1. CALL TO ORDER

1-1 Roll call.

1-2 Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Orozco called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Roll call was taken and Director Armenta led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Fernando Armenta County of Monterey
Tony Barrera City of Salinas
Victoria Beach City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Alan Cohen City of Pacific Grove
Libby Downey City of Monterey
Alvin Edwards City of Seaside
Terry Hughes City of King (10:07 a.m.)
Randy Hurley City of Greenfield
Frank O’Connell City of Marina
Maria Orozco City of Gonzales
David Pendergrass City of Sand City
Patricia Stephens City of Soledad

Absent: Kristin Clark City of Del Rey Oaks

Staff: Carl Sedoryk General Manager/CEO
Hunter Harvath Asst. General Manager/Finance & Administration
Michael Hernandez Asst. General Manager/COO
Deanna Smith Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board
Kelly Halcon Director of Human Resources & Risk Management
Robert Weber Director of Transportation Services
Mark Eccles Director of IT
Tom Hicks CTSA Manager
Zoe Shoats Marketing Manager
Mike Gallant Business Development Planner
Dave Laredo De Lay & Laredo
Miriam Gutierrez Customer Service Representative

Public: Jim Fink MST Rider
Renee Leonard MST Rider
Alivia Stricklin --
Eric Petersen --
Lance Atencio MVT

Apology is made for any misspelling of a name.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2-1. Review highlights of Agenda.


2-3. Disposal of property left aboard buses.


2-6. 2014 Board Calendar and Committee Schedule.

2-7. Authorize Contract Agreement with Gillig, LLC.

2-8. Authorize purchase of Facilities service trucks.


2-10. Approve Retirement and Disposal of Vehicles.


Public Comment

Mr. Fink requested Agenda # 2-4 be pulled. He asked that the minutes of October 14, 2013, be corrected to reflect his comment under Consent Agenda of “a 91 year-old local man, Mr. Jesus Cortez, who is an inpatient at Ridge Skilled Nursing Home and relies on this service for dialysis treatment.” He also requested that his Public Comment be corrected to reflect his request that “MST implement a system similar to VTA in Santa Clara whereby passengers may de-board the bus by request for reasons of personal safety at locations other than designated flag stops.”

Close Public Comment

Director Hughes arrived at 10:07 a.m.

Director Barrera made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with requested corrections, and was seconded by Director Downey. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

3-1. November Employee of the Month – Carl Wulf, Facilities/Capital Projects Manager.

Michael Hernandez recognized Carl Wulf, Facilities and Capital Projects Manager, for his excellent work on behalf of MST and the entire community.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Renee Leonard still believes the walking distance between the JAZZ stop at Burger King and Otis at Broadway is too far for most people. She requests that an MST staff member walk this route to understand the hardship it presents to MST riders. The bus signs for Hilby Avenue to the Aquarium are still confusing. She appreciates that Line 94 serves the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, but would like to see weekend service as well. She is very upset about the homeless situation at the Monterey Transit Plaza. She believes it is wrong to provide them with free bus passes while she and others on fixed income must pay. She witnessed a homeless individual with a large bottle of vodka waiting for the bus recently and this activity is causing seniors to leave the transit stations.

Mr. Fink liked the old Lines 9 and 10. He stated that it is difficult now that the stop at Fremont and Elm is no longer available. He is also unhappy that the southbound stop at Canyon Del Rey is no longer available. He feels MST is appealing to visitors at the expense of local residents. He requests that Lines 9 and 10 be reinstated and the JAZZ lines be retooled as an express service. He also is happy that Line 22 is back in service on the weekends, but more service is needed in the evenings.

Alivia Stricklin moved here four years ago and has worked with BART, ACE, and other transit agencies. She congratulated MST for their good service. She likes Line 78 but would like a more frequent schedule during the week. She also noticed that MST makes requests for public input on their buses, and offered to help with surveys and outreach. She asked that the pavement at Monterey Transit Plaza be cleaned early in the morning because it is dirty from the many homeless people sleeping in the area.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

5-1. HR Committee Minutes from October 14, 2013.

6. **CLOSED SESSION**

6-1. Conference with Legal Counsel – Litigation - Existing Litigation, (§54956.9(a)): Monterey County Superior Court Case No. M 122629 Cal Signal Corp. v. County of Monterey et al. (No enclosure) (D. Laredo, C. Sedoryk)

6-2. Conference with Legal Counsel – Litigation – Existing Litigation, (§54956.9(a)): Monterey County Superior Case No. M 124391 Torabbagi
et al, v. Monterey-Salinas Transit District. (No enclosure)  
(D. Laredo, C. Sedoryk)

6-3. Conference with Legal Counsel – Litigation - Existing Litigation,  
(§54956.9(a)): Monterey County Superior Court Case No. M 124539 Ket Lam v. Monterey-Salinas Transit, George Balian. (No enclosure)  
(D. Laredo, C. Sedoryk)


6-5. Conference with Labor Negotiators – Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Local 1225, and MST, (§54957.6). (No enclosure)  (D. Laredo, K. Halcon)

6-6. General Manager Performance Evaluation, Gov. Code (§54957(b))  
(No enclosure)  (K. Halcon)

Director Orozco moved to Closed Session at 10:24 a.m.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

During Closed Session, the Board reviewed Agenda # 6-4 Conference with Property Negotiators, and Agenda # 6-6 General Manager Performance Evaluation. No reportable action was taken on either matter.

7. **MAJOR PROCUREMENTS**

7-1. Purchase Intelligent Voice Response (VPS) System for MST RIDES.

Mr. Sedoryk stated that the software is 100% funded by FTA Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) funds and a local match of State of California toll credits.

**Director Barrera made a motion to approve the purchase of a software upgrade to improve service for MST customers with disabilities and was seconded by Director Edwards. The motion carried unanimously.**

7-2. Award Contract for Workers’ Compensation Contracted Services.

Director Downey requested an explanation of the cost comparison between vendors. Ms. Halcon explained that two vendors offered only “bundled services” plans and MST has experienced significant cost savings by awarding separate contracts to vendors for each specific service provided.

**Director Cohen made a motion to award a three-year contract to Pacific Claims Management to provide Third Party Claims Administration services for**
Worker’s Compensation and separate three-year contracts to Excel Managed Care for utilization review and managed care services; ADM for managed care services; and MCMC LLC for bill review, and authorized staff to extend the contract for up to two additional one-year extensions under the same terms, conditions, and prices provided the suppliers have provided satisfactory service. Director Edwards seconded the motion and stated that he appreciates reviewing contracts every 5 years. The motion carried unanimously.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9-1. Review preliminary design of MST Thomas D. Albert Facility located at One Ryan Ranch Road and approve proposed budget for final design, engineering, environmental, and permitting phase to Board.

Mr. Harvath presented a schematic of a preliminary expansion and rehabilitation design for the Thomas D. Albert Facility at 1 Ryan Ranch Road in Monterey. He stated that the project is designed to meet the two most critical needs of increasing maintenance bays and bus parking. He introduced Rich Weber with Whitson Engineers, a subcontractor of AECOM, who provided more detail.

Director Edwards requested a timetable with specific objectives for the project. Mr. Harvath stated that upon approval of the staff request, a timeline would be provided to the Board at the next Board meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Fink asked if this project will eliminate the need for further construction and the Salinas maintenance facility. He explained that he recently wrote a letter to the Monterey County Herald, the Salinas Californian, and the Monterey County Weekly regarding Measures K and M and the tactics of Land Watch Monterey County. He recently researched the county assessor’s records and found that the oak trees on the parcels that were intended for the Whispering Oaks Facility are only twenty-five years old and the site was formerly a military landfill. To that end, he would like the issue of Whispering Oaks development to be brought back to the Monterey Board of Supervisors for reconsideration.

Mr. Harvath stated that the Salinas facility will still be needed and there may still be other construction in other areas in the future.

Close Public Comment

Director Armenta asked if this design serves the same purpose as the Whispering Oaks Development. Mr. Sedoryk stated that this is Phase I of a decentralized approach.
Director Edwards made a motion to approve the proposed budget for the final design, engineering, environmental, and permitting phase, not to exceed $1,900,000 or approximately 15% of the project’s preliminary cost estimate of $13 million, and was seconded by Director Cohen. The motion carried unanimously.

9-2. Receive update on MST’s military partnerships with the Presidio of Monterey, Naval Postgraduate School, and Fort Hunter Liggett and provide direction.

Mr. Harvath provided an update on military partnerships and the anticipated reduction of the federal transit benefit supporting the project from $240 to $125 beginning January 1, 2014. The $125 benefit will not allow MST to continue to support the Presidio bus lines. The current MOU between MST and the Presidio requires a 90-day notice to terminate the program.

Public Comment

Mr. Fink expressed his appreciation for the military service and asked that staff take all steps possible to avoid elimination of the program.

Close Public Comment

Mr. Sedoryk stated that he has had meetings in Washington, DC, and at the Pentagon over the last year regarding the matter and will travel to DC again in December to meet with Congressman Sam Farr who sits on the Defense Communities Caucus to request his support for continued funding at current levels.

Director Cohen made a motion to approve staff efforts to communicate with and lobby appropriate legislators and agencies for a continued federal transit benefit at current levels and was seconded by Director Downey. The motion carried unanimously.

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. REPORTS & INFORMATION ITEMS


11-4. BRT Budget Status – Project Closeout.

11-5. Staff trip reports.

11-6. Correspondence.
Public Comment – none.

12. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

12-1. Reports on meetings attended by Board Members at MST expense (AB1234).

Director Orozco reported on her attendance at the APTA Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, in September 2013. She was impressed with the new technology presented.

Director Edwards reported on his attendance at the CTA Fall Conference in Anaheim, CA, in October 2013. He commended MST staff for being well-known and influential among their peers. He thanked Mr. Hicks for assisting Mr. Fink with his transportation needs and thanked staff for assisting with the needs of the students at the Salinas Adult School Transitional Center.

Director Beach reported on her attendance at the APTA Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, in September 2013. The learning curve was steep and she was impressed by the members of the larger national community of transit professionals and the importance of integrated transit modes. She learned much that will benefit her as a representative of her community.

12-2. Board Member Comments and Announcements.

Director Armenta stated that he was pleased to hear the experience of new MST Board members and stated that this was why he advocated so strongly that MST continue to budget board member travel to conferences.

Director Downey requested that Ms. Leonard continue to “bug” the Monterey City Counsel about the needs at Monterey Transit Plaza. She requested that Hunter speak with Supervisor Parker about issues regarding the Transitional Homeless Area in Marina.

Director Barrera stated that when he was first appointed to the MST Board, Mr. Sedoryk encouraged him to think regionally as a MST representative. The importance of this recommendation has become more relevant over time. He encourages a speedy resolution to the controversy among Salinas-area taxicab companies and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Fink stood to address the Board regarding the homeless issue. Director Cohen called a Point of Order, asking Chair Orozco if she intended to re-open Public Comment. Mr. Laredo stated that Mr. Fink should address staff or board members after the meeting was adjourned.

12-3. Board Member Referrals for future agendas.
Director Downey requested that a quarterly update on the RTA Board meetings be added to the MST agenda.

13. ATTACHMENTS

14. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Orozco adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Prepared by: Deanna Smith, Deputy Secretary