

MEETING OF THE MST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2023
9:00 am (Pacific)

Present:	Anna Velazquez, Chair	City of Soledad
	Mary Ann Carbone, Vice Chair	City of Sand City
	Jeff Baron	City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
	Lorraine Worthy	City of Gonzales
	Yanely Martinez	City of Greenfield
	Mike LeBarre	City of King
	Liesbeth Visscher	City of Marina
	Ed Smith	City of Monterey
	Chaps Poduri	City of Pacific Grove
	Tony Barrera	City of Salinas
	Dave Pacheco	City of Seaside
	Luis Alejo	County of Monterey
Absent:	City of Del Rey Oaks	
Counsel:	David C. Laredo	De Lay & Laredo
	Michael D. Laredo	De Lay & Laredo
Staff:	Carl Sedoryk	General Manager/CEO
	Lisa Rheinheimer	Assistant General Manager
	Norman Tuitavuki	Chief Operating Officer
	Michael Kohlman	Chief Information Officer
	Kelly Halcon	Director of HR & Risk Management
	Michelle Overmeyer	Director of Planning & Innovation
	Jeanette Alegar-Rocha	Deputy Secretary/Clerk to the Board
	Andrea Williams	Finance Manager
	Beronica Carriedo	C/S & Community Relations Supervisor
	Claudia Valencia	Mobility Specialist
	Cristy Sugabo	Mobility Services Supervisor
	David Bielsker	Transit Scheduler
	Deanna Smith	Civil Rights Officer
	Elena Grigorichina	Operations Analyst
	Emma Patel	Associate Planner
	Ezequiel Rebollar	IT Technician

Ikuyo Yoneda-Lopez	Marketing & Communications Manager
Jacqueline Munoz	C/S Representative
Kelly Soriano	Mobility Specialist
Kevin Allshouse	Contract Services Manager
Lisa Cox	Risk and Safety Manager
Marzette Henderson	Transportation Manager
Matthew Deal	Grants Analyst
Natalie Flores	Assistant Planner
Paul Lopez	Facilities Manager
Scott Taylor	IT Manager
Sonjé Dayries	Compliance Officer
Ursulla Scardina	Marketing Assistant
Vince Dang	Project Management Coordinator

Public:	Christine Duymich	AMBAG
	MacGregor Eddy	Member of the Public
	Sloan Campi	California State University Monterey Bay
	Tate Baugh	Member of the Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1-1. Conduct Swearing-In of New Boardmembers
- 1-2. Roll Call.
- 1-3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Velazquez called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. City of Marina Councilmember, Liesbeth Visscher, and City of Monterey Councilmember, Ed Smith were sworn in as newly appointed MST Boardmembers. Director Visscher led the pledge of allegiance.

- 1-4. Review Highlights of the agenda. (Carl Sedoryk)

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Member of the public MacGregor Eddy inquired about when MST public transit service will be available to San Jose. Chair Velazquez thanked Ms. Eddy for her question and informed her that MST will obtain her contact information for staff to follow up regarding her question.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

These items will be approved by a single motion. Anyone may request that an item be discussed and considered separately.

- 3-1. Approve Resolution 2023-19 Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings. (Carl Sedoryk)

- 3-2. Approve Resolution 2023-20 Recognizing Lori Lee, Accountant, as Employee of the Month for January 2023. (Andrea Williams)
- 3-3. Approve Resolution 2023-21 Recognizing Albert Garcia, Coach Operator, as Employee of the Year for 2022. (Carl Sedoryk)
- 3-4. Reject Claim for Insufficiency by the Claimant Jacquelin Silva. (Lisa Cox)

End of Consent Agenda

There were no public comments on the consent agenda items.

On a motion by Director Worthy, seconded by Director Carbone and carried by the following vote, which was conducted by roll call, the Board approved items 3-1 through 3-4 on the consent agenda:

AYES: 12 Alejo, Baron, Barrera, Carbone, LeBarre, Martinez, Pacheco, Poduri, Smith, Velazquez, Visscher, and Worthy
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 1 City of Del Rey Oaks
ABSTAIN: 0

4. CLOSED SESSION

As permitted by Government Code §64956 et seq. of the State of California, the Board of Directors may adjourn to Closed Session to consider specific matters dealing with personnel and/or pending possible litigation and/or conferring with the Board's Meyers-Milius-Brown Act representative.

- 4-1. Conference with Labor Negotiators, Gov. Code § 54957.6: MSTEAs and MST. (Kelly Halcon/Michael D. Laredo)

There were no public comments on the closed-session agenda item.

MST Counsel Michael Laredo reported that the Board had a general discussion regarding the MSTEAs contract and the item is set for action under agenda item #7-1.

5. RECOGNITIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- 5-1. January 2023 Employee of the Month. – Lori Lee (Andrea Williams)
- 5-2. 2022 Employee of the Year Presentation. (Carl Sedoryk)
- 5-3. 2022 Management Excellence Award – Michelle Overmeyer, Director of Planning and Innovation. (Carl Sedoryk)

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

7. ACTION ITEMS

- 7-1. Ratify the MOU Wage Re-Opener Wages Between MST and MSTEА and Provide the Same Benefits to Non-Represented, Confidential Employees. (Kelly Halcon/Michael D. Laredo)

There were no public comments on the action item.

On a motion by Director Barrera, seconded by Director Pacheco and carried by the following vote, which was conducted by roll call, the Board approved the MOU Wage Re-Opener Wages Between MST and MSTEА and Provide the Same Benefits to Non-Represented, Confidential Employees:

AYES:	11	Alejo, Baron, Barrera, Carbone, LeBarre, Martinez, Pacheco, Poduri, Velazquez, Visscher, and Worthy
NOES:	0	
ABSENT:	1	City of Del Rey Oaks
ABSTAIN:	1	Smith

- 7-2. Receive Staff Recommendations Regarding Evolving California Hybrid Board Meeting Guidelines and Provide Direction to Staff. (Carl Sedoryk)

There were no public comments on the action item.

Director LeBarre asked for confirmation that the current Brown Act requires a 2-day notice and is open to the public if participating remotely in a board meeting.

Director Baron commented that he disagreed with staff-recommended policy item 4a) “Before being granted permission to participate remotely, board members will provide to staff in writing that their appointed alternate is not available to attend in person.” He also asked staff to confirm the policy pertaining to 3 consecutive months of absence. Mr. Sedoryk will have legal counsel review and confirm the AB2449 policy and language at the February board meeting.

Director Worthy asked if decisions related to the comments brought up by Director Baron needed to be made on this agenda item or later on the agenda during the strategy workshop. Director Worthy stated her support for Director Baron’s comments.

Director Visscher asked 1) if just cause is limited to only two per year, 2) why a 72-hour notice would be enforced as it might always be possible that someone gets sick right before the meeting, 3) does being present for three consecutive months include in-person and teleconference? and 4) what is the process to have a city-appointed board alternate? Mr. Sedoryk responded that he will review these

questions with counsel and provide AB2449 policy clarification at the February meeting.

Director Poduri asked for clarification regarding staff recommendations for board members, at their earliest convenience to request authorization to participate remotely and staff process requests on a first-come, first-served basis. Director Poduri also agreed with Director Baron's comment and is in favor of striking the staff-recommended policy related to board alternates. Director Poduri asked for more clarification on AB2449 legislation related to the disclosure of participating remotely. Michael Laredo will investigate further clarification to bring back recommendations at the February meeting.

Vice Chair Carbone asked if the just cause policy for no more than twice a year absence applies to all meetings including board and committee.

Director Smith commented that if board members are unable to attend a meeting, their alternate should be notified in writing as a courtesy. He also asked for legal counsel to review the staff recommendations to align with the guidelines of AB2449.

Chair Velazquez commented that staff recommendations and board comments for this agenda item are noted. Staff and counsel will provide a recommendation at the February board meeting.

7-3. Conduct Strategic Planning Workshop:

A. Strategic Goals Progress to Date and Emerging Issues (Carl Sedoryk)

The Board received a report in progress of strategic goals to date and emerging issues in the board packet. Mr. Sedoryk addressed Ms. Eddy's earlier question under public comment by informing the Board and public that MST is looking to partner with Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and utilize a small amount of COVID relief rural federal funding to reinstate public transit services to San Jose via the the Gilroy train station and connections to VTA's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service.

There were no public comments on the action item.

Director LeBarre asked if the State contacted MST regarding the coordination of bus schedules with rail schedules. Director LeBarre added a comment that public transit is ideal to manage an autonomous vehicle fleet.

Director Poduri asked if there is an expiration date on the COVID relief rural federal funding mentioned by Mr. Sedoryk.

Director Smith asked when to expect the outline for the upcoming Board Strategy and Action Plan and commented that his priorities include increased ridership and reducing subsidies per passenger.

Director Visscher asked about outreach programs to encourage ridership in her area.

Director Worthy asked for a status update on the Better Bus Network infrastructure for the City of Gonzales and South County cities circulator routes.

Chair Velazquez provided her final comments and asked about the status of workforce development, NEMT revenue, and commented on the importance of the emerging “state mandated” zero emission infrastructure projects.

Staff and counsel provided their respective updates, responded to board questions, and noted the comments for follow-up for the February meeting.

B. Board Meeting COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Update (Carl Sedoryk)

Directors Smith, Worthy, LeBarre, Baron, and Chair Velazquez provided comments and direction regarding the board meeting COVID-19 vaccination policy. There was a consensus that the Board COVID-19 Vaccination Policy will be allowed to expire when the Governor of California ends the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration.

C. Recruitment Challenges and Potential Solutions (Carl Sedoryk/Kelly Halcon)

Directors LeBarre asked if drivers are offered one shift a week and asked if potential driver candidates are informed to apply for a mechanic position if they are interested. Director LeBarre asked if there are plans to recruit drivers from MV Transportation. Director LeBarre commented that grant funding for the Electric Bus Project and training might be allocated for recruitment.

Director Smith commented that the timely processing of applications is critical for recruitment and hiring.

Chair Velazquez provided direction to create a plan to work with legislators on the transit-wide staffing level challenges.

D. Monthly Board Reports (Carl Sedoryk/Anna Velazquez)

Director LeBarre indicated an interest in seeing a report on the economic impact provided by MST and amount of funding spent locally. Directors Baron and Vice Chair Carbone volunteered to participate in an Adhoc Reporting Subcommittee with Chair Velazquez.

E. Conclude Workshop

8. REPORTS & INFORMATION ITEMS

8-1. Correspondence - Board Member Appointments

The Board received correspondence notifying MST of new appointments from the City of Marina and the City of Monterey.

9. BOARD REPORTS, COMMENTS, AND REFERRALS

9-1. Reports on Meetings Attended by Board Members at MST Expense.
(AB 1234)

Chair Velazquez provided a verbal trip report for travel to and attendance at the 2022 Fall CTA Conference in Ontario, CA, from November 15-18, 2022. Vice Chair Carbone provided a verbal trip report for the 2022 Fall CTA Conference in Ontario, CA, from November 15-18, 2022.

9-2. Board Member Comments and Announcements.
SB 922 Community Planning Meetings Scheduled: February 13, 14, & 15

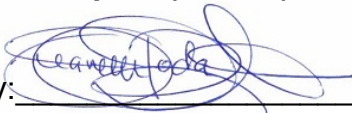
9-3. Board Member Referrals for Future Agendas.

10. ATTACHMENTS

None

11. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, Chair Velazquez adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m. (Pacific).

Prepared by: 
Jeanette Alegar-Rocha

Reviewed by: 
Carl G. Sedoryk