

1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
2 NARRAGANSETT BAY COMMISSION

3 IN RE:

4 MONTHLY BOARD MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

5 DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2007  
6 TIME: 11:00 A.M.  
7 PLACE: NARRAGANSETT BAY COMMISSION  
8 ONE SERVICE ROAD  
9 PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02905

10 BEFORE: VINCENT MESOLELLA, CHAIRMAN  
11 RAYMOND MARSHALL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
12 JOSEPH DEANGELIS, LEGAL COUNSEL  
13 ROBERT ANDRADE  
14 DR. RICHARD BURROUGHS  
15 PATRICK CAINE  
16 BRUCE CAMPBELL  
17 DAVID CRUISE  
18 MICHAEL DI CHI RO  
19 JOSEPH KIMBALL  
20 JOHN MACQUEEN  
21 AL MONTANARI  
22 ALAN NATHAN  
23 ANGELO ROTELLA  
24 MICHAEL SALVADORE  
25 KRISTIN SULLIVAN  
RICHARD WORRELL

ALSO PRESENT:

17 THOMAS UVA	KATHRYN KELLY
18 DEBORAH SAMSON	JASON GALEGO
19 BRENDON MCLEAN	HAROLD GADON
20 PAUL NORDSTROM	LAURIE HORRIDGE
21 JAMIE SAMONS	STEVE WHITNEY
22 RICH BERNIER	JOE PRATT
23 SHERRI ARNOLD	ANAMARIA CLARKIN
24 FRANCIE BROWN	DIANE BUERGER
25 JENNIFER HARRINGTON	LEAH FOSTER
CECILLE ANTONELLI	JOANNE MACERONI
JOAN DUCKWORTH	LORI VERNON

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1 (COMMENCED AT 11:12 A.M.)

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Good morning, everyone.  
3 Recognizing a quorum, we will call the December 12  
4 meeting of the Narragansett Bay Commission to order at  
5 11:12. Prior to beginning the official meeting, I'd  
6 just like to say a couple of things about the  
7 technology. As I said earlier, if you have any issues  
8 with the computer, just raise your hand, and IT people  
9 are here that will come right over to assist you.  
10 Also, Commissioner Salvatore raised the issue of  
11 whether or not you can take the hardware home, and of  
12 course you can. This is your equipment. I think we  
13 have provided cases, carry cases. They are available,  
14 so if you're intending to take them with you, and I  
15 encourage you to do that and become familiar with it,  
16 familiar with the operations of the programming, and  
17 of course we have a number for you that you can call.  
18 I wouldn't say 24 hours a day, but during business  
19 hours, normal business hours. So IT people can help  
20 you over the telephone, or if you need to come in,  
21 they'll be available for you as well. I think  
22 eventually this is going to become a very efficient  
23 way to operate the Commission. As people get more  
24 accustomed to this, I know it's going to be a process,  
25 but over the next couple of months I think we're going

1 to find that this is greatly going to improve the  
2 efficiency, the operating efficiency of the  
3 Commission. So I encourage you to take the equipment  
4 home to fiddle around with it until you get a sense of  
5 familiarity, and our staff is available to help you  
6 pretty much at any point. Okay? Where are the cases?  
7 Are they available now or how do we -- just talk to  
8 you, Karen, or tell us a little bit about it. How do  
9 we --

10 MS. GIEBINK: You can speak to me.  
11 Also, because we're bureaucrats, we have a form for  
12 you to fill out.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, I'm sorry. I meant  
14 to mention that. Yes. We do have a form that we're  
15 going to ask you to fill out today if you don't  
16 already have it, just acknowledging your receipt of  
17 your hardware, and so then after that, then you get  
18 the case. Is that it?

19 MS. GIEBINK: Yes.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. All right.  
21 Okay. Having said that, we've already called the Item  
22 Number 1, call to order already, and the next order of  
23 business is the approval of the previous minutes of  
24 September 26 in 2007. The September minutes are back  
25 on the agenda because there were some technical,

1 non-substantive, typographical issues, so we just  
2 thought out of an abundance of caution we'd get it  
3 back on the agenda for approval. We also have the  
4 October 24 meeting, which is the regular Commission  
5 meeting of October 24, and since we're filing these  
6 minutes with the Secretary of State's office, and the  
7 Commission retreat was a matter of public record,  
8 we're filing those as well, so they need approval. So  
9 the Chairman will accept a motion to approve the  
10 previous minutes.

11 MR. CAINE: I make a motion --

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion by  
13 Mr. Caine and seconded by Commissioner Montanari and  
14 Commissioner Andrade.

15 MR. ANDRADE: Mr. Chairman?

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have a comment?

17 MR. ANDRADE: Yes. A correction on  
18 the minutes of October 24. On Page 9, a vote was  
19 taken, and I am listed on Line 8 and Line 9 as saying,  
20 I will sustain. It was abstain.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Abstain, correct. Do  
22 we have that correction noted? The correction is so  
23 noted. Are there any other comments, questions, or  
24 corrections with regard to the previous minutes?  
25 Comments, questions, or corrections? Hearing none,

1 all of those that are in favor will say aye.

2 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any opposed?

4 There are none opposed, and the motion carries. The  
5 next order of business is old business. Is there any  
6 old business of any nature to come before the  
7 Commission? Business of any nature? Hearing none, we  
8 are moving right along to Item Number 4, which is the  
9 Executive Director's report. Do you have a report,  
10 Mr. Secretary?

11 MR. MARSHALL: Yes, I do,  
12 Mr. Chairman.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

14 MR. MARSHALL: Okay. The operations  
15 of the two treatment plants have been going well.  
16 Flows continue to be low. Treatment levels are --

17 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. Could you  
18 please speak up a bit. Thank you.

19 MR. MARSHALL: Okay. I said that  
20 operations have been going well at both plants,  
21 especially at Bucklin Point where the numbers are in  
22 the single digits. Flows continue to be low. We have  
23 no permit violations at Field's Point for the month of  
24 October, and what the low flows have required us to do  
25 is to make some operational changes, because it

1 affects the retention times and the amount of time  
2 that the biology has to act on the waste that comes  
3 in. So that's a new process that we're going through.  
4 We're usually dealing with the high flow issues, but  
5 because it's been so dry for the last several months  
6 we have to deal with low flow issues. Sludge removal  
7 has been good. We're removing about 25 dry tons per  
8 day of solids from Field's Point. We had a slight  
9 problem with the odor control unit on our gravity  
10 thickeners. That has been straightened out. Our  
11 electricity usage at Field's Point is back up a little  
12 bit compared to last year for the month of October,  
13 but you have to look at the underlying factor. Last  
14 year we had a few aeration tanks offline because we  
15 were doing maintenance, so because we had less tanks  
16 online we had fewer blowers in operation and therefore  
17 used less electricity, and so whenever you look at  
18 historical numbers we have to look at the underlying  
19 issues as to why they might be different. I mentioned  
20 that Bucklin Point is achieving single digit numbers,  
21 which is great. We're down to seven dry tons per day  
22 of solids from Bucklin Point. That's shown on Page 4,  
23 top of Page 4. Our engineering staff working with CDM  
24 has conducted the evaluation of the biological  
25 nutrient removal system at Bucklin Point. As you

1 know, it was designed for eight milligrams per liter  
2 or parts per million, same thing, and what DEM now  
3 wants us to do is to go to five parts per million, and  
4 the study has shown that the current system, while it  
5 is less than eight, achieving less than eight which  
6 it's designed to do, we can't get close enough to five  
7 that will satisfy DEM. So as we've mentioned in the  
8 past, we probably will have another construction  
9 contract in the next few years to get down to even  
10 lower limits that DEM has demanded that we do.

11 MR. CAINE: What is it getting down  
12 to?

13 MR. MARSHALL: Depends. Some days we  
14 are in the five, five and a half range.

15 MR. CAINE: Five and a half?

16 MR. MARSHALL: Most of the time we're  
17 around six and a half to seven and a half.

18 MR. CAINE: So we're still a lot  
19 higher than they're looking for?

20 MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

21 MR. WORRELL: Do you have any estimate  
22 or preliminary or shorthand as to costs to bring it  
23 under five?

24 MR. MARSHALL: We're carrying \$20  
25 million in the CIP, the capital improvement plan that

1 we publish every year. We have that project on the  
2 books. We've been carrying it just in case we ended  
3 up with this situation, and so that's our current  
4 estimate. It will require more tankage and more  
5 equipment, pumps and things of that nature in order to  
6 achieve those last few parts per million that they  
7 want us to get down to.

8 MR. WORRELL: This is just Bucklin,  
9 not Bucklin and Field's Point?

10 MR. MARSHALL: Right. That's just  
11 Bucklin. Field's Point, the design we're doing right  
12 now is for five parts per million. We're going right  
13 to five. We never had the interim step, because we  
14 weren't in a position to do any -- we didn't need to  
15 do any construction over there for the last ten or  
16 15 years, and whereas at Bucklin Point we did, so  
17 that's the reason why we took the intermediate steps,  
18 because originally they wanted us to just remove  
19 ammonia at Bucklin Point, and in the middle of the  
20 design we found it was cost effective to go down to  
21 eight parts per million, and they were very happy with  
22 that, they meaning DEM, and then partway through the  
23 construction they decided that they weren't happy with  
24 eight, that they wanted us to do it in five, so it's  
25 somewhat of a moving target is the way it's been.

1                   MR. WORRELL: And that was subject --  
2                   that was -- the five was the resolution of some sort  
3                   of arbitration with DEM and --

4                   MR. MARSHALL: It was the subject of  
5                   negotiation with DEM, yes. We negotiated a consent  
6                   agreement with them, yes. We signed that in June of  
7                   '06, if I remember correctly.

8                   MR. CAMPBELL: Are not there some  
9                   research efforts going on to try to establish whether  
10                  five means anything or not?

11                  MR. MARSHALL: Yes. There are a  
12                  number of research projects going on. At URI, several  
13                  of the professors down there are researching the  
14                  matter. I believe that what they're finding is that  
15                  there is evidence on both sides of the argument. The  
16                  work that we've been doing in EMDA with all the  
17                  sampling has indicated that there are issues that need  
18                  to be addressed other than our discharges such as the  
19                  loads that are coming in from other locations  
20                  throughout the drainage basin, and depending on your  
21                  point of view going in, I guess you could make an  
22                  argument for either five -- either going to five or  
23                  not going to five, but seeing as DEM is the one that  
24                  makes -- is the final decision maker in the issue, I  
25                  guess their preference is what we're going with or

1           what we're going to have to go with. Do you want to  
2           add anything to that, Tom?

3                           MR. UVA: No. Only that we've agreed  
4           to go to five. We're taking the steps to go to five.  
5           To go to three would reduce our loading to the bay by  
6           about 1,000 pounds a day of total nitrogen, which  
7           would really have no effect on improvements on water  
8           quality in the bay. Our study has showed that there's  
9           35, 40,000 pounds a day of nitrogen that goes into the  
10          bay. Narragansett Bay Estuary newsletter that was  
11          issued just this week indicated that water quality was  
12          excellent in the bay this summer. The dissolved  
13          oxygen levels are very good except in Greenwich Bay  
14          and in the Seekonk River. While we haven't reduced  
15          our nitrogen loading significantly yet, they tied  
16          problems in with fresh water inputs into Narragansett  
17          Bay. So we know that fresh water inputs and weather  
18          are major contributors for dissolved oxygen levels in  
19          Narragansett Bay. So we'll have to determine down the  
20          road how going to three will improve things before we  
21          go that route, but we are working to go to five. We  
22          will have some improvement, but you'll still have  
23          dissolved -- the low dissolved oxygen fish kills in  
24          the bay.

25                           MR. CHAIRMAN: Since we're talking

1 about the issue, we might as well also start to talk  
2 about the financial impact of getting down to five,  
3 and we had a brief discussion about that this morning,  
4 but I think we're talking in the \$20 to \$25 million  
5 range to get consistently down to five.

6 MR. CAMPBELL: At Field's Point or  
7 both?

8 MR. MARSHALL: At each.

9 MR. CAMPBELL: \$25 million at each?

10 MR. MARSHALL: Actually, Bucklin Point  
11 is around \$20 million, and I think the most current  
12 estimate -- Tom isn't here today, but the most current  
13 estimate for Field's Point might be approaching \$40  
14 million, Paul? And that's for five. If they want us  
15 to go down to three, that's another \$70 or \$80  
16 million.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: So we're talking about  
18 this today and trying to apprise you of, you know,  
19 what we know. I mean, just to get down to five  
20 consistently is going to be, you know --

21 MR. CAMPBELL: Over 60?

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: -- quite a significant  
23 financial impact, and at three, well, you know what  
24 we're talking about, so -- Commissioner Nathan?

25 MR. NATHAN: Tom, do I understand

1 right that DEM in Rhode Island versus DEM in  
2 Massachusetts is different? And in Massachusetts the  
3 federal takes over whereas it doesn't necessarily in  
4 Rhode Island?

5 MR. UVA: That's correct.

6 MR. NATHAN: It's the federal that has  
7 to go after Worcester, which is much more of a problem  
8 than we are, if you will, or it looks like it is.

9 MR. UVA: The Worcester plant is about  
10 the same size as ours, and they have about the same  
11 nitrogen loading as ours. Very similar situation to  
12 the Bucklin Point facility. They were designing to  
13 treat down to a level of eight milligrams per liter  
14 total nitrogen. The EPA recently issued them a permit  
15 with a total nitrogen limit of five, so they are  
16 contesting it, and we expect that that's going to be a  
17 long legal battle, and they are not giving in to  
18 signing a consent agreement to five like we did.

19 MR. WORRELL: Do you know what they  
20 are right now, what their discharge right now is?

21 MR. UVA: I would say probably in the  
22 13 to 16 parts per million range.

23 MR. WORRELL: That's huge, isn't it?

24 MR. UVA: What we are finding, we have  
25 been monitoring all of the borders of the rivers

1 coming from Massachusetts, and we're finding that it's  
2 rainfall that is a major problem of nitrogen loading  
3 into the bay. So it's not just treatment plants. We  
4 have to educate the authorities, the regulatory  
5 agencies that they have to address these other issues,  
6 land use planning, fertilizers in the watersheds,  
7 septic systems that are overflowing. So there's many  
8 other issues. It's not just sewerage treatment  
9 plants. The sewerage treatment plants are the low  
10 hanging fruit. We're the easy targets, and this is  
11 why they look for big gains at treatment plants first,  
12 but there are other sources that have to be addressed.

13 MR. MARSHALL: Okay? Continuing on,  
14 on Page 4, Bucklin Point, the maintenance crew has  
15 done the equipment condition assessment report for the  
16 year. They have put that together for us. Our  
17 interceptor maintenance crew reports that there were  
18 two overflow events in the month, and both of these  
19 locations are telemetered, so we actually received a  
20 signal from the meters that said there is a problem,  
21 you need to go out and check it. Our crews responded,  
22 found a partial blockage in one case, and in the other  
23 case it was a situation where the Pawtucket Water  
24 Board was flushing their hydrants out, so they were  
25 flooding the streets with water, you know, to get the

1 sediment out of the water pipes. That is a fairly  
2 common practice throughout the country, and the water  
3 goes into the storm drains which goes into our sewer  
4 which hydraulically caused the sewer to fill up and  
5 then we had an overflow, so our interceptor  
6 maintenance manager has met with the City of Pawtucket  
7 to try to work on a better process for that activity  
8 so that we don't continue to have those types of  
9 situations. On Page 6, septage receiving station,  
10 over 300 truckloads of septage came in, about  
11 850,000 gallons, so you can see that that's been  
12 active and is a needed component of our -- of the  
13 service that we provide to the area. In terms of  
14 interceptors, at the top of Page 8, cleaning and  
15 televising, inspecting, we did an additional three and  
16 a half miles for the month. Also as you drove in here  
17 today, you take the little cut-through road that's  
18 lined on both sides by the Jersey barriers. There is  
19 a steel shed maintenance building that IM is moving  
20 into. It was constructed for the tunnel project, and  
21 when the contractor left, he asked, do you want me to  
22 take it down, or do you just want to assume ownership  
23 and occupancy of it, and we chose the latter and --  
24 because we're always looking for additional storage  
25 for various types of equipment, and that's working out

1 real well. We're rehabilitating it to make it more to  
2 our use or liking than what they had it for. On  
3 Page 8 in the engineering section, the Field's Point  
4 nutrient removal project is moving along. We were  
5 just talking about that. We're working on the  
6 preliminary design. We've done some field work, some  
7 test fits so that we can locate tanks and pumps and  
8 piping, trying to avoid what's already there. It's a  
9 pretty busy site as it is. So they have been working  
10 on that project actively. On the next page, Page 9,  
11 the tunnel pump station, we're doing very well on that  
12 project working inside the pump station, HVAC,  
13 electrical, and we're also working on the inflow and  
14 outflow strategies for the tunnel, because it sounds  
15 simple to say the tunnel will fill and then we'll  
16 empty it out, but there's all kinds of variations on  
17 that theme. How much rain we get, how fast the rain  
18 comes down, how close to the last rain storm an event  
19 occurred, when is the next event going to occur. So  
20 we're trying to work out all the different variations  
21 in terms of filling and emptying the tunnel to make  
22 sure we maximize its effectiveness, and we're going to  
23 be meeting with DEM in the next month or two. Paul  
24 Nordstrom has contacted them to talk about what their  
25 concept is of how we should operate it, but suffice it

1 to say, it's not as simple as it sounds. Phase 2 of  
2 the CSO, we are working on the design of that project  
3 also, the mapping and surveying is continuing. We're  
4 doing modeling runs to size the pipes which will be  
5 two large interceptors, one along the Woonasquatucket,  
6 one along the Seekonk Rivers, trying to locate drop  
7 shafts and screening structures and trying to  
8 determine a little better what the routing will be of  
9 that, of those pipes. And also a part of Phase 2, we  
10 have the sewer separation project which is in the  
11 northern part of Providence, basically up around  
12 Miriam Hospital on either side of the hill that Miriam  
13 sits on, and we're working on the mapping and also  
14 doing modeling runs up there to determine pipe sizes.  
15 Other design work that's being done, we did some smoke  
16 testing to try to find infiltration inflow in our  
17 system in North Providence and the northern part of  
18 Providence. We found a few sources of storm water  
19 that would be coming in that we now need to figure out  
20 a way to address and get out of our system, so we'll  
21 actively pursue that. We have an item for your  
22 consideration in a few minutes that has to do with the  
23 India Street screening project. We need to take some  
24 easements. We're going to swap some land with the  
25 DOT, and we're also working on the design of a new

1           interceptor from the North Providence line off Old  
2           Louississet Pike towards Twin River and beyond so  
3           that we can service future growth in the Town of  
4           Lincoln. We're trying to size that pipe right.  
5           Construction, on Page 11, the project that you  
6           approved a month or two ago for J.J. Cardosi to  
7           renovate the Bucklin Point operations building is now  
8           under way. We have MBE, EEO, and appropriate bonds  
9           all in place, and so they'll be mobilizing out there  
10          to begin the work. The companion project to that,  
11          which would be improvements to the sites here at  
12          Field's Point having to do with buildings and  
13          relocating some of the operations that we've been  
14          working on for years, we're working or looking at  
15          alternative designs and site layouts. We might have  
16          something more for you on that in the coming months.  
17          On Page 12, you'll note the regulator modification  
18          contract which is the last CSO Phase 1 project that  
19          was bid. That is going well, and it is about  
20          60 percent complete. The last two locations which are  
21          in the Market Square, RISD area are being worked on.  
22          We had to wait until after the Waterfire season was  
23          over in order to tackle those so we didn't disrupt  
24          that activity. I mentioned earlier that the tunnel  
25          pump station is going along well. It is 66 percent

1 complete and on schedule. That is at the top of  
2 Page 13. Other projects under construction are Grotto  
3 Brook, which is at the bottom of the hill from Butler  
4 in the East Side up on River Road. They're starting  
5 to cross the wetlands there and will be working  
6 closely with the Army Corps, Coastal Resources, and  
7 people from EPA. And they have begun jacking on  
8 Burrington Street under the Amtracks, Amtrack tracks.  
9 The work began the other night. They're going 24/7 on  
10 that. Now that they have started that, they, you  
11 know, they don't want to stop. So that should last  
12 for several days. Last I knew we had around 50 feet  
13 in, and things seem to be going well on getting them  
14 down in the back, so that's good news. The Washington  
15 Highway Omega Pond pump station contract is rapidly  
16 coming to a close. That's 90 percent complete.  
17 They're working on checking out all the various  
18 equipment, making sure that it operates as it was  
19 designed, and we have started up at Omega Pond a few  
20 of the new pumping systems that we installed there.  
21 We do have two claims on the job which approach  
22 \$325,000, and that's all we really have pending on  
23 that job. It was a \$5 million project bid, so  
24 that's -- we're adhering to our usual track record of  
25 staying somewhere in the five percent range with

1 change orders by the time the projects are completed.  
2 On the financial, Karen gave a report earlier. We're  
3 33 percent through the year when you consider the end  
4 of October. We've spent about 30 percent of the  
5 funds. Personnel, we're holding steady. We have a  
6 number of positions that we're advertising for now,  
7 and we've had a few people leave, so again, a lot of  
8 it is replacement because of retirements and we have a  
9 few other people that will be retiring just after the  
10 first of the year. Policy, planning, and regulation,  
11 we're in good compliance with the treatment plants.  
12 We did have one issue with DEM on this site. This is  
13 a brownfield site that we're located on, and part of  
14 what they want us to do is to make sure that the site  
15 stays sealed, so when they see a crack occur in the  
16 parking lot, which as you know all parking lots crack,  
17 they want to us fill them. They happened to show up  
18 and do an inspection before we had had a chance to  
19 seal a couple of cracks in the parking lot, and that's  
20 what that's all about. So they wrote us up on that,  
21 but we've addressed it, and I believe we're all set  
22 now. Staff attended some water quality workshops.  
23 One of the members asked about some of the research  
24 that's being done out there on the receiving waters,  
25 and we attended two workshops. Those are noted in --

1 on Page 15. We also provided some training to New  
2 Hampshire DEM officials on our grease control program.  
3 Apparently they want to institute a program like that  
4 in their state, and they wanted to see what was  
5 involved and just how complicated it was to implement  
6 and then monitor. We've done a number of indoor air  
7 quality sampling activities, both in the lab and I  
8 believe in customer service or up in this building,  
9 and you know, trying to make sure there is no mold  
10 present, and everything was good. It came out clean.  
11 We're also providing hearing tests to our employees  
12 who are subject to high decibel locations. So we  
13 completed those. We've worked with the local  
14 emergency planning council to make sure that we're in  
15 sync with them in case we need to respond to any  
16 unusual activities. On Page 18, the pretreatment  
17 group has been very busy doing 124 inspections,  
18 reviewing 41 plans, and approving I believe on  
19 Page 20 30 total permits. So they've been active.  
20 Our storm water mitigation efforts, which we applied  
21 for an award on, we'll see what happens in the next  
22 couple of months. On Page 21, we removed another  
23 118,000 gallons of storm water from our system, and  
24 the totals to date are 3.7 million for a three-month  
25 storm, and if you look at a 25-year storm, we are now

1       avoiding 14 million gallons of inflow that used to  
2       come into the system during storms that we no longer  
3       have come into our piping system, and when you  
4       consider that the tunnel holds 65 million or so, you  
5       can begin to see that just by a slow but steady effort  
6       to remove storm water wherever we can, in addition to  
7       all the large projects that you hear about, we're  
8       maximizing the effectiveness of the tunnel. We're  
9       enhancing the effectiveness of the tunnel. So this is  
10      a multi-prong approach and not just a one, very large  
11      project, let's hope that take cares of the problem  
12      type of issue. Monitoring and sampling, on Page 22,  
13      you'll see that they took nearly 2,200 samples which  
14      included water quality sampling, treatment plant  
15      sampling, and nutrient sampling out in the bay and  
16      receiving waters as Tom mentioned earlier. You -- he  
17      gave you an idea of what our loadings are compared to  
18      others. Overall we're about a third of the load that  
19      goes into the receiving waters. So there's much more  
20      out there that needs to be attended to that we have no  
21      control over. Our laboratory, on Page 24, went  
22      through their EPA annual proficiency testing and  
23      received 100 percent compliance with all analyses.  
24      That's quite an accomplishment. We're very proud of  
25      them for that, and then you can see on the next page,

1 25, just how many analyses they do on a monthly basis.  
2 8,800 for October, for nearly 81,000 for 2007 through  
3 the end of October. So when you do that many samples  
4 and you can achieve 100 percent compliance on a random  
5 test, that's something that our lab people should be  
6 very proud of. Moving along to Page 28 in public  
7 relations, I think at the last meeting we reported  
8 that we had 100 employees at the 25th anniversary  
9 Field's Point location. October 20 we went over to  
10 Bucklin's Point. We invited the public, had over 200  
11 people there. It's been 15 years since we took that  
12 over, 35 years since the Clean Water Act passed, so we  
13 had our employees take part overall, and we had them  
14 walk, and for every mile they walked on their breaks  
15 and their lunch hours we as employees contributed \$1  
16 from our casual fund. So we donated \$470 to Water For  
17 People, which is a non-profit organization that  
18 supplies wells and drinking water to underdeveloped  
19 countries. So our employees I think really have a  
20 chance to show that not only do they get their  
21 paychecks here every day but they're also concerned  
22 with, you know, the larger issue of clean water.  
23 Watershed Explorers program that Cynthia runs in  
24 October reached out to 700 students in 11 area  
25 schools. We took them out of their classroom and into

1 their local environments so that they could do some  
2 hand-on water quality testing, and I think Jamie has  
3 one or two other things that she'd like to bring to  
4 your attention that have to do with the public  
5 relations activities.

6 MS. SAMONS: I do. Do I get to sit at  
7 the table?

8 MR. MARSHALL: Sure.

9 MS. SAMONS: So I just wanted to  
10 update you on a few things that are going on in public  
11 affairs, and because this is the season of joy, these  
12 are all really exciting and good things. The first is  
13 that the Agency has won a national management award  
14 from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies,  
15 and this is an excellence in management award. I  
16 think there are only a dozen agencies or so that won  
17 this year, so we're really happy about that, and I get  
18 to tell the story because I filled out the  
19 application, but really everyone else did the work  
20 that let us get that award. As Ray told you,  
21 Cynthia's Watershed Explorers program is going strong,  
22 and it is probably -- she's not here, so I can brag on  
23 her, but it is probably the most well developed water  
24 quality curriculum program going on anywhere, and she  
25 has monthly activities that she does in every

1 classroom twice a year. They get out on their local  
2 water bodies, take ownership of that water body, and  
3 learn about all the different parameters of water  
4 quality. She's stretched really thin. I almost never  
5 see her anymore because she's always out doing work,  
6 but just one of the very gratifying results of things  
7 like that is that, you know, sometimes two or three  
8 years later we run into the same kids who were in her  
9 programs at elementary schools, we run into them at  
10 the science fair when they're now in junior high  
11 school, and as a matter of fact last year our junior  
12 high school project winners were three girls who had  
13 been in Cynthia's program as fourth graders, and she  
14 had inspired them so much that they went on and did  
15 this award winning project. So we'd really like to  
16 think that the seeds that we're planting are taking  
17 root and doing well, and you know, so far everything,  
18 the feedback that we get on that is certainly bearing  
19 that out. So you know, ultimately I think we'd love  
20 to expand that program, but she's only got so many  
21 hours in a day that she can be awake, so -- the  
22 other -- another very exciting thing is going on over  
23 at Bucklin Point. We have -- Bucklin Point is an  
24 amazing facility. If you all have haven't been out  
25 there for a tour, I entirely recommend it, but we've

1 aggressively marketed Bucklin Point to local schools  
2 for about the past six or nine months, and I'm happy  
3 to say that this fall we've had over 1,400 school  
4 visitors come to Bucklin Point for tours. It's really  
5 great. Tomorrow we've got 105 students coming from  
6 outside of our district. I mean, we've done marketing  
7 primarily in our district, but what we're seeing is  
8 that we're getting visitors even from outside the  
9 district because of word of mouth and because it's a  
10 very cool program. So we're really happy about that.  
11 You are going to receive today your 2008 calendars  
12 which just came off the press today. They're  
13 gorgeous. They feature not only the winning artwork  
14 from our poster contest this year but the artwork of  
15 our own Rafael Cuello. These things have become  
16 collectors' items, yes. The lovely Vanna.

17 MS. MACERONI: Thank you. Thank you.

18 MS. SAMONS: And the last thing that  
19 I'd like to bring up is that we have a rain barrel  
20 distribution event scheduled for April 27. Rain  
21 barrels are barrels that you can attach to the  
22 downspout on your house, and when it rains, that water  
23 from your roof goes into this barrel. The barrel has  
24 an overflow prevention valve on it. It also has a  
25 screen so that bugs can't breed in there, and then it

1 also has a spigot that you can attach to your garden  
2 hose and then use that water that you capture to water  
3 your plants or your lawn or anything like that. Some  
4 people say you can wash your car with it. I don't  
5 know. But I guess it depends on how clean your roof  
6 is. But it's sort of a good environmental effort to  
7 support water conservation, number one, because you're  
8 not using drinking water to water your lawn, and also  
9 just to bring more awareness to urban storm water  
10 issues. So every, you know, every 55-gallon barrel of  
11 rain water that you collect is 55 gallons that is not  
12 going into the sewer, and therefore there's more  
13 capacity in the sewer pipes for us to actually treat  
14 sanitary sewage. So we've hooked up with the New  
15 England Rain Barrel Company, and they are giving us a  
16 break on the cost of rain barrels. They retail for  
17 \$89, but anyone who buys one at the Narragansett Bay  
18 Commission event will get it for \$68, and we're  
19 looking for ways to reduce that cost even a little bit  
20 more, and the initial interest on this has been  
21 fantastic. We did a demo at our community day at  
22 Bucklin Point in October, and then we sent out a  
23 little message with our billing in the last billing,  
24 and already we've got over 200 people who are  
25 interested in getting more and more of these barrels.

1 So if any of you would like a barrel, let me know. We  
2 can arrange that. And that's about all I have to say,  
3 but of course I'm always willing to, you know,  
4 entertain any of your questions or give any more  
5 information about what's going on in PR.

6 MR. NATHAN: Is the press at all  
7 interested in the fact that over time we've been able  
8 to not have that joint runoff into the sewers from  
9 rain by redesigning as we've been upgrading areas  
10 where you said we were saving 120 million gallons on a  
11 three-month rain? Does the public know anything about  
12 that?

13 MS. SAMONS: Short answer, no.  
14 They're not interested at all.

15 MR. MARSHALL: I was going to be a  
16 little more diplomatic.

17 MS. SAMONS: Long answer, you know, we  
18 might be able to buy some of their interest if we were  
19 willing to advertise that fact, so --

20 MR. MARSHALL: We think that there is  
21 an opportunity, Commissioner, in the next several  
22 months as the startup of the tunnel project starts to  
23 become imminent that we can bring all these facts out,  
24 and we will have published materials for the press to,  
25 you know, to --

1 MS. SAMONS: Yes. I should have  
2 mentioned that. We are starting to work right now on  
3 the communications plan for the start-up of the  
4 tunnel, and of course all of that typed -- all of  
5 those types of information will be included, but I  
6 mean, frankly the tunnel is going to be the big sexy  
7 issue here.

8 MR. NATHAN: As much as it can be.

9 MS. SAMONS: As much as it can be.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Burroughs?

11 DR. BURROUGHS: There is another route  
12 to getting to the press, and that is it would seem to  
13 me that the environmental groups in the state might be  
14 very eager to indicate that these changes have  
15 occurred. They might also be a constituency.

16 MS. SAMONS: That's an excellent  
17 point. We've already had some preliminary discussions  
18 with Save the Bay about coordinating our communication  
19 effort with theirs.

20 DR. BURROUGHS: On some issues we're  
21 probably closer together than you might think.

22 MS. SAMONS: Right. And this is one  
23 of them.

24 MR. WORRELL: How much rain, besides  
25 the obvious 55-gallon answer, in other words,

1 55-gallon drum, will that take care of a downspout on  
2 a medium sized house for a period of a month, two  
3 months, three months?

4 MS. SAMONS: The barrels fill up very  
5 quickly.

6 MR. WORRELL: Then what do you do?

7 MS. SAMONS: The rule of thumb is that  
8 for a thousand square foot roof, a quarter of an inch  
9 of rain will fill up one barrel. You can attach  
10 multiple barrels to different downspouts. You can  
11 even chain several barrels together.

12 MR. WORRELL: You can?

13 MS. SAMONS: Yes.

14 MR. WORRELL: Which would make a lot  
15 of sense.

16 MS. SAMONS: Sure. If you're willing  
17 to use that water, that is -- it makes a lot of sense.

18 MR. WORRELL: Do they supply pumps if  
19 you wanted to --

20 MS. SAMONS: You can purchase for like  
21 five bucks the connector pipes that connect one barrel  
22 to the other, and you know, if you were mechanically  
23 inclined, I'm sure you can do any number of things to  
24 it.

25 MR. WORRELL: How do you water your

1           lawn with it? Do you throw a pump in there and attach  
2           it to --

3                           MS. SAMONS: The spigot that attaches  
4           to your garden hose is at the bottom of the barrel, so  
5           the downward force of the water in the barrel --

6                           MR. ROTELLA: Gravity feed.

7                           MS. SAMONS: -- forces it out with a  
8           garden hose. But if you wanted to achieve like Super  
9           Soaker force, you could probably attach a pump or  
10          something.

11                          MR. MARSHALL: There might be some way  
12          to put a sump pump in one of the barrels or some  
13          other, so that you get the pressure you need.  
14          Anything else of Jamie? Anything else? Jamie, thank  
15          you.

16                          MS. SAMONS: Well, thanks for letting  
17          me chat with you.

18                          MR. WORRELL: Thank you.

19                          MR. MARSHALL: To wrap up my report,  
20          the paperless board training, we see that as a  
21          continuing activity. Hopefully what you have in front  
22          of you today helps a little bit. Again, there are  
23          three IT people in the room that if you need help just  
24          let them know. If you need the type size increased  
25          like I did, it's not that hard if they tell you how to

1 do it. We also have some forms for you to fill out.  
2 If you want additional training, you can arrange to  
3 come in individually or if you'd rather have a group  
4 session, we can do that, too. Let us know what days  
5 and times you're available, and we'll get in touch  
6 with you and make that happen. We hope that by the  
7 end of this Commission year if you will, that is, by  
8 June, that we can be almost -- almost exclusively  
9 online. We'll still produce paper if you need it.  
10 Don't worry about that, but we would like to have as  
11 little paper and as few trees being killed as  
12 possible, and hopefully by June we can all be at  
13 maximum comfort with this approach. And other than  
14 that, the 2008 Board meeting dates are in your  
15 package. There are nine months that we'll meet. No  
16 meeting in February, July, and August. That's very  
17 typical of what we do every year unless we need a  
18 special or emergency meeting at those times. And the  
19 last thing I want to bring to your attention is last  
20 month you approved freezing the deputy director's  
21 position and creating a director of executive affairs  
22 to help me run the agency, and that person has been  
23 selected based upon the interview process, and it's  
24 Laurie Horridge Bissonette. Laurie, want to stand up,  
25 make sure everyone knows who you are.

1 (APPLAUSE)

2 MR. MARSHALL: Laurie has already been  
3 a big help. I'm in the delegating mode at the present  
4 time. It's been great, let me tell you. Right,  
5 Laurie?

6 MS. HORRIDGE BISSONETTE: Uh-huh.  
7 Great.

8 MR. MARSHALL: And that's it,  
9 Mr. Chairman.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Are there  
11 any questions for the executive director with regard  
12 to his report? Questions on the executive director's  
13 report? Hearing none, next item, Number 5, are  
14 committee reports and action items resulting. We had  
15 the finance committee reporting today.

16 MR. ANDRADE: No report, Mr. Chairman.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: No report. The next  
18 committee reporting is construction, engineering, and  
19 operations committee. Commissioner Salvadore, do you  
20 have a report for us today?

21 MR. SALVADORE: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Chairman. The CEO committee met earlier this  
23 morning. We have one action item for the  
24 Commissioners today, and that is review and approval  
25 of Resolution 2007: 31, authorization to acquire

1 property and temporary construction easement from the  
2 Rhode Island Department of Transportation for the  
3 construction of Project 304:17, the India Street  
4 siphon house inlet chamber, and we recommend approval,  
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We have a  
7 motion to approve Resolution 2007:31. Do we have a  
8 second? We have a second, Mr. Montanari, Commissioner  
9 Caine, Commissioner Worrell. Basically, it's a very  
10 simple matter. We're exchanging a small piece of  
11 property with the Department of Transportation  
12 relative to our India Street siphon house inlet  
13 project. We have a motion and we have a second. Are  
14 there any questions from any of the Commissioners with  
15 regard to this matter? There is no financial impact.  
16 I think the Department of Transportation is charging  
17 us one dollar in consideration of this transfer of  
18 real property.

19 MR. SALVADORE: One dollar.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion. We  
21 have a second. Are there questions?

22 MR. ROTELLA: Is there a bond for  
23 that?

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Karen? No bond's  
25 necessary? All those that are in favor will say aye.

1 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any opposed?  
3 There are none opposed, and the motion carries. Is  
4 there a further report, Mr. Salvadore?

5 MR. SALVADORE: That concludes our  
6 report for 12, December.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: That concludes the  
8 report of the CEO. Moving right along, next committee  
9 reporting is personnel committee?

10 MR. CAMPBELL: No report.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: No report. Legislative  
12 committee? I don't think there's any report. Joanne,  
13 do you have anything to report?

14 MS. MACERONI: No report.

15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any legislative action  
16 that the Board needs to be aware of?

17 MS. MACERONI: Not yet, sir.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Next  
19 committee, rules and regulations.

20 MR. MARSHALL: No report.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: No report. Long-range  
22 planning and financing -- I'm sorry. Long-range  
23 planning?

24 MR. CRUISE: No report.

25 MR. CHAIRMAN: No report. Citizens

1 advisory committee. Do you have any report for us?

2 MR. GADON: I have a report,  
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

5 MR. GADON: The CAC met on December 5  
6 with a quorum present. I'm pleased to report that  
7 George Redman was part of the quorum having recovered  
8 from serious health problems. Howard Schacter  
9 presented a very interesting presentation on an  
10 environmentally efficient building made from expanded  
11 polystyrene, which is on display which included rain  
12 barrels at his business property in East Providence.  
13 Curt Spaulding of Save the Bay intends to attend  
14 meetings whenever possible. Robert Ballou, assistant  
15 to Director Sullivan of DEM, agreed to have another  
16 DEM member attend our meetings to replace the retired  
17 Warren Towne. Since the departure of a few of our CA  
18 members, we would welcome recommendations any of you  
19 may have by notifying Jamie or myself to contact them.  
20 We did review some fine articles in the Narragansett  
21 Bay Journal this past month, especially those  
22 pertaining to storm water runoff. We in the CAC have  
23 been receiving our communications and minutes by  
24 E-mails for the past couple of years, and that works  
25 great. Of course, we don't have a 40-page report like

1           you people do, and we expect to soon set up our  
2           meeting schedule for the 2008 year, and the CA wishes  
3           all a happy holiday season to each of you. Thank you.

4                         MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Harold. The  
5           executive committee, there was no executive committee  
6           meeting. There was also no meeting of the ad hoc  
7           compensation committee or the internal ethics  
8           committee. I don't -- there was no meeting of the ad  
9           hoc paperless board committee, but we did talk today a  
10          little bit about our IT program. I think you have all  
11          the information that you need at the time. The next  
12          report is the chairman's report. I have a very, very  
13          brief report. Basically I would like to extend my  
14          congratulations to the administration and finance  
15          department. If you don't already know, you were  
16          notified on November the 30th that we are again a  
17          recipient of Government Finance Officers' Association  
18          award for financial reporting. There is -- there will  
19          be a presentation, a photo opportunity when the award  
20          actually physically arrives here, but I would like to  
21          take this opportunity to thank Karen, the  
22          administration and finance, and again, as we said --

23                                 (APPLAUSE)

24                         MR. CHAIRMAN: It's an achievement to  
25          receive this award even once, and this makes how many

1 times, Karen?

2 MS. GIEBINK: Is it for the budget or  
3 for the plants reports?

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: It says here, it's --  
5 we are pleased to notify that the Government Finance  
6 Officers' Association has awarded the highest  
7 recognition for government budgeting and reporting.

8 MR. MARSHALL: It's the budget  
9 presentation award.

10 MS. GIEBINK: Okay. That's the fifth  
11 year I believe.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: You were aware of this,  
13 were you not?

14 MS. GIEBINK: Yes. I just thought for  
15 a minute maybe it was the financial report as opposed  
16 to budget, but hopefully we'll get that one, too.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, congratulations.  
18 One other item to talk about. We have a memo from Tom  
19 Uva, our director of planning and policy and  
20 regulation. It's with regard to a request from Save  
21 the Bay for a \$5,000 grant funding for one of their  
22 programs, which is a storm drain marketing program.  
23 They're soliciting \$5,000 from the Narragansett Bay  
24 Commission with regard to promoting -- it's a signage  
25 program, and they refer to it as storm drain marketing

1 program; is that right, Tom?

2 MR. UVA: Marking. They would mark  
3 the storm drains, don't pollute, don't put things down  
4 these drains, they go to the river, to the bay.

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: Do we have a copy of  
6 this letter for the Board? We're going to float it in  
7 a minute, but basically, I mean, I think we should be  
8 inclined to consider this. It does go along with some  
9 of the things we talked about today, which is, you  
10 know, storm drainage, except that I guess their intent  
11 is to put out some kind of sign marking program for  
12 storm drains, and I think that it's appropriate that  
13 if we're going to commit any funds to this -- it's  
14 entirely up to the Board -- to this program that the  
15 Narragansett Bay Commission be recognized graphically,  
16 and I would like to ask a couple of the Commissioners  
17 to work with Save the Bay. I'm going to ask  
18 Commissioner Thompson, who has some experience in this  
19 kind of -- in this business of public relations and  
20 advertising and signage, and I was going to ask  
21 Commissioner Nathan, and Commissioner Worrell, if  
22 you're interested as well. I know you have some kind  
23 of relationship with Save the Bay. So we would like  
24 to notify them if the Board is inclined that we might  
25 be willing to participate in this program, and

1 provided we have adequate input through our own  
2 Commissioners, and so if you are inclined to do that,  
3 I'd like to proceed with it through -- who would this  
4 go through, Tom?

5 MR. MARSHALL: Yes, Tom.

6 MR. CHAIRMAN: Through Tom. Maybe  
7 coordinate something.

8 MR. CAMPBELL: I will move that the  
9 Bay Commission participate with Save the Bay in this  
10 program.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion from  
12 Commissioner Campbell with regard to the storm drain  
13 marking program, seconded by Commissioner Nathan.  
14 Discussion on this matter?

15 MR. SALVADORE: Is this going to  
16 interfere with anything that we're doing, and will we  
17 be recognized on this signage?

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, that's the point  
19 that I was trying to make. We need to make sure that  
20 we're appropriately recognized for providing the funds  
21 necessary graphically on this signage program. I'd  
22 like to have our Commissioners involved to make sure  
23 that -- ensure that we get the recognition that I  
24 think that this Commission rightfully deserves in this  
25 program. So questions?

1 MR. CAMPBELL: Would there be some  
2 opportunity to mention the storm barrel program as  
3 part of this campaign?

4 MR. MARSHALL: I think we could work  
5 with Save the Bay on that, but in terms of the actual  
6 disks or plaques that they're intending to put on the  
7 basins themselves, you wouldn't be able to fit that on  
8 a limited size object, but if the Commissioners, as  
9 the Chairman has pointed out, are able to meet with  
10 Save the Bay and to work out the details, then what we  
11 could do is come back with a formal resolution for you  
12 to approve as we normally do for environmental  
13 enforcement funds, you know, to put it on the record,  
14 but hopefully you can convince them to see it our way  
15 in terms of getting the proper recognition.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm thinking here our  
17 expectation is that, you know, our Commissioners are  
18 representing the Bay Commission. We understand what  
19 their program is. We'd like to cooperate, but our  
20 interests need to be protected as well and recognized,  
21 and that's why our Commissioners are -- would be  
22 involved in that process.

23 MR. SALVADORE: So should we table  
24 this for a vote until we've had an opportunity for our  
25 group to --

1 MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we have a  
2 vote -- we should basically say --

3 MR. WORRELL: Explore.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: Explore its intent. I  
5 think once you develop a program, I think we'll come  
6 back and actually make the actual appropriation.  
7 We're not making the appropriation today. I'm not  
8 asking you to, at least -- was that your motion?

9 MR. CAMPBELL: No.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm not asking you to  
11 appropriate these funds. I'm suggesting that we  
12 cooperate with them provided we can come to agreement  
13 on how exactly we're going to participate, and then  
14 put that motion before the Board with the financial  
15 support for it. Commissioner Rotella?

16 MR. ROTELLA: I just want to second  
17 Commissioner Campbell's motion.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We have a  
19 second. Are we clear on what -- how we're proceeding  
20 here? We are?

21 MR. WORRELL: Just a comment on this.  
22 Just Friday I noticed for the first time -- I work in  
23 Boston one day a week, and I noticed for the first  
24 time on one of the -- just outside one of the sewer,  
25 in the street inlets, a -- what do they call it? A

1 spray painted sign with a --

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: NBC sign?

3 MR. WORRELL: No.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: You mean our guys are  
5 making graffiti?

6 MR. WORRELL: There's all kinds of  
7 ways you can communicate. I think it's a terrific  
8 idea.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: Again, we want to make  
10 sure that Narragansett Bay Commission gets the  
11 recognition it deserves. We have been putting signage  
12 up in our own form, it's been years. So we've been  
13 doing this for years. No one has actually recognized  
14 the Bay Commission for taking these steps of course,  
15 which goes back to the press issue, but I would not  
16 purport to move forward with this unless I understood,  
17 and I asked the Commissioners to consider, you know,  
18 that getting involved in the program, and if you're  
19 inclined to do that, then we'll consider it.

20 MR. SALVADORE: Whose signage is that  
21 along the Woonasquatucket River down around Promenade  
22 Street?

23 MR. CHAIRMAN: I think there's a  
24 couple.

25 MR. MARSHALL: Some of it is ours.

1 The ones that are green with the white lettering are  
2 ours, and then the ones that are --

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: I can't think of her  
4 name.

5 MR. MARSHALL: Woonasquatucket River.

6 MR. WORRELL: Watershed.

7 MR. MARSHALL: The watershed people  
8 have signs up there which talk about not eating the  
9 fish that you pull out of the river.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: No one pays attention  
11 to that sign incidentally. Is that it?

12 MR. MARSHALL: That's it.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: So we do have a motion.  
14 We do have a second. We have a couple of seconds.  
15 Further discussion on this issue? Hearing none, all  
16 those that are in favor will say aye.

17 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any opposed?  
19 There are none opposed. The executive director has  
20 already talked to you a little bit about our meeting  
21 schedule, so that really concludes the Chairman's  
22 report. We have one other quick report for you as we  
23 move toward our luncheon. Annually we have a report  
24 to the Board regarding our Affirmative Action plan. I  
25 believe Tom has about a three- to five-minute

1 presentation to talk about the progress we've made  
2 with regard to Affirmative Action. I would ask you  
3 just to bear with him for five minutes, then we can  
4 adjourn and have a great lunch.

5 MR. UVA: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to  
6 need the screen if -- I don't mean to displace you.  
7 If I can find the button here. I need AI to help me  
8 with this, Commissioner Montanari.

9 MR. MONTANARI: You'll be there a  
10 month.

11 MR. UVA: Good afternoon,  
12 Commissioners. I'm going to be very brief if I can so  
13 I don't hold up your lunch too much. You should have  
14 each received a copy of our fiscal year 2007  
15 Affirmative Action plan. Actually, fiscal year 2008.  
16 The Narragansett Bay Commission established  
17 Affirmative Action policies to promote fair and  
18 equitable treatment of all employees and the public.  
19 It was needed to comply with federal and state  
20 legislation and to have a commitment to equal  
21 opportunity employment and Affirmative Action  
22 throughout the agency. The Affirmative Action policy  
23 basically states that we post all vacancies, recruit,  
24 hire, train, and promote equally and fairly throughout  
25 the agency. It prohibits harassment by supervisors,

1 provides reasonable accommodations to handicapped  
2 persons and for religious beliefs. Each division head  
3 has the prime responsibility to bring any concerns or  
4 complaints immediately to the executive director, and  
5 we're required to immediately -- the executive  
6 director is required to immediately address and take  
7 suitable action about the complaint. The Affirmative  
8 Action policy and plan is distributed to all section  
9 heads annually, and we also present to the Board of  
10 Commissioners annually. The committee consists of  
11 17 persons from all sections and each and every  
12 department in the agency. We oversee -- they oversee  
13 the NBC's Affirmative Action and equal opportunity  
14 hiring practices and efforts. We maintain EEO  
15 communications with the staff. We develop procedures,  
16 practices, plans, and promote events to enhance  
17 diversity throughout the agency. Some of our fiscal  
18 year '07 accomplishments as we distributed the plan  
19 and presented it to all of our supervisors and also to  
20 the Commissioners, newsletters are sent to all state  
21 minority referral agencies, postings, and we post our  
22 policies, EEO policies and Affirmative Action policies  
23 on our bulletin board and post all job vacancies on  
24 our web page. NBC staff are taught -- teach college  
25 classes throughout the state. We also offer summer

1 internships to teach students about our opportunities  
2 within the Bay Commission. Staff made presentations  
3 at career days at the Met School, North Providence  
4 High School, Lincoln, Lincoln High School, Rhode  
5 Island construction career day, reaching over 3,000  
6 students over that fiscal year. The NBC participated  
7 in several environmental education programs and  
8 events. The NBC provides multi-faceted training  
9 programs to staff to include sexual harassment  
10 training and violence risk reduction. Our ADA  
11 coordinator and 504 coordinators continue to work to  
12 ensure compliance with handicapped accessibility, that  
13 public accessibility codes are met at all times.  
14 During the past year 210 of our employees attended  
15 various training programs. We established in '07 a  
16 hiring goal, and we have achieved that goal. The goal  
17 was to hire one minority skilled craft worker, and the  
18 goal was achieved. We hired one minority skilled  
19 craft worker and surpassed the goal by hiring one  
20 black male staff member in the skilled craft category  
21 and two female staff members in the skilled craft  
22 category. The goal was also exceeded by promoting one  
23 black female staff member from a technical category to  
24 a professional category, and one Hispanic female was  
25 promoted from an administrative assistant position to

1 a professional category. Sound effects were added  
2 there by someone. This gives us a breakdown of our  
3 total employment in the different categories. You can  
4 see we have -- there were 241 filled positions as of  
5 June 30, 2007, and 22 were minority and 84 were filled  
6 by female staff members. This gives us a little bit  
7 of a trend analysis of -- from fiscal year '98 through  
8 last fiscal year, and you can see our female  
9 employment has improved from 25 percent to almost  
10 35 percent. Minority employment has improved from  
11 7.1 percent to 9.1 percent. And you may ask, how does  
12 that compare to other state agencies? Well, the DEM  
13 has a minority hiring of 5.6 percent and DOT, 9.7.  
14 For female hiring, we surpass DEM and DOT. As you can  
15 see there, almost 35 percent female. We had to  
16 establish a hiring goal for this next fiscal year, and  
17 the goal established was to hire either one female or  
18 one minority in the technician category. The goals --  
19 the other goals are very similar, to distribute and  
20 present the Affirmative Action plan to supervisors and  
21 Commissioners, continue with our internship programs,  
22 to post information on the web regarding employment  
23 opportunities at the NBC, continue outreach efforts to  
24 minority agencies, and send out newsletters to the  
25 minority agencies so that they can make sure that

1 their members are apprised of our opportunities here  
2 at the Narragansett Bay Commission. We'll continue to  
3 provide multi-faceted training, in-house training  
4 programs, and the EEO committee will continue to  
5 promote awareness of the ethnic diversity at the  
6 Narragansett Bay Commission. Our EEO committee will  
7 organize and host cultural appreciation events, and  
8 once again as I indicated, the hiring goal is for one  
9 minority and one female in the technician category,  
10 and we believe that we will achieve that goal. I want  
11 to thank the EEO committee, especially Cindy Walters,  
12 the chair, Brenda Smith, who handles all of these  
13 numbers and crunches all of these numbers in our HR  
14 department, Joanne Maceroni and Claudette Kalf for  
15 doing a terrific job once again putting these reports  
16 together and getting them distributed. I can answer  
17 any questions if you have any regarding our program.  
18 Yes, Commissioner?

19 MR. WORRELL: Have there been any --  
20 there's a mechanism for hearing complaints. Can you  
21 comment on whether there have been any complaints and  
22 how they might have been handled?

23 MR. UVA: We have not received any  
24 complaints that I'm aware of in this past year. Thank  
25 you very much.

1 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 MR. WORRELL: Very good presentation.  
3 Thank you.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Moving right  
5 along, other business. Is there any other business to  
6 come before the Commission? Other business?  
7 Commissioner Montanari, you have other business?

8 MR. MONTANARI: Not at all, sir.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, before we  
10 adjourn, I would just like to take this opportunity to  
11 wish all our Commissioners and staff a very happy and  
12 healthy holiday season. Hoping we'll see you after  
13 the first of the year. I think the January meeting  
14 will be a very interesting one, a lot of issues to  
15 discuss. We have an exciting year coming up, and I  
16 wish all of you a very happy holiday season. Having  
17 said that, we have a motion to adjourn from  
18 Commissioner Rotella, seconded by Commissioners  
19 Andrade and DiChi ro. All in favor of adjournment will  
20 say aye.

21 (VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any opposed? None  
23 opposed. The motion carries. They have a great lunch  
24 prepared for you. Please stay and enjoy your lunch.

25 (CLOSED AT 12:11 P.M.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Carole J. Ogden, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of my notes taken at the above-entitled meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of December, 2007.

CAROLE J. OGDEN, RPR, NOTARY PUBLIC  
My commission expires 10/4/08.