STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
NARRAGANSETT BAY COMMISSION

IN RE:
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

DATE: APRIL 16, 2008
TIME: 11:00 A.M.
PLACE: NARRAGANSETT BAY COMMISSION
ONE SERVICE ROAD
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02905

BEFORE: VINCENT MESOLELLA, CHAIRMAN
RAYMOND MARSHALL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOSEPH DEANGELIS, ESQUIRE
DR. RICHARD BURROUGHS
BRUCE CAMPBELL
DAVID CRUISE
JONATHAN FARNUM
LESLEE GRAY
JOSEPH KIMBALL
JOHN MACQUEEN
AL MONTANARI
ALAN NATHAN
ANGELO ROTELLA
MICHAEL SALVADORE
RICHARD M. BROWN
LEO THOMPSON
RICHARD WORRELL

ALLIED COURT REPORTERS, INC.
115 PHENIX AVENUE
CRANSTON, RI 02920
(401) 946-5500
ALSO PRESENT:

KAREN MUSUMECI
TOM BRUECKNER
KATHRYN KELLY
PAUL NORDSTROM
THOMAS UVA
JOHN ZUBA
STEVE WHITNEY
HAROLD GADON
JOANNE MACERONI
STEPHEN MACERONI
JAMIE SAMONS
JENNIFER HARRINGTON
DIANE BUERGER
AMES B. COLT
DEBORAH SAMSON
HOWARD SCHACHTER
SHERRI ARNOLD
JOE PRATT
KAREN GIEBINK
CYNTHIA MORISSETTE
CARMINE GONECONTE
LAURIE HORRIDGE
MR. CHAIRMAN: Good morning, everyone.

Recognizing a quorum, we will call the April 16 Board meeting of the Narragansett Bay Commission, Board of Commissioners to order. The first order of business is the approval of the March 5, 2008 meeting. Have all of our members had an opportunity to review the previous minutes, and if so, are there any comments or corrections regarding the previous minutes?

MR. ROTELLA: Motion to accept.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion to approve the previous minutes of March 5. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Kimball and Commissioner Campbell. All in favor will say aye.

(VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any opposed?

There are none opposed, and the motion carries. Next order of business is Item Number 3, which is old business. Is there any old business of any nature to come before the Commission this morning? Old business? There is no old business. Next order of business is Item Number 4, which is the election of officers. For that matter, the Chair will turn over the gavel to the Secretary, Ray Marshall, for consideration.
MR. MARSHALL: In conjunction with our enabling legislation as well as our bylaws, we are required to elect officers, and you are required to elect officers at the April meeting of every year, and if you need the specific references, I can give you those. And with that, I'd like to open the floor to nominations.

MR. SALVADORE: Mr. Secretary, I took some time this morning to go around the Board here to see if an opposing slate could be developed, and I got some very colorful responses.

MR. MARSHALL: I'm sure you did.

MR. SALVADORE: Which cannot be mentioned, of course, across these tables. So not able to come up with an opposing slate, and of course, not able to find any possible candidates, I would propose that one vote be cast for Vincent Mesolella for Chairman, Angelo Rotella for Vice Chairman, and Robert Andrade for Treasurer.

MR. MARSHALL: There's been a nomination for a slate of officers. Is there a second?

(MULTIPLE SPEAKERS SECOND THE NOMINATION)

MR. MARSHALL: Most everyone seconded. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, the
1 Secretary casts one vote in favor of this slate. So
2 moved.
3  
4 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
5  
6 (APPLAUSE)
7  
8 MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we begin the
9 meeting, I would just like to thank all the
10 Commissioners for your vote of confidence again this
11 year, and as always, I commit to you the 101 percent
12 effort on behalf of accomplishing our mission as we
13 move forward with, I'm sure, what's going to be a very
14 exciting year, and which we're going to be talking
15 about later on in the meeting. So thank you very
16 much. Okay. Moving right along, next order of
17 business is Item Number 5, which is the Executive
18 Director's report. Mr. Secretary, do you have a
19 report?
20  
21 MR. MARSHALL: Yes, I do,
22  
23 Mr. Chairman.
24  
25 MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry. Excuse me
26 just one second. Before we begin, let me just take a
27 moment to introduce our newest Commissioner, Richard
28 Brown from East Providence. He is replacing
29 Commissioner Caine, who served with distinction on
30 this Board, and we appreciate all of his efforts, and
31 we welcome Mr. Brown today to be with us, and I'm sure
you'll find it's a very interesting Commission, and
the associations you'll make here will be very
enjoyable, I'm sure.

MR. BROWN: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Secretary, proceed
with your report.

MR. MARSHALL: Okay. Mr. Chairman,
you actually have two reports from me, one for
February, one for March. I'm only going to go over
the one for March. I'm sure you're all relieved to
hear that. On Page 2 of the March report, we
summarize our effluent data, and March was a very high
flow month. You probably remember last summer, fall,
we had very low flows. We're approaching the other
end of the spectrum, but everything is working out
well. Field's Point, we're seeing 60 MGD. During
those low periods, we were about 35 MGD. That's
million gallons per day. And at Bucklin Point, we're
now at almost 30, or were for March, and last summer,
we were probably around the 15 or 16 million
gallon-per-day range.

So you can see that the flows have changed
substantially with the change in the weather, the
rain, the snow melt, et cetera. But the plants are
operating well. We're getting good results, and
that's a testament to the operation and maintenance staff, who work hard to keep the plants in tip-top shape, trying to be ready for anything that Mother Nature throws at us.

On Page 3, our sludge removal quantities continue to be steady at about 24 dry tons per day. That's an important number that we keep track of. And we had one really major maintenance activity that we undertook, and we did this proactively, where we went in and removed from the Ernest Street Pumping Station a Screenings Washer Monster. I'm sure that's an interesting title to you. If you want the description on what it does, I'll be happy to give it to you. My recommendation is you don't really want the gory details on it. In any event, the guys really did a great job. It was a huge undertaking, and that was all done in-house.

A little further down the page, I outline one of the meetings that we had with DEM officials. Paul Nordstrom and his staff met with representatives from DEM to go over the operation of the new CSO tunnel and the tunnel pump station. It's not quite as simple as the tunnel fills, you flip the switch, the pumps go on, you empty the tunnel, and you wait for the next storm. It's actually much more complicated than that,
and they're trying to bring DEM online so that they understand exactly how we'll need to operate the tunnel.

Starting on Page 4, we outline what's going on at Bucklin Point. Suffice it to say that everything is going well. Nothing unusual occurred in the last -- in the last month.

Page 5, we start to address interceptor maintenance, and you'll notice that there were five overflow events at identified overflow points. They're all permanent points. It's a result of the rain and the problems that the rains bring us as they wash materials into our system, and then they tend to plug the regulators. We have 129 regulators, which I note at the bottom of Page 5, and moving on to the top of Page 6, during the month of March alone, we did, in the two systems, Field's Point and Bucklin Point, 305 inspections on those regulators. We're out there all the time checking on them. We have -- some of them are set up so we'll get Tel-Log notices when we have overflow, so that we can go out and check problems or potential problems. Sometimes we just get some false readings, but at least we're out there trying to address them, even if we think we have a problem.

In addition, the sampling that EMDA does helps us
keep track of fecal coliforms in the receiving waters, which sometimes tips us off that there might be something going on. We're trying to develop a comprehensive system on how to make sure we're minimizing overflows in our system, which is actually designed to allow overflows.

On our pump stations, which are noted on the bottom of Page 6, everything went well during the month. Just routine inspections. And on Page 7, we had 252 trucks come into the Lincoln septage receiving station and discharge 777,000 gallons of septage, which then makes its way to Bucklin Point for treatment after we pretreat it. In general, the interceptors are running well. A lot of cleaning contracts that we have going on seem to be paying dividends for us. During the heavy rain storm on March 8, no pump stations went into alarm mode, and no calls were received for sewage backups or flooding in any areas that we normally experience those in.

So the status of those inspection and cleaning contracts are noted on Page 8. We have three that are active, two are essentially complete, one is three-quarters of the way. So our plan to clean all the interceptors over the several year period of time is working out well, and we'll have more work of that
nature beginning this year.

In Engineering, they're working hard on the Field's Point biological nutrient removal contract, and we made some modifications to the contract to try to step up the schedule a little bit on that effort so that we keep DEM happy. And we also had the kickoff meeting for the new operations building that we're going to build at Field's Point. You approved the modification to SEA's contract last month. We're also trying to wrap up the water quality modeling that we've been doing in the Bay, or at least this phase of it. That's noted on Page 9, just down from the top, and we feel that probably about the 4th of July we should have that pretty much completed.

At the bottom of Page 9 we start addressing CSO Phase II facilities. We've been working very hard to locate the drop shaft for the Woonasquatucket interceptor, and we've been looking at alternate alignments through the Olneyville area of Providence. These are projects or pipelines that will be within 20 or 30 feet of the surface. It will be somewhat disruptive to the areas that we work in, and we're trying to find the best alignment to minimize -- there is no way of really eliminating, but minimizing the inconvenience that we're going to cause once we begin
this work. So we spend a lot of time working on that.

On the sewer separation portion of Phase II, which is, again, at the top of Page 10, around the Miriam Hospital area, we will be doing sewer separation in one sewer shed, and a combination of sewer separation and rerouting on the other side that flows down toward Hope Street. The Seekonk River interceptor, which is the third component of Phase II, is well under way, and we've pretty much nailed down a routing for that interceptor. It's just a matter of where we terminate it at this point.

Middle of Page 10, we talk about Louisquisset Pike and the sewer system evaluation we're doing. We're going to be doing some dye studies in Lincoln, North Providence, and Providence, and the Branch, Douglas, Louisquisset interceptors. So we're sending out letters to all the mayors, and our contractor will coordinate with the police departments and the public works departments so that when we get out there and start doing this work, people don't wonder what we're doing out there, and why everything is turning red or green or whatever color they happen to be using for dye at that particular time. Sounds like a small thing, but those are the types of things that unless you give people a heads up can cause some significant
confusion and concern.

On Page 11, I note that under asset management we're really beginning to integrate that system into our interceptor work, and is, along with the cleaning and TVing, is paying dividends in terms of better understanding what we actually have going on in the -- under various conditions.

Page 13 talks about the Construction Division, the work at Bucklin Point, their renovations of that operations building there. It's about a quarter of the way through, so it's progressing well. The Woonasquatucket River interceptor project, which has been completed for a couple of years now, we have a pending arbitration with the contractor, who's Walsh Construction, and that is supposed to be moving into the arbitration phase in the month of May. We have had some recent inquiries as to whether or not we'd be willing to potentially settle that matter, and we're considering that now, and trying to get a handle on what exactly they had in mind. So we will report back to you on that if anything comes to pass.

There are two CSO contracts for Phase I still left, a small job, regulator modification. We're almost done, about 82 percent complete. Then moving on to the top of Page 14, the pump station. When you
came down here today, you probably saw the overhead
 crane that has been erected since the last time you
came down here. They're making great progress, and
we're about 80 percent done on that work. There's a
number of items that they're doing inside the pumping
station, which you, of course, can't see unless you
actually venture inside, but they're really in the
wrap-up phase now. The main work we have left to do
is we need to jack a 108-inch pipe, which is nine feet
in diameter, from Ernest Street over to essentially
the drop shaft of the tunnel, and that will start
probably in the next couple of weeks, and will take
several weeks to complete. And that actually brings
the largest overflow in the system into the tunnel
complex for retention and then treatment.

The other project that was active, is now
90 percent complete, is Grotto Brook and Burrington
Street. Those are all done except the final
restoration work. That's good news.

Most of you were here -- if you look on Page 16,
Administration and Finance starts on that page. Most
of you were here when Karen went through her report,
and essentially, we're at 75 percent of the year,
71 percent of the budget, so we're underspending,
which is always a good thing. Employment levels are
about 97 percent, 246 out of 254 budgeted. Our user
fee billings are around 76 percent. That's at the top
of Page 17. And then we have a receivables aging
summary for you, and on Page 18, we note that the cash
and investment balances as of the end of March was $57
million, $57.5 million. And on Page 18, we talk about
our notes, bonds, and loans, and where we are in terms
of our -- the rates we're faring on the variable rate
loans. They have dropped in the past week or two from
a high of six percent. They are around three percent,
three and a half percent at this point, so things seem
to be stabilized at this point. There's an action we
will ask you to take in a resolution which will come a
little later, which will just put us in a position to
react favorably or favorably to the Bay Commission
should the markets take another turn again. That's
about it on finance.

There's a number of -- statement of net assets,
and the status of our budget, line items on our
budget, which run through Page 27. That you can look
at, and if you have any questions, you can give us a
call. We'll be happy to answer those for you.

Page 28, policy, planning, and regulation, we're
happy to report that the Permits Section won an award
for -- a national environmental achievement award for
our stormwater mitigation program. That will be
accepted in the middle of this year at the next NACWA
meeting. That is the program by which we are removing
stormwater from our system. I report that just about
every month. We have some project, and we're removing
water that would normally end up in the tunnel, so
we're essentially increasing the effectiveness of the
CSO program by providing more room in the tunnel than
what we had originally anticipated. So we're happy to
report that to you.

We have a shellfish transplant effort that we
work with DEM on every year, and the dates are listed.
I believe those are all Wednesdays, April 30 through
May 20, and we work with DEM to -- under their
supervision along with the Shellfishermen's
Association to take quahogs out of polluted areas and
move them to clean areas, which are then roped off by
DEM, and they sit there for six months and self-purify
until they can be harvested right before the holidays
in the November-December time period. That's been
very successful, and we're going to continue it again
this year.

We have a river cleanup scheduled for April 22,
which is next Tuesday. If you need to have more
information on that, talk to Tom Uva or John Zuba.
Right now we have about 225 volunteers, which is the largest group ever to volunteer for participation in that event, which has become annual. It's part of the Chairman's river program that was started many years ago. It's been very successful.

Page 29, I outline some of the emergency preparedness planning activities we've been involved in. Taken a leadership role in a couple of those. Page 30, I -- we address what pretreatment has been involved in, and primarily, they completed their annual report, which that annual report makes my monthly reports look like a one-page bulletin submission. It's huge, takes a tremendous amount of work, and again, they did a great job, and got it in on time, and very comprehensively well done.

Let's see. If you go all the way to Page 33, the program we just won the award for, we outline some additional removal that we've done in terms of stormwater. 60,000 gallons, Field's Point; 50,000 gallons, Bucklin Point. So moving to the next page, you'll see that the total for the year is over a quarter of a million -- just for this year, over a quarter of a million for Field's Point, which would normally end up in the tunnel, and a total of 313 for the entire combined system. So I think if you go
back, right from the beginning, we're probably approaching three million gallons of flow that would now be eliminated during a storm rather than go into the tunnel. It's going into on-site systems that the developers have cooperatively worked with us to install.

Environmental Monitoring is busy as usual, taking nearly 2,000 samples. That's noted on Page 35, and then jumping all the way to the lab, you can see how many analyses they've been doing. Over 8,700 just for the month of March, and these are the same types of numbers that you are now, I believe, accustomed to seeing.

The other good news we have is on Page 38, there's -- where it says, PP & R grant activities, I got a call from Bob Varney, who is the regional administrator for EPA, to let us know that our application for their innovation program entitled Sustainable Energy Management Practices in Rhode Island has been accepted and given a $275,000 grant. This is a national program, and our title was focused on Rhode Island, or our efforts were focused on Rhode Island. Only one of three in the entire country that received this, so we're really honored that they picked us. We will work cooperatively. We have
partners in this. DEM is one of those partners as well as URI, and everyone has their role to play, and we should be getting the paperwork on that in the next several days, which we'll promptly fill out and send back to them. So that was a nice phone call to get. You usually don't get a lot of friendly phone calls from EPA. That happened to be one of them. So that was a good thing for the people on our staff who have been working hard on this, Jim McCaughey and Barry Wenskowicz. So another good step forward.

And one of the Commissioners asked me on the wind energy project how the wind speeds were looking. On Page 39, in the middle of the page, it's a little table there. It gives you an indication of what the wind speeds have been, and how many kilowatt hours we would have generated if it had actually been in place during those months, and you can see it's running somewhere around $30,000 per month that we would save by having that online. We have submitted our application to the FAA to see if they'll approve the tower that we're proposing. We have not heard back from them yet, and we'll keep you appraised on that, on that front.

Page 40, the Executive Division, the Ethics Commission has sent everyone their financial
disclosure forms. They're due next Friday, April 25. I just wanted to remind you of that. If you did not receive one, talk to either Laurie or Jen. They can probably help you follow up on that, and if you need any help in terms of submitting those, we can also provide assistance, but they're due next Friday to the Ethics Commission. Just a reminder.

Getting down toward the bottom of that page, the Providence land acquisition. We were on the agenda for the State Properties Committee on April 1, and the Chairman, I think, might bring you up to date on what we plan to do. They asked us to go back and work with the City to try to come to a resolution, so we'll report to you a little later in the meeting as to where we stand on that.

Other than that, we did receive, on Page 42 -- this is actually very notable. We received approval from the State Archivist's Office on our records retention policy. We've been working on this for three or four years, at least, trying to get their approval on how long we had to retain records for, and for every type of record there seems to be a different window of when you can actually eliminate those, and so we finally received approval, so that was quite an accomplishment, one that we're glad to put behind us.
On Page 45, somebody asked about the lien sale earlier. It is on May 1. We started with 315 accounts totaling $560,000 of outstanding user fees. We've removed 186 of those, and collected about $256,000, and these numbers change all the time. So approximately 129 remain with about $300,000 left to collect. So I'm sure that in the next several weeks those numbers will become more positive, and hopefully, we'll only have a few that will actually go to lien sale. However, there are a number that have gone into foreclosure, which reduces our chances of getting anything on those.

We also heard from Rhode Island Housing. They now have a full-time position that was created to handle tax and lien sales. You might remember some legislation that was passed a few years ago that Rhode Island Housing was given the authority to step in and help some of these people who have a hard time paying their tax bills or our user fee bills. Rhode Island Housing was a little short staffed and unable to physically dive into that program. Now it appears that they'll be able to do it. So that's a very positive development, as far as we're concerned.

Finally, on Public Affairs, we have the rain barrel distribution event on Sunday, April 27. If
you're interested, it appears to be one of the largest
that the company has ever done. I mentioned the river
cleanup earlier. The Woon Watershed program, the kids
are all getting out into the field now, getting to
actually work on the receiving waters, or alongside
the receiving waters. There will be a big conference
in May that Cynthia is working on.

And for Government Affairs, which is at the
bottom of Page 46, 2,100 pieces of legislation that
we've been reviewing and determining their
applicability to us, whether it has to do with
collections or payment of outstanding debt, taxes,
ethics, probate, immigration. So that's been keeping
Joanne busy, and the last few items, which I just --
I'm going to note here, they're not actually as part
of your report.

We received an administrative order from EPA a
week ago, which directs us to work with North
Providence to resolve a longstanding problem at one
specific location in North Providence. So we've been
actually working at this for ten years. It's actually
on the City of -- the Town of North Providence's line,
not too far from our interceptor, so EPA figured
they'd bring us in on solving the problem, and
hopefully, we can get it done in the next several
weeks, if not a couple of months. Then there is a
much larger study that needs to be done on the Town's
system, but that is a Town responsibility. But they
included it in the same administrative order for some
reason, and we're discussing that fact with them, and
we would like to get, have them bifurcate it, but I
don't think that they're necessarily amenable to that,
but they will clarify what our responsibility to the
Town is.

The CIP will come before you in May. That's the
capital improvement program. We'll have a
presentation on that in May, the budget in June, and I
sent you all an E-mail, which lets you know that the
ProJo submitted a records request for all our staff
salaries. Actually, all the quasis, and I'm sure
there will be an article in the paper sometime. Could
be a few weeks, could be a few months. Who knows? I
just wanted to give you a heads up on that, in case
anything came out before I had a chance to appear
before you today to let you know about that. Finally,
I'm done, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any
questions?

MR. SALVADORE: I have a question,
Mr. Chairman.
MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. SALVADORE: It was back around Page 14, third paragraph down. The last sentence is, they have submitted a differing site condition claim.

MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

MR. SALVADORE: Is that a change order?

MR. MARSHALL: Yes. It will end up being a change order. We're evaluating the merits of their claim, so --

MR. SALVADORE: So what was the total? Do you recollect what the total amount of that contract is, and about what the differing site condition claim would be?

MR. MARSHALL: We're talking about the tunnel pump station now, right? That's the contract?

MR. SALVADORE: Field's Point tunnel pump.

MR. MARSHALL: Yes. Let's see. The tunnel pump station, the bid price was $54.2 million. And so far, we've had about $800,000 in change orders. This would be the second to last page on your, on the monthly report I just reviewed with you. I don't believe we have an estimate of the amount of the cost of that differing site condition should it prove to be
valid at this point.

MR. SALVADORE: Well, whatever the claim is, is it a negotiated claim?

MR. MARSHALL: Yes, it is.

MR. SALVADORE: Okay. That's my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there further questions? Commissioner Rotella?

MR. ROTELLA: Ray, more substance than -- more form than substance, I should say. Thank you, of course, for the report, but I am noticing that there are still a whole bunch of papers at our places. Are we making arrangements, or do we have a date that we will no longer have these as a general rule? I'd like to suggest that maybe we might want to keep a few on hand for a Board member that's forgotten them, or doesn't have their computer, but the idea was to save paper, and save time and administrative time in printing and copying all this stuff, and if we have it here on the computer, we probably want to do away with this. I don't know if there is a date. Again, I'm not putting anything in the form of a motion. I'm just looking for info.

MR. MARSHALL: Right. We have five or six Commissioners who have already said, don't send me
any more paper, and we did print these out today, because we didn't know that you had them in time on the Board site to actually have a chance to review them. If you definitely do not want any more paper, just let Karen Musumeci know. She'll remove you from the paper train, and you won't even receive anything in the mail. You know, like you used to receive with all the agendas. We'll just notify you through E-mail when everything is up on the web site.

Our goal is hopefully by this -- the end of this, I'll call it Commission year, if you will, June, after June, starting next fall, we will have very little paper. We will have some paper available for anybody who needs it. We don't totally expect to walk away from it, but in general, we know that more and more of you are becoming comfortable with this approach, and we would love to only make five copies rather than 25 copies or whatever Karen is making these days. So if you definitely want no paper, let Karen know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the original target date was June, end of June, so I think we're approaching that. Excuse me. Commissioner Nathan?

MR. NATHAN: Just, as I went through your report on the computer, my first thought was, I can't wait to get here to see a printed copy, because
when you get big ones, it's harder to read it on the
computer, or I get turned off by it. So I may be one
of those five that wants one when we get here.

MR. ROTELLA: Again, my suggestion is
that as you can see, we do have some extra copies
here. Maybe we don't need that many, but we certainly
should have some available.

MR. NATHAN: I have a very slow
printer.

MR. WORRELL: I'm with you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Worrell?

MR. WORRELL: I had a comment, I
think, on your comments about the wastewater, the
pressure that you're putting on developers with regard
to wastewater treatment and reduction of wastewater.
That's going to become increasingly a bigger and
bigger issue nationally. I think you're on to
something great when you -- the efforts that you're
making in negotiating with developers in requiring
them to explain what they're going to do by way of
wastewater mitigation, stormwater mitigation. And a
couple of comments. One, I think we ought to -- you
ought to make a really strong effort, from a public
relations point of view, to take some credit for what
you've accomplished here, and that's going to do two
things. One, it's going to feather our collective
nest a little bit, and good for us, but two, I think
it will deliver a message to some of the less
environmentally conscious regulating authorities
throughout the state, namely, cities and towns, that,
hey, this is very serious. You want to take a look at
your building codes. You ought to call in your
developers, and hold them to account, and the
developers are not going to like this, but I think
environmentally, it's a really excellent move that
you've been able to accomplish, we've been able to
accomplish, and I think we ought to get publicity for
it, and push it.

MR. MARSHALL: Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll work on that.

Further comments, questions, regarding the Executive
Director's report this morning? Thank you, Ray. Next
order of business is Item Number 6, committee reports
and action items resulting. The first committee
reporting, from the Construction, Engineering, and
Operations Committee, Commissioner Salvadore. Do you
have a report today?

MR. SALVADORE: Yes, we do,
Mr. Chairman. Thank you. The CEO Committee met
earlier this morning. We have one item for
consideration by the Board of Commissioners this
morning, and that is review and approval of Resolution
2008:12, authorization to enter into Contract
08:705.00D with Pare Corporation for design of
improvements to the Central Avenue pump station.
That's in Johnston. And to relocate the force main,
and Mr. Chairman, we move passage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion to
Farnum, Commissioner Rotella, Leo?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Thompson.

Further discussion on Resolution 2008:12? Hearing
none, all of those that are in favor will say aye.

(VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any opposed?

There are none opposed, and the motion carries. Do
you have further report, Commissioner Salvadore?

MR. SALVADORE: That concludes our
report, Mr. Chairman. We're slacking off. It's
getting near summer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Next committee reporting is the Finance Committee. In
the absence of Commissioner Andrade, the Chair
presided over the meeting. There were two items for
consideration. Item A, which is review and approval of Resolution 2008:13, which is the selection of investment banking services. Basically, there were four firms interviewed. Morgan Stanley was selected as the preferred investment banker. Out of an abundance of caution, and to be prudent, all -- there were three others which were qualified, in the event that a very volatile financial market required that we look at other firms. And I would move at this time passage of Resolution 2008:13. Do I have a second? Commissioner Cruise, Commissioner Brown. Discussion on Resolution 2008:13? Hearing none, all of those that are in favor will say eye.

(VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any opposed?

There are none opposed. The motion carries. Item B, which is review and approval of Resolution 2008, Number 14, which is a clarification on an amendment to a previously passed resolution, which provides that the Executive Director and the Chair will have the authority to very quickly react to market conditions regarding refinancing of existing debt. And the Chair moves passage of Resolution 2008:14. Is there a second? Commissioner Montanari, Commissioner Farnum, and Commissioner Thompson. Discussion on Resolution
2008:14? Hearing none, all of those that are in favor will say aye.

(VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any opposed?

There are none opposed, and that motion carries. That concludes the report of the Finance Committee. Moving right along, Personnel Committee?

MR. MARSHALL: I have no report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No report. Legislative Committee. Joanne, is there anything going on at the State House that the Board needs to be apprised of?

MS. MACERONI: I updated my March legislative report, and the bills at the beginning show new introductions since that report. Everything is still moving along. Nothing has come out of committee that we're following, as yet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any questions of Joanne? Okay. Rules and Regs, I don't believe there was any Rules and Regulation Committee meeting, so there is no report. Long-Range Planning. No report. Okay. The Citizens' Advisory Committee. Harold? Do you have a report for us today?

MR. GADON: Yes, and I'll try to speak close enough to the mike for the benefit of Madam Reporter. The CAC meeting was held on 4/9 with a very
good attendance. Kerry Britt, Pretreatment Manager, did an excellent job in presenting the annual pretreatment report. We did have two welcome and surprising visitors join our meeting, which was in progress, Chairman Mesolella and Joanne Maceroni. The Chairman responded to our inquiries and gave us an insight in the Providence Water System for sale proposal, the separation of powers present position in regard to NBC, and possible sewer authorities consolidation in Rhode Island, all very interesting possibilities.

We again discussed the water filter bottle, which was originated by our own Howard Schacter, who I'm sure you'll hear from today. I think Karen's going to like this proposal, because then we'll refill the bottle with NBC water rather than Maine water, so that should help their revenue.

We have recommended Michelle Zwerver to be appointed to CAC by Chairman Mesolella. We welcome Commissioner Brown, and invite him to any of our meetings. We do have vacancies on our committee which prospective members may be interested in, since CSO Phase II planning is now going on. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 14. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
Harold. In keeping with that, we have a guest today.
I'd like to call on Howard Schacter, who is a member
of the CAC, and previous chairman, and he wants to
explain to us what he brought today. He's the
inventor of the Live Pure bottle, and it's
manufactured right here in Rhode Island, and he's
going to explain to us exactly what it is. Welcome.

MR. SCHACHTER: It's like a traveling road show. Actually, what we have here today --
actually, it's not a pitch. It's a gift on behalf of the CAC, which I've been a member of for, going on 24 years, and maybe in the 24 years accomplished something. But everybody will have one. And I'll make it very simple. This is not a -- it's a trend, and it's a way of life. It's sweeping the country. It's a Rhode Island product, and everybody will have -- you can pass these out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. SCHACHTER: And every Board person will have a unit today, and I also got enough for staff. If I run out, Jamie will have the inventory, and anybody who doesn't get one today will have them within the next 24 hours. It's very simple. So you don't have to open the package. We'll pass them out.
And what happens here is every bottle is going -- has
the ability -- very simple. Tap water. It has a filter. The only certified water bottle in the entire world. It's been certified by NSF and WQA. It took a lot of months to get it done. This is the creation. Actually, this is my design. And it actually can be filled 500 times. Replaces 500 bottles from the landfill. And 56 billion bottles are going into the landfills every year, and we are making our attempt to replace those plastic bottles. It's sweeping the country.

City by city, slowly, from the mayor's office down, are outlawing the use of plastic bottles. You can't bring -- San Francisco started it, and they're eliminating plastic bottles from entering any city building, office building, and they're all set up for security. While they're set up for security to check everything else, they're now checking that no water bottles are brought into the buildings. That doesn't mean that this bottle will replace it. However, it's very simple. You fill it. And it takes 500 times, and you keep count, and if you calculate filling it, say, twice a day. It's leakproof. You can carry it anywhere with you at any time, and you dispense very simply. Pressurized. All the water that you're going to want to drink, and even in the open mode, there is
no spillage. So it's a minor pressure, less than five PSI pressure releases the water.

And that filter is good for 500 fills. If you calculate that out, and most of the staff is already calculating, it's 75 gallons. 75 gallons, and they're getting into private labelling. This happens to be one. This is a joint venture with Avon and Curves, and these kind of bottles are being generated on a daily basis. It's a Rhode Island product, originated here, and it is making -- it's a pace setter across the country. Being sold in retail outlets. This is not a sales pitch. It's a way of life, and it's a trend that is sweeping. It's only 30 days old.

It took about eight months for NSF and WQA to certify it. This bottle, it's the only one in existence in the world. Only one. And it has -- it's here to stay. Obviously, it's doing a great -- it's performing a great effort for our planet, and everybody who happens to have a desire for water. Any tap water, any well water, will pass through, and the filter has the ability to remove excessive chlorine, and it's anti-microbial for any types of bacteria, and the beauty of it is with the anti-microbial concept, we're not breeding bacteria, so anything that's in that bottle, it's inhibiting the growth of bacteria,
so you can have it in your car. You can have it with
you. We've got miniaturized units coming out, so that
depending on the type of effort you need, for a
workout purpose, and it holds 20 ounces of water, and
the plastic is also -- we've got an anti-microbial
top, so that's also inhibiting the growth of bacteria
in and around the spout. And that's also part of the
certification, which WQA and NSF have fully certified,
and you'll see in the literature that that stamp of
approval is on it. So it's here to stay. Rhode
Island product. And our pleasure is to have everybody
here a recipient of a bottle.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. SCHACHTER: It has -- could have
some potential from a sales standpoint. It could have
great potential for -- rather than open them up, you
see how it performs, and then there's an instructional
with the sheet that you have. I personally feel that
at some point in our history and development, we may
cut the hats and shirts and replace it with --
there's another batch here. Jamie is the keeper of
the batch, and what we'll do is there's enough here
for staff, and if we've forgotten anybody, just sign
up with Jamie, and we will make sure everybody gets
one. It is a gift from the CAC, of which I have been
a member for many, many years, and it's a pleasure to
be part of this. We feel it is a trend, and it's
definitely here to stay, and it works.

Anybody who knows what it means to get something
certified by NSF or WQA, we're talking months and
months and months, and that was my role, was to
develop the filter, and oversee the certification, and
I know for a fact that there'll never be another one.
Nobody is going to take the time or energy to develop
this, but it is here. It just set a record. It's
being sold. All the mass merchandisers are taking it
on. It's only 30 days old, but it set a record at
Home Shopping Networks. Sold 3,000 in seven minutes,
a seven-minute slot, and it kind of moved way, way up
over what's being done today. So people around the
world are becoming aware that this is a trend.
Certainly, something that I feel that, when I think of
these things, I think of NBC. Probably the landfill
should be thinking about it, too, but we won't get
into that. There's a time and place for that comment.
But it's here to stay, and we're sure that
everybody -- did everybody get a --

MR. ROTELLA: I think so.

MR. SCHACTER: Last one.

MR. DEANGELIS: What's the retail on
this?

MR. SCHACHTER: Retail, it's price protected at $9.95, and it can be bought
over-the-counter, and it will be available, by the
way, NBC, at a very, very good discount. So I can
arrange all that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Great.

MR. SCHACHTER: Replacement filters
will be two for $7, and they're also sold over the
counter. You will probably find them within the next
two weeks, three weeks, Targets, Bed Bath Beyond,
those are the kind of locations where it's already
been ordered. Whole Foods. These are the locations.
GNC. But it is sweeping the country, and about 15,000
retailers are going to be carrying it within the next
three or four months.

MR. ROTELLA: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you
so much.

(APPLAUSE)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We wish you all the
best with this. Wonderful, wonderful product.

MR. SCHACHTER: It started here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's good news.

MR. SCHACHTER: 24 years ago.
MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. And I think it might be noteworthy, I note that this doesn't come under the conflict of interest, but it's under $25, so you do not have to include it when you submit your ethics report. Thank you. Thank you, Howard, so much for this. Really appreciate it, and all the best.

Thank you. Commissioner Montanari?

MR. MONTANARI: Are we part of this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I didn't know how many were going around, but we have them, and Howard is going to give them to you right now.

MR. MONTANARI: Thank you so much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you so much.

MR. WORRELL: You were absent when we gave them out. You weren't here.

MR. MONTANARI: I was here.

MR. MARSHALL: Al, I think it was because you were so quiet today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No commotion today from you. Or MacQueen. You guys were very quiet today.

Okay. Moving right along, the Executive Committee did not meet. Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled to meet on April the 30th; is that correct, Commissioner Kimball?

MR. KIMBALL: Yes.
MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. And that Compensation Committee meeting is being held at noon on April the 30th, correct?

MR. KIMBALL: Correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. There was no meeting of the Internal Ethics Committee. We've already had a little bit of a discussion on the paperless Board issues, targeting the end of this fiscal year, which is the end of June, to go paperless. The Chairman's report. I'd just like to say, again, Howard, thank you so much for your presentation, and all the best.

As the Executive Director told you, he mentioned action of the State Properties Committee. I did not attend the State Properties Committee meeting, but Laurie Horridge Bissonette, Executive Affairs, did. And who else was at the meeting?

MS. HORRIDGE: Anthony Bucci.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anthony Bucci, counsel regarding the acquisition of the properties that we're discussing for our expansion. The State Properties Committee did not act. They did encourage our staff to continue working with the City of Providence on this acquisition. It's only been five years since we were able to get some conversation going. I did meet
with the Mayor of the City of Providence yesterday with regard to this particular issue. His preference is that we do this as a friendly acquisition. I have explained to him that the Narragansett Bay Commission is a very successful agency, because we're not accustomed to crisis management, and we're making the necessary preparations to meet our nitrogen removal mandates so that we're not confronted with a crisis sometime in the future.

There is a meeting scheduled for the 21st of April between our staff and staff at the City of Providence, in which we hope there's going to be some progress made. The Mayor is now personally engaged in this matter, and we hope to have a resolution to report to you, hopefully by our next Board meeting. At the meeting, I did mention to him our interest, or the Board's interest, in at least being apprised and having a discussion with regard to, and I know that Commissioner Salvadore has called me on this several times this past month, with regard to an article that you've all read about, which is the City Council's interest in disposing of the Providence Water Supply Board.

I don't know how many of the present Commissioners were on the Board approximately 12 years
ago. Was it about 12 years ago, Ray?

MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know Commissioner Salvadore was not only on the Commission but part of a committee that was formed along with members of the Providence City Council, members of the Mayor's administration. At that time it was Mayor Cianci's administration. We actually did come and arrive at an agreement to acquire the Providence Water Supply Board. At the very eleventh hour, the underwriter, which at that time was Smith Barney, had indicated that they did not feel comfortable in floating the necessary debt without a specific authorization from the General Assembly regarding that acquisition. We -- the measure never passed the General Assembly, for a number of reasons which the paper alluded to, but the fact of the matter is, subsequent to that, we did further research and learned that -- I believe that Counsel may be part of that. I don't remember, but there was no specific -- no specific requirement for specific authority that was necessary for the acquisition.

However, having said that, I did indicate to the Mayor that we, at least, would like to have a discussion about it, that I was not empowered by the
Board to enter into any formal discussion, but I did talk to a number of Commissioners over the last couple of weeks regarding whether or not they thought that we should indicate our interest, and the overwhelming response was yes.

I indicated that to Councilman Michael Solomon, who is the chairman of the subcommittee created by the City Council to investigate and research the possible sale and disposition of the Providence Water Supply Board. I think it's interesting to note that the Mayor did indicate, without any specificity, that he felt that, at least from a public relations perspective, that this particular asset should remain in the public domain.

I don't know if I mentioned it at any prior meetings, but we did receive a letter from the Town of Scituate indicating their interest in perhaps acquiring the system and having the Narragansett Bay Commission as potentially a joint venture partner for purposes of operations. There's been no discussion, substantive discussion, except to say that we would welcome any discussion on the issue.

So nothing is, as I understand it, has transpired since the article. Nothing official. I'm told that a number of companies have indicated their interest in
acquiring the system from the City, but nothing
official has taken place. And so I wanted to report
that to the Board, and with the Board's acquiescence,
I will engage in at least informal discussions, and
then if there's any kind of formal action necessary, I
will report back to the Board, if that's okay.
Commissioner Rotella?

MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Chairman, I'd like
to hear from the Board if there's any feedback, if
there's some time, to hear some feedback from the
Board, if there's any thoughts there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely. The floor
is open.

MR. CAMPBELL: My first question is
Steve Laffey has in the ProJo made a case that the
Water Supply System is not Providence's property, and
therefore, they cannot sell it, and that it really
belongs to the rate payers. So I'm not sure how firm
that case is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I don't know.
Counsel? I don't know. Commissioner Worrell?

MR. WORRELL: You know, I was a member
of the Providence City Council back in the '60s, and I
don't think that allegation by Steve Laffey would have
made it out of his lips before he was buried with a
response to the contrary. I mean, I think that all
the lawyers that have ever looked at that thing would
agree that the title to that Scituate Reservoir
remains in the hands of the City of Providence, along
with all of the pipelines, et cetera, et cetera, et
cetera, and that represents huge capital investment,
and for Laffey to talk about this as being, as
belonging to the recent rate payers, I mean, you know,
I think he's blowing smoke, myself, and you know, I
don't expect -- lawyers never agree on anything, but I
would think you'd get a fairly high level of agreement
from most lawyers on that issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If they all agreed, I
think they'd be out of business. I don't know. But I
don't know. I guess that was a letter to the editor,
and I think he -- I don't know. He's expressing his
opinion. I don't know what weight it has. Counsel,
do you want to weigh in on this?

MR. DEANGELIS: I'd love to weigh in
on it. If the Commission wants me to do the necessary
research, I'd be happy to do it. It certainly is an
interesting argument. I read the article by former
Mayor Laffey, and you know, my comment is, if it's an
asset of the rate payers, I wonder why the rate payers
have never come forward previously and said, we're
going to take it over. Let's hold elections and throw all these politicians out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know if it was an editorial comment, or if he based his comment on any kind of research or facts. I don't know.

MR. CAMPBELL: He states some legal decisions and dockets and so forth.

MR. WORRELL: I think he's got a great imagination.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know, except to say that I would agree with the Mayor, and I've said it in the past, 12 years ago, that I personally -- this is only my editorial comment, personal feelings on the matter -- that the asset should remain in the public domain. I believe that. It's too much of a valuable public asset to belong to a private company, but that's my personal opinion. I think just -- from our perspective, the operation of that entity is really valuable. You know how important our operating efficiency is. So we need to be involved, and we need to weigh in, in any case, on how it's going to -- if it is disposed of, how it's going to be disposed of. Commissioner Rotella?

MR. ROTTLE: Just to weigh in, Mr. Chairman, if you recall back 12 years ago, I
chaired a commission that looked into this, and the same logic that was present 12 years ago certainly is applicable today. The work of the Narragansett Bay Commission and the work of the Providence Water Supply Board from an administrative standpoint is certainly connected, and continues to be connected. Many -- obviously, the bills that we send to our rate payers are based in whole or in -- at least in part on bills that are sent out by the Water Supply Board, so there is a whole bunch of corresponding work that goes along there. In terms of shut-offs, obviously we don't shut off sewers. We shut off water, and that's, again, in cooperation with the Water Supply Board. So, and again, many of the administrative benefits that we defined way back, 12 years ago, will certainly become apparent again today.

So I would certainly suggest that you continue to take a look at what the possibilities are. I agree with you wholeheartedly that this asset should certainly remain in the public domain, someplace. I think it's a bad idea for private developers to be involved, or private owners to be involved with something as important as a municipal water supply, and again, I do suggest that anybody who is interested take a look at -- around the country, most of the
large metropolitan areas, like the Providence area, have a combined water and sewer authority. It's not something that we'd be breaking new ground on. It's something that certainly is probably more of a practice than not the practice throughout the country. So it certainly would be an area, I think, that we should be very, very interested in pursuing, if, in fact, it turns out to be a sensible deal for both the City and the Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. GRAY: Can I ask what's the motivation behind the City's wanting to dispose of it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, basically from what I know, they have a rather large, not unlike other municipalities, they have a rather large pension liability. I think it's in the $400 million, $500 million range, and I think that the thinking was that what they would do is sell this asset for the value that was alluded to in the paper, and I don't know that that's accurate, four to $600 million, take those funds, and basically retire this debt to the pension system. That's my understanding. I think that's where they were motivated. There may be other motivations as well. You know, the fact that compliance regulations are getting more complex every
1 day, I think you're going to start to see a lot of
2 municipalities try to either privatize or sell these
3 kind of assets, because of its complexities. You need
4 people just to deal with that every day, and they
5 don't have it in their budget or qualified, actually
6 qualified personnel to deal with it.

7 MR. GRAY: It's not run by a
8 quasi-public agency right now? It's run by the City?
9 MR. MARSHALL: It's a City board.
10 MR. CHAIRMAN: It's a City quasi.
11 Like, I think it's -- the Providence Water Supply
12 Board is, I guess it's akin to Narragansett Bay
13 Commission in that it's really a separate entity from
14 the City. We acquired this facility, I think the
15 actual acquisition was 1982. We were here talking
16 about it since 1978, '79. The acquisition actually
17 took place in 1982, and had the Water Supply Board
18 been part and parcel of this asset, we would have
19 already owned it. We would have just taken both over,
20 but because it was controlled by a quasi, we never
21 were able to gain control over it, as is the case, as
22 Commissioner Rotella said, with most large agencies.
23 They have both ends of the pipe. But I think
24 generally the motivation was just to retire a rather
25 large corporate pension liability.
MR. GRAY: Do you have any idea of
what the state of the system is? Is it like this was
in '82, or is it like this is today?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have some debt.

They did do some improvements. I don't know the
extent. I can tell you this. I think 12 years ago,
we did a very extensive analysis of the conditions,
and I think we -- we determined at that time that, I
think it was $180 million, right? About $180 million
worth of improvements that would be necessary for --
beginning from the day we took it over. I have no
idea what has transpired since that time.

Incidentally, just for your edification, Maureen's not
here, but at that time, Mayor Cianci thought it was
worth about $900 million. I think we signed an
agreement for something like $80 million, and the $80
million was really comprised of funds that the City of
Providence had advanced the Providence Water Supply
Board for its -- to supplement its operating deficit.

That amount was about $38 to $40 million. PUC would
allow us to reimburse that. In addition to that --
excuse me. They would allow us to pay some rate of
interest, if they had the use of that money, we'd be
allowed to pay them some interest rate on that $38
million. In addition to that, we had approximately
$25 million of outstanding debt, bonded indebtedness. We had agreed to assume that. So those three components amounted to -- I don't know the exact number, but it was approximately $80 million, and of course, the Mayor, in his infinite wisdom at that time, also recognized that a sale to a private party would have been just an enormous outcry, and so at that time, the $80 million really would have been able to retire the pension liability, which now is something like five or $600 million. I don't know. But we have a lot of research that we've done. Those -- Ray, did you get those together? The data that we had comprised?

MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're going to get all that data together. We're going to be prepared to kind of talk about this in the future. We understand the nature of the issue, and I can tell you that if we were the owners, I can assure you that we would move forward to operate that facility with the kind of efficiency that we do here.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Laffey also makes a point of looking at the financial aspect of it, and if you had to come up with $400 million of new money, somebody's going to have to pay for that.
MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. That's correct.

MR. CAMPBELL: And that's a big nut for the water rate payers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't think there's any question that if this were to be sold, what the impacts on the water rate would be. Would be enormous. There is no question. I don't think anybody would dispute that. We've been saying that for many years. So I mean, this is not a revelation for us, but what the impact would be is, of course, be conditioned upon the actual dollars that are involved. Somebody else have a question?

MR. MONTANARI: I have a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Montanari?

MR. MONTANARI: You had mentioned that there are other companies or whatever interested in purchasing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was told that several phone calls have come in to either the Councilman or the Council regarding expressing their interest.

MR. MONTANARI: My question is, would that go out to bid?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know how they intend to deal with it. I would like to say that, you know, our position, I think, is and has been, if
you're going to dispose of it, you should be talking to us. We're not aggressively pursuing it, but if it's going to be disposed of, I think we need to be -- we need to weigh in on that. I think that's pretty much, I mean, if they don't -- if nothing was said, we'd be just operating the way we do, but I don't know how they would dispose of it. I just don't know.

MR. THOMPSON: What do you think of the probability of the State taking it over by eminent domain?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, you know, I think it's a real -- it looks like something is moving. I'm going to put on my formal politician hat. Counsel, you can weigh in as well. We have to understand that this asset services 66, 67 percent of the water supply for the State, and if I was sitting up there looking at what the potential impact on water rates, I can tell you what I'd be doing. I'd be introducing legislation, just as you suggest, to make absolutely certain that that remained in the public domain under some circumstance, but I can't speak for the General Assembly.

MR. THOMPSON: As an interested citizen, I would hope it wouldn't happen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Nathan?
MR. NATHAN: Does staff have the time to analyze this? What I'm getting at is, as we get a little further, and there's beginning to be a green light for us to take a harder look at it, should we bring in a consulting firm from the side to give us an independent, severed view of where the issues are?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We had Smith Barney advising us on the last venture.

MR. NATHAN: I was thinking technical.

MR. MARSHALL: I would say that it would, in part, depend on what they've done recently, how far up to date are they on evaluating their system, and making improvements to their system, if they have good consultants who can bring us up to speed fairly quickly. That would be one thing. If they've been doing nothing since 1994 or whatever, we have to get a handle on exactly what they know about their system at this point in time.

MR. NATHAN: Where the problems are.

MR. MARSHALL: Right.

MR. GRAY: I'd like to say that I think that the core competence is a great match for both handling pipes, water, and purity, so I'd encourage you to go forward.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
Anybody else want to weigh in, since we're talking about it? All right. Okay. Other than that, the Chairman has no further report. New business? Any -- Commissioner Salvadore, did you want to discuss this further, or do you have any --

MR. SALVADORE:  No. I just wanted to discuss the Providence Water Supply Board's activity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Next item is new business. Is there any new business, Commissioner Gray?

MR. GRAY: I'd like to thank the staff. Online now is the list of vendors that the NBC uses, and I know you mentioned it, that we have our Ethics Commission statement we have to prepare by a week from Friday; is that right?

MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

MR. GRAY: I encourage everyone to go through when you do it, and I would also like to ask if you think it's appropriate, the Board thinks it's appropriate, that if any -- if the Board does report out in some fashion, if any of the members have any conflicts with -- that you have to report to the Ethics Commission, we might as well put it on the table right now. So I would like to ask the Chairman if we could maybe schedule that as an assignment or an
event.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will raise the issue at the next Board meeting.

MR. GRAY: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Make a note of that. And any other new business?

MR. MARSHALL: I think Jamie has something, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jamie, do you have something today?

MS. SAMONS: We have something for you. Oh, never mind.

MR. MARSHALL: I think we're going to adjourn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Moving right along, Number 8, which is other business, is there any other business to come before the Commission? Other business? Hearing none, Item Number 9, Commissioner Rotella?

MR. ROTELLA: Motion to adjourn, sir.

MR. SALVADORE: Second.

MR. MONTANARI: Second.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion to adjourn, and seconded by Commissioner Montanari. We have a motion to adjourn. All in favor will say aye.
(VOICE VOTE TAKEN)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any opposed? None opposed, and the motion carries.

(CLOSED AT 12:17 P.M.)
CERTIFICATE

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 2nd day of May, 2008.

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