel construction firms will be submitting their Revised Technical Proposals by February and Price Proposals by March. In April Staff will go to the Board of Directors with a recommendation for award of the construction contract.

Charlene Haught Johnson, Board President, asked Mary Frances Culnane to clarify the Board of Directors role in the selection process. Ms. Culnane reiterated that after the Revised Technical Proposals and Price Proposals are received and evaluated, the WTA will go through a Best and Final negotiation process and come to the board with a recommendation. Charlene Haught Johnson asked how long it will be until a contract is signed. Ms. Culnane replied that the WTA will issue a notice of intent to award the contract and allow a protest period of a couple weeks. The contract could be executed in July, allowing the first boat to be built within a year and the second boat to be completed approximately 4 months later.

Informational Presentation: Ferry Building Traffic Routing Protocol (VTS) Scott Humphrey, Training Director USCG. Due to increased ferry and boat traffic and high speed ferries on the San Francisco Bay, the Coast Guard feels that there is an increasing need for traffic patterns to be instituted. Mr. Humphrey stated that these new guidelines will instill predictability for vessels and authorities, reduce congestion at the ferry building and improve safety and security. For further information please check the Coast Guard website.

Informational Presentation: Terminals and Service Update, South San Francisco and Berkeley, John Sindzinski, Manager of Planning & Development, WTA. Mr. Sindzinski gave an update on the South San Francisco and Berkeley terminal projects. The draft EIR for South San Francisco is almost complete and groundbreaking is expected in September 2006. The environmental document for Berkeley is just getting underway.

Carolyn Horgan asked the amount of the cost of the ferry terminal for South San Francisco. Mr. Sindzinski replied that the current estimate is 25 million dollars.

Terry Shore from Bluewater Network asked if there are any environmental measures in the design criteria of the South San Francisco terminal, such as low energy lighting etc. Mr. Sindzinski stated that the design, which will evaluate these options, will be complete later in 2006.

Informational Presentation: Revenue Collection, Paul Lavallo, IBI Group. Fare Collection involves several aspects of ferry operations. IBI group has been contracted to complete a fare collection study to analyze certain design aspects of the WTA fare collection systems and technologies. This is not a fare policy study.

Informational Presentation: Update on Fuel Cell Ferry Boat, Mary Frances Culnane, Manager of Marine Engineering, WTA. Mary Culnane gave an update on the fuel cell ferry. One of the first projects that Nina Rannells, the new grants manager, will have is navigating the funding processes for this project.

Public Comment: Teri Shore from Bluewater Network urged the WTA to keep the fuel cell ferry as a top priority. She noted that Mary Culnane has done an excellent job of

getting everything in place to build the vessel. For the last several years the WTA has had other projects which have taken priority, however, the timing is appropriate to turn attention back to the fuel cell ferry. Teri Shore stated that with the addition of the new Grants Manager she hopes the WTA will be able to develop a strategic plan with a funding program over the next few months in order to ensure that the project is a priority.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

In Attendance:

Mary Culnane, Water Transit Authority
Lauren Duran, Water Transit Authority
John Sindzinski, Water Transit Authority
Marina Secchitano, Water Transit Authority Board of Directors
Charlene Haught Johnson, Water Transit Authority Board President
Steve Castleberry, Water Transit Authority
Scott Humphrey, US Coast Guard
Jim Aldrich, Office of Emergency Services
Kenneth Peel, Office of Emergency Services
Paul Lavalle, IBI Group
Ross Sargent, US Coast Guard, San Francisco Sector
Keith Stahnke, Water Transit Authority
Shirley Douglas, Water Transit Authority
Len Cordoza, Port of Oakland, representing Harbor Safety Committee
Denise Turner, Port of San Francisco
John Davey, Port of San Francisco
Pat Murphy, Blue & Gold Fleet
Carolyn Horgan, Blue & Gold Fleet,
Joel Wyman, Hornblower
Richard Maddux, Blue & Gold Fleet
Joe Burgard, Red & White Fleet
Terry Shore, Blue Water Network
Sarah Tyler, Office of Emergency Services
Lindy Lowe, San Francisco Bay Conservation Development Commission
Jim Swindler, Golden Gate Bridge & Highway Transportation District
Veronica Sanchez, Bay Planning Coalition
Sandy Stadtfeld, URS for San Francisco Office of Emergency Services
Paul Bishop, Harbor Bay Maritime
Pauline Cook, US Coast Guard San Francisco Sector
LT Jason Flennoy, US Coast Guard San Francisco Sector
Gordon Fulton, Concept Marine/ Transystems
Geo Ellmen
David McCrossan, IBI Group