

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
NARRAGANSETT BAY COMMISSION

IN RE: MONTHLY BOARD MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

DATE: October 24, 2007
TIME: 11:00 A.M.
PLACE: Narragansett Bay Commission
Corporate Office Building
Providence, RI

PRESENT:

Vincent Mesolella, Chairman
Raymond Marshall, Executive Director
Angelo S. Rotella, Vice Chairman
Robert Andrade
Richard Burroughs
Bruce Campbell
Michael DiChiro
Jonathan K. Farnum
Leslie Gray
Joseph Kimball
John MacQueen
Al Montanari
Michael Salvadore
Kristin Sullivan
Leo Thompson
Richard Worrell

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1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 11:10 A.M.)

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and
3 Gentlemen, we're calling the October 24th
4 meeting of the Narraganset Bay Commission to
5 order at 11:23. The first order of business
6 will be Approval of the Previous Minutes. Have
7 all of our members had an opportunity to review
8 these minutes? And if so, are there comments,
9 questions, corrections?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 We're doing an approval of the
12 previous minutes.

13 MR. ANDRADE: So moved.

14 MR. MACQUEEN: Second.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gray moves
16 approval, next by Commissioner MacQueen and
17 Commissioner Montanari. Discussion?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

19 Hearing none. All those that are
20 in favor will say aye.

21 (UNANIMOUS DECISION)

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any
23 opposed? There are none opposed. The motion
24 carries.

25 The next order of business is Old

1 Business. Is there any old business to come
2 before the commission today, old business of any
3 kind, old business?

4 (NO RESPONSE)

5 Moving right along. Item Number 4
6 is the Executive Director's Report which I
7 believe he has indicated that he's going to
8 defer.

9 MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: The next order of
11 business is the Committee Reports and Action
12 Items resulting from those. The first committee
13 reporting is the Finance Committee.
14 Chairman Andrade, do you have a report for us
15 today?

16 MR. ANDRADE: Yes, I do,
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Please proceed.

19 MR. ANDRADE: Thank you. The
20 Finance Committee had two resolutions presented
21 before it. They have approved both and present
22 them to the full board for approval. First is
23 Resolution 2007:27, Authorization to File for
24 Rate Relief with Rhode Island Public Utilities
25 Commission. This resolution was discussed in

1 detail. I believe most of the commissioners
2 were there to hear this discussion. But Karen
3 is available if anyone does have a question on
4 the resolution. But I would move approval of
5 the resolution at this point, Mr. Chairman.

6 MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion to
7 approve Resolution 2007:27 Authorization to File
8 for Rate Relief with the Rhode Island Public
9 Utilities Commission. Is there a second?

10 MR. FARNUM: Second.

11 MR. SALVADORE: Second.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Second by
13 Commissioner Farnum and Commissioner Salvadore.

14 Is there discussion on the motion,
15 further discussion? Commissioner Worrell?

16 MR. WORRELL: I just had one
17 question. I was kind of surprised to see that
18 we've had consumption short fall for the last
19 four years in a row. Maybe somebody could
20 comment on how come.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure. We had a
22 discussion -- come on up, Karen. We had a
23 little bit of discussion during the committee
24 meeting. But Karen can talk more specific to
25 it.

1 MS. GIEBINK: It's a combination of
2 factors. And one of the most significant
3 factors is the loss of large industrial users
4 which would be the textile mills, the very large
5 water users and they have gone out of business
6 over the last few years. In addition, we've
7 seen a general falloff in consumption levels for
8 both residential and commercial customers and
9 this has also been felt by the various water
10 suppliers, Providence Water, Pawtucket Water.
11 We've had contact with them and they've also
12 experienced a decline in consumption.

13 MR. WORRELL: The other question
14 that I had raised when I read that was is there
15 any question or suspicion that there's any sort
16 of wide-scaled fraud going on that people would
17 somehow or other disconnect meters and
18 circumvent meters?

19 MS. GIEBINK: No. We do go through
20 a water shutoff program to encourage collection
21 and payment of sewer user charges. And if a
22 customer has their water turned off and they
23 don't pay to have their water turned back on, we
24 will go up to that house and check on them in a
25 week or so or a couple of weeks later to make

1 sure that they haven't turned their water back
2 on themselves.

3 MR. WORRELL: Thank you.

4 MR. GRAY: Some of the discussion,
5 Rich, was that the economy in general is pretty
6 tough right now in the greater Providence area.
7 And you're seeing the low end do things that you
8 wouldn't see them normally do to save money.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there further
10 discussion, comments?

11 (NO RESPONSE)

12 Hearing none. All of those that
13 are in favor of passing the Resolution 2007:27
14 will say aye.

15 (UNANIMOUS DECISION)

16 Are there any opposed?

17 (NO RESPONSE)

18 There are none opposed. And the
19 motion is carried. Do we have a further report,
20 Mr. Chairman?

21 MR. ANDRADE: Yes, we do,
22 Mr. Chairman. The other resolution was
23 Resolution 2007:28, Adoption of an Operating
24 Reserve for Revenue Stability Fund Policy.
25 Karen, again, is available if there are any

1 questions on that. I would move approval of
2 Resolution 2007:28.

3 MR. MONTANARI: Second.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I have a motion for
5 approval of Resolution 2007:28 which is the
6 Adoption of an Operating Reserve for Revenue
7 Stability Fund Policy, seconded by Commissioner
8 Montanari. I think this is tied into the
9 previous issue. Karen, for the record, please
10 tell us why this is necessary.

11 MS. GIEBINK: The purpose of this
12 fund is to ensure that we have sufficient
13 liquidity to fund all of our accounts in
14 accordance with the Trust Indenture Document, as
15 well as with the PUC restricted accounts.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Karen.
17 Any comments or questions regarding Resolution
18 2007:28?

19 MR. ANDRADE: Motion.

20 MR. SALVADORE: Second.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We have a
22 motion. We have a second. All those that are
23 in favor will say aye.

24 (UNANIMOUS DECISION)

25 MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any

1 opposed? There are none opposed. And that
2 motion carries. Commissioner Andrade, do you
3 have any further reports?

4 MR. ANDRADE: No, Mr. Chairman that
5 concludes the report of the Finance Committee.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you,
7 very much. Moving right along.

8 The next committee reporting would
9 be the Construction Engineering and Operations
10 Committee. Commissioner Salvadore, do you have
11 a report for us today?

12 MR. SALVADORE: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman. The CEO Committee met earlier
14 this morning and we have two items for
15 consideration by the Board of Commissioners.
16 The first being the Review and Approval of
17 Resolution 2007:29 Award of Contract 117:00BP,
18 Bucklin Point Facility Renovations, the NBC
19 Disaster Relief Area and Field's Point Security.
20 We recommend approval, Mr. Chairman.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Do we
22 have a motion to approve Resolution 2007:29.
23 Award of Contract 117:00BP? Is there a second?
24 Commissioner Farnum, Commissioner MacQueen, and
25 I think Commissioner Montanari. Is there

1 discussion on the motion? Discussion on
2 Resolution 2007:29?

3 (NO RESPONSE)

4 Hearing none. All of those that
5 are in favor will say aye. Are there any
6 opposed.

7 MR. ANDRADE: Mr. Chairman, I will
8 sustain.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let the
10 record reflect that Commissioner Andrade has
11 recused himself of consideration of Resolution
12 2007:29. And I believe the motion has passed.
13 Moving right along. Commissioner Salvadore, do
14 you have a further report?

15 MR. SALVADORE: Thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman. We have Item Number 2, Review and
17 Approval of Resolution 2007:30, Amendment No. 1,
18 Contract 06.304.38D, Easement Investigations and
19 Improvements. And we recommend approval,
20 Mr. Chairman.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We have
22 a recommendation for approval of Resolution
23 2007:30, Item No. 1. Were there any of our
24 commissioners not present during the discussion
25 of why this resolution is necessary?

1 (NO RESPONSE)

2 I think everyone was present. I
3 don't think it's necessary to go into another
4 complete explanation of it. Does anyone require
5 an explanation of Resolution 2007:30?

6 (NO RESPONSE)

7 Okay. Hearing none. We have a
8 motion. I believe we had a second by
9 Commissioner MacQueen and Commissioner
10 Montanari. Is there a discussion on Resolution
11 2007:30? Is there any further discussion or
12 comment regarding Resolution 2007:30?

13 (NO RESPONSE)

14 Hearing none. All those that are
15 in favor will say aye.

16 (UNANIMOUS DECISION)

17 Are there any opposed?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

19 There are none opposed. And that
20 motion carries. Further reports, Mr. Chairman.

21 MR. SALVADORE: That concludes our
22 October 24th report, Mr. Chairman.

23 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, very
24 much. The next committee reporting is the
25 Personnel Committee. Commissioner Campbell, do

1 you have a report?

2 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes. The Personnel
3 Committee met and considered several amendments.
4 The first item was two organizational changes
5 for the Operations Division. One is Bucklin
6 Point and for Interception Maintenance. And
7 then there were two. Again, an Operational
8 Division Organization Charts of the Field's
9 Point as administrator and as engineering
10 position. And there was one amendment to the
11 organizational plan for the Executive Division.
12 Does everybody have copies of these changes?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: I believe they're in
14 the packet.

15 MR. MARSHALL: If anybody doesn't
16 have copies we can certainly give them to you.
17 Generally, it's going to go before Personnel
18 because they have no negative impact on the
19 current year's budget. If it had an impact on
20 the current budget, it would also go before
21 Finance. But because we're changing the
22 organization here a little bit, I wanted to make
23 sure that the full board had the opportunity to
24 know about them. I can tell you that it
25 involves in one case we're downgrading a

1 position at Bucklin Point. That's a union
2 position. Interceptor Maintenance, we are
3 freezing a position and creating an operator
4 four position, which a foreman-type position.
5 At Field's Point, we are changing one position
6 from a 35-hour week position to a 40-hour week
7 position because of the increase of workload
8 there. And in engineering we're upgrading an
9 individual who now is taken on more complex
10 projects, as well as having passed her
11 PE, which is the Professional Engineer's Exam.
12 And she deserves a higher rate of pay than what
13 she is currently getting.

14 And in the Executive Division, what
15 I recommended is to freeze the Deputy's position
16 and to create a Director of Executive Affairs
17 which would help me run the executive office as
18 well the agency overall, and to elevate the
19 construction of manager's position from that
20 title to a Director of Construction Services
21 considering the volume of construction and the
22 impact on the agency construction has had and
23 will continue to have on the organization.

24 It's a critical position. And
25 that's one that I feel that I can best serve the

1 agency as Executive Director without reporting
2 directly to me at a director's level. So I
3 would have then five individuals reporting to me
4 as opposed to the current nine. And the new
5 Director of Executive Affairs would have five
6 people also reporting to them.

7 So again, we're able to do this all
8 within the framework of the FY08 Budget. It
9 will change the table of organization a little
10 bit, but I believe that it puts us in the best
11 position to move forward with the challenges
12 that we have facing us in the foreseeable
13 future. So with that, I ask your approval.

14 MR. CAMPBELL: I'll move that we
15 approve all of these changes.

16 MR. ROTELLA: Can we do it the same
17 way we did it in the first two -- and one
18 objectors and not the other?

19 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay. I'll move
20 that we approve the Operation's Division
21 Organizational Chart Changes union positions.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We have a
23 motion.

24 MR. SALVADORE: Second.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Second by

1 Commissioner Salvadore. Discussion? Further
2 discussion on the Operation Division
3 Organizational Chart as it pertains to union
4 positions. Hearing none. All those that are in
5 favor will say aye.

6 (UNANIMOUS DECISION)

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any
8 opposed? There are none opposed. That motion
9 carries.

10 MR. FARNUM: I'll move that we
11 approve the Operation's Division Organizational
12 Chart Changes non-union position.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion on
14 the non-union positions reorganizational chart.
15 Is there a second?

16 MR. SALVADORE: Second.

17 MR. THOMPSON: Second.

18 MR. ROTELLA: Second.

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Farnum,
20 Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rotella, and
21 Commissioner Salvadore.

22 Further discussion? Is there
23 further discussion relative to the
24 organizational changes two and two non-union
25 positions?

1 (NO RESPONSE)

2 Hearing none. All of those that
3 are in favor will say aye.

4 (UNANIMOUS DECISION)

5 Are there any opposed?

6 (NO RESPONSE)

7 There are none opposed. That
8 motion carries.

9 MR. CAMPBELL: I'll move the
10 amendments for the Organizational Plan Executive
11 Division.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion to
13 amend the organizational Plan as it pertains to
14 the Executive Division. Is there a second?

15 MR. FARNUM: Second.

16 MR. MONTANARI: Second.

17 MR. ROTELLA: Second.

18 MR. SALVADORE: Second.

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Farnum,
20 Commissioner Montanari, Commissioner Rotella,
21 Commissioner Salvatore. Is there further
22 discussion on the organizational plan pursuant
23 to the Executive Division?

24 MR. GRAY: I'd like to go on record
25 saying I oppose it. This is an additional white

1 collar position which I don't see a need for it
2 at the current time.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: In such case, all
4 those that are in favor will say aye. Are there
5 any opposed?

6 MR. GRAY: Nay.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the record
8 reflect that Commissioner Gray voted in the
9 negative position. And with the majority, the
10 motion is approved. Do you have a further
11 report? There is no further report. Moving
12 right along. The next committee reporting is
13 the Legislative Committee. I don't believe our
14 Legislative Committee met. The next report,
15 Rules and Regulations.

16 MR. MARSHALL: I don't believe
17 there's any report out.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Long Range Planning
19 Committee?

20 MR. MARSHALL: I believe if there's
21 any report, we'll start to get the long-range
22 planning involved and the renovations of the
23 campus that we're working on now. Probably at
24 the next meeting, we'll have that committee
25 meet.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Jamie, do I
2 understand, Jamie that is reporting on behalf of
3 the CAC today.

4 MS. KATIE: I will. I'll give a
5 brief report on behalf of the Advisory
6 Committee. Neither Chairman Gayden or
7 Vice-Chairman Schacter could be here today. So
8 I'll just report to you that the Student
9 Advisory Committee did meet with a quorum on
10 October 17th, discussed several things,
11 especially the effect of the low rainfall on the
12 operations of the wastewater treatment facility
13 and how that kind of worked contrary to what you
14 might think in that the facilities actually
15 operate better when we're not in dry whether.

16 Nonetheless, the committee was very
17 pleased with the excellent numbers that we
18 continue to receive from the Bucklin Point plant
19 since its renovations. The committee also
20 talked about ideas for items for future
21 meetings, including presentations for
22 Interceptor Maintenance and also a presentation
23 on rain barrels. Chairman Gayden and
24 Vice-Chairman Schacter and also Chris Hanaffen
25 attended our clean-water stories anniversary

1 event and Carol and Howard both contributed
2 stories, so we're very pleased about that.
3 Since the meeting, Dick Pastore who was our
4 member that was appointed by Save the Bay has
5 resigned. And we are sorry to see him go, but
6 we understand that Save the Bay is determining
7 his replacement. And that's the end of my
8 report.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The next
10 committee reporting will be the Executive
11 Committee. That will come under the Chairman's
12 Report. Ad Hoc Committee on Compensation?

13 Just so you know, I've been
14 informed that the Employee's Association is
15 working on our proposal or at the request of
16 proposal and investigation for non-union
17 employees. Ad Hoc Committee on Internal Ethics
18 Committee. From 12 to 1 today, I believe we're
19 going to have a Mr. Jason Remick.

20 As you know, we're going to be
21 serving lunch with the Commissioners. So he's
22 going to be here from 12 to 1 and talk to us
23 about Ethics reporting and so we'll welcome him
24 at that time. From one to two for those who are
25 interested we're going to have IT come here and

1 give us some training on the paperless
2 procedure.

3 The hardware has been decided. So
4 we're going to begin that discussion on our
5 trainings program from one to two. The next
6 scheduled meeting for the Board is November the
7 14th. Although we may not have matters of any
8 substance, and so unless it's completely
9 necessary to call the board together it will
10 probably be canceled or postponed. And any
11 matters that need to be addressed will probably
12 be addressed at the scheduled December 12th
13 meeting. If any matters arise which will
14 necessitate a meeting in November we will notify
15 the board.

16 The next thing I'd like to talk
17 about is the event that we had earlier this
18 week, Employee's Appreciation Day which was
19 highly attended by staff employees of the
20 Narragansett Bay Commission. It was one of the
21 better days that I've spent at the Commission's
22 Facility here. How many employees and staff
23 attended?

24 MR. MARSHAL: I would estimate 100.
25 What would you say, Jamie?

1 MS. SAMONS: Between 100 and 150, I
2 would say.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: About 150 people.
4 We had some cake and coffee. I didn't eat cake
5 personally but -- no, I did. A little piece.
6 Ray addressed the Commission on the staff and
7 employees, as well as I did. And I expressed
8 our gratitude and appreciation to our employees
9 and staff for all that they do through all of
10 the years which makes Narragansett Bay
11 Commission a highly respected agency that it is.
12 I went on at length. And I wanted to say a lot
13 of things that I didn't get the appropriate time
14 to say. But one thing that I wanted to say but
15 was remise in saying was that in January we
16 lost, what he considered to be maybe higher
17 ground, our Executive Director Paul Pinault.

18 And I had the extreme pleasure to
19 become chair while he was here. And Paul and I
20 had visions for this agency, and he shared that
21 vision. And I expressed how supportive that I
22 was during our conversations during that period
23 of time how supportive the board had been toward
24 employees and staff. And I could not recollect
25 a single individual through the years who serves

1 on this Board which wasn't supportive of all of
2 the commissioners that the Narragansett Bay
3 Commission had undertaken. But the one thing I
4 neglected to say and I want to say it today.
5 And that is that Ray has taken the reins. How
6 many months now, Ray?

7 MR. MARSHALL: Approximately 10
8 months.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: It's already ten
10 months. And I want to say to Ray and to all of
11 our Board and those employees and staff that are
12 here that Ray has really stepped up to the plate
13 to fill a pair of very big shoes. And I want to
14 say to him today in front of all of the board
15 and staff that I am so pleased and proud.

16 I think that we made the absolute
17 right decision in selecting Ray as the Executive
18 Director.

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Having said that,
21 I'm not sure whether we adjourn or recess.

22 MR. SALVADORE: I have a question.
23 When did employees appreciation day get
24 separated from the Lincoln Woods Event?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Look, Jamie, you

1 have to take the heat on this.

2 MS. SAMONS: I can answer this one.
3 Because we still have employee appreciation day
4 in the summer at Lincoln Woods. The event that
5 we had last Thursday was one of our events to
6 commemorate the many anniversaries that we're
7 celebrating this year. And it was a day when we
8 were gathering employees together to tell the
9 stories that about their service at the Bay
10 Commission or their commitment to clean water
11 and ultimately those stories were also made as
12 contacts on our website. It's kind of a riff on
13 the NPR story corps project.

14 So it wasn't officially employee
15 appreciation day, but there was cake. It wasn't
16 officially employee appreciation day, it was a
17 day to appreciate the work that our employees
18 have done and allow them to the opportunity to
19 tell some stories about their tenure here at the
20 Bay Commission.

21 We had another anniversary event on
22 Saturday, which was a community open house at
23 Bucklin Point. And I'm happy to report that we
24 had about 200 people come out to the treatment
25 plant on Saturday for tours and other family

1 friendly activities. And it went really well.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: So Jamie, let me ask
3 you this question because there are a number of
4 commissioners here that have been with this
5 agency for quite a long time. So if you
6 understand what Jamie is saying, she's asking to
7 allow the employees, past and present, who have
8 been with the agency a considerable amount of
9 time to come forward with interesting or funny
10 stories about their tenure here.

11 So let me extend that invitation to
12 all the commissioners who have a story, whether
13 humorous or sad, or whatever, that they'd like
14 to relate during their tenure on the Board. If
15 you have a story you'd like to tell. The
16 stories that you have, Mike, cannot be told in
17 public. But let me invite all of you to
18 participate in that, as well.

19 MS. SAMONS: And if you're not
20 available to do that today, we can always set up
21 a time to do that one on one with you and I.
22 It's very easily done.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Great. So, having
24 said that the Chairman has no further report.
25 The next order of business is new business. Am

1 I adjourning? Okay. Is there any new business
2 to come before the Commission, any new business
3 whatsoever? Any business of any kind?

4 (NO RESPONSE)

5 MR. ROTELLA: Move to adjourn.

6 MR. CHAIRMAN: No other business.

7 In such case, Commissioner Rotella, I believe,
8 moves to adjourn.

9 MR. SALVATORE: Second.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Second by
11 Commissioner Salvatore. All of those that are
12 in favor will say aye. Any opposed? None
13 opposed. The motion carries. And we have lunch
14 prepared for you. Thank you.

15 (HEARING ADJOURNED AT 11:45 A.M.)

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C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, PAULA J. CAMPAGNA, CSR, a Notary Public, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of my notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 14th day of November, 2007

PAULA J. CAMPAGNA, CSR, NOTARY PUBLIC/CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: March 30, 2010

IN RE: Monthly Board Meeting of the Commission

DATE: October 24, 2007