

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

3 In Re: Monthly Board Meeting of the Commission

4 DATE: June 24, 2014
5 TIME: 11:00 a.m.
6 PLACE: Narragansett Bay Commission
Corporate Office Building
One Service Road
Providence, RI 02905

7 PRESENT:

- 8 Vincent Mesolella, Chairman
- Raymond Marshall, Secretary–Executive Director
- 9 Angelo S. Rotella, Vice Chairman
- Robert Andrade, Treasurer
- 10 James S. Bennett
- Dr. Richard H. Burrows
- 11 Bruce Campbell
- Mario Carlino
- 12 Joseph P. DeAngelis, Esquire
- Michelle DeRoche
- 13 Michael DiChiro
- Jonathan K. Farnum
- 14 Seth Handy
- Paul E. Lemont
- 15 Joseph Kimball
- Joan P. Milas
- 16 Alessandro Montanari

17 ALSO PRESENT:

- 18 Sherri Arnold, NBC
- 19 Rich Bernier, NBC
- Kerry Britt, NBC
- 20 Tom Brueckner, NBC
- Leah Foster, NBC
- 21 Harold Gadon, CAC
- Karen Giebink, NBC
- 22 Carmine Goneconte, NBC
- Jennifer Harrington, Esquire, NBC
- 23 Laurie Horridge, NBC
- Joanne Maceroni, NBC
- 24 Shaylyn McCauley, NBC
- John Motta, NBC

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1 ALSO PRESENT, cont.

2 Paul Nordstrom, NBC
Joe Pratt, Louis Berger Group

3 Jamie Samons, NBC
Deborah Samson, NBC

4 Mark Thomas, NBC
Richard H. Williams, NBC

5 Thomas Uva, NBC

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1 (BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING COMMENCED AT 11:04 A.M.)

2 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Good morning, everyone.

3 Recognizing a quorum, we'll call to order the meeting of
4 the Board of Commissioners Narragansett Bay Commission
5 for Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 11:04.

6 Before we begin with the official meeting, I would
7 like to take this opportunity to welcome and introduce
8 our two new commissioners, Michelle DeRoche.

9 COMMISSIONER DeROCHE: Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: We're happy to have
11 you, and Jim Bennett. Of course, I have to say a few
12 things about Michelle. Michelle, you were my page, were
13 you not?

14 COMMISSIONER DeROCHE: For a very small
15 brief time, about three months.

16 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Did I do something to,
17 was it something I said?

18 COMMISSIONER DeROCHE: No.

19 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: All right. Okay.

20 Also, I think it's appropriate to announce that

21 Commissioners Carlino, Kimball, Nathan and Worrell have
22 finally officially been reappointed and confirmed. So,
23 congratulations, and that's great. It took us a while
24 to get that done, but I'm thrilled that it's done.
25 Thank you. Yes, I introduced Commissioner Bennett, of

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1 course.

2 COMMISSIONER BENNETT: Chairman, I'm hoping
3 that you don't have anything to say about me.

4 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Well, here's the thing.
5 My mother always told me, if you don't have anything
6 good to say about anybody...that's not true. Jim has
7 been a dear friend and a great help, actually, to the
8 commission since he's been with the City of Providence,
9 and we appreciate your reference; and I think you're
10 going to enjoy serving here on the Narragansett Bay
11 Commission.

12 First order of business is the Approval the Previous
13 Minutes of May 28, 2014. Have all of our members had an
14 opportunity to review the previous minutes, and if so,
15 are there any comments, questions or corrections on the
16 previous minutes? Mr. Kimball.

17 COMMISSIONER KIMBALL: Mr. Chairman, if
18 memory serves me correctly, I believe I was in

19 attendance at that meeting, but I don't see my name on
20 the list.

21 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Okay, that's the second
22 correction we've had. Heather, will you note that
23 correction, that Commissioner Kimball was present at the
24 previous meeting of May 28th, and note that correction.
25 Commissioner Carlino, isn't that also true in your case?

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1 COMMISSIONER CARLINO: I'm present on this
2 one. The sub-committee, actually, I was incorrect. I
3 was not there, but we squared that away. I was
4 corrected.

5 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Having made those
6 corrections --

7 COMMISSIONER MONTANARI: Move approval.

8 COMMISSIONER MILAS: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: -- Commissioner
10 Montanari moves that we approve the previous minutes,
11 and seconded by Commissioner Milas. Discussion on the
12 previous minutes.

13 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

14 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Hearing none, all of
15 those in favor of approval of the previous minutes will
16 say aye.

17 THE COMMISSION: Aye.
18 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Are there any opposed?
19 THE COMMISSION: No (response)
20 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: There are none opposed,
21 and the motion carries.
22 (MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY)
23 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Next order of business
24 is Number 3, which is Acknowledgment of Awards. Mr.
25 Secretary.

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1 RAYMOND MARSHALL: Yes. The first three
2 awards were presented by the Narragansett Water
3 Pollution Control Association. That's the local
4 statewide organization that all wastewater agencies
5 belong to, and we received three awards at that, or our
6 members did.
7 The first one we want to acknowledge is the Most
8 Efficient Large Secondary Treatment Facility, which was
9 won by Field's Point, and I believe Rich Williams is
10 going to come up and receive that award. Rich is the
11 head of our maintenance group. Rich, come on up.
12 (APPLAUSE)
13 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Thank you, Rich.
14 Congratulations.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much.

16 RAYMOND MARSHALL: The next award that was
17 presented by the organization is called the James
18 Marvelle Award for Service to the Narragansett Water
19 Pollution Control Association, and that was presented to
20 Mike Spring. Mike's also from our plant.

21 (APPLAUSE)

22 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: That's a very nice one.
23 Hey, Mike, thank you.

24 RAYMOND MARSHALL: Thank you for
25 representing us well. The third award from that

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1 organization is the Robert Markelewicz Award for
2 Excellence and Maintenance, and the winner of that is
3 Joe Crosby, but Joe is not able to be here today. Joe
4 is one of the mechanics at Field's Point.

5 The next award is presented by the Providence
6 Business News, and this is an award that requires a
7 fairly extensive application as well as a survey that
8 has to be done by the employees.

9 The employees go online, and they anonymously weigh
10 in on what they really think is going to work here as
11 opposed to what we all tell you is going to work here.
12 You have to score so many points on that survey in order

13 to be selected for this award.

14 The Best Place to Work Award for 2014, and I'd like
15 to receive this award, I'd like Laurie Horridge to come
16 up from our Executive Group to receive the award.

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: The next order of
19 businesses, Item Number 4, is the Executive Director's
20 Report. Mr. Secretary, do you have a report for us this
21 morning?

22 RAYMOND MARSHALL: Yes, I do.

23 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Proceed.

24 RAYMOND MARSHALL: The seasonal permit for
25 our two pretreatment plants for nitrogen removal is now

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1 in effect. It runs May through October. Field's Point
2 is meeting permit, doing very well. For May, they
3 averaged 3.27 parts per million of nitrogen. Very
4 impressive, and that's in spite of the fact that we've
5 having some trouble with the aeration blowers. That's
6 the mechanical equipment that pumps air into the process
7 to make the bugs work, and we've been working with the
8 manufacturer on that. We're going to do a study on how
9 we can make that system run more efficiently, and they,
10 meaning the manufacturer, has been involved actively in

11 trying to get the matters resolved, but they seem to be
12 ongoing; and we need to come to some resolution on this.
13 So, we'll work on it over the summer, and we'll give you
14 an update in September.

15 At Bucklin Point, construction is ending, thankfully.
16 The contractor really did a good job. They finished a
17 couple of weeks ahead of time. They're essentially done
18 now, but the permit doesn't actually go into effect
19 until July 15th.

20 And in spite of that, the staff over there have
21 managed so far in June to achieve a level of 4.8 parts
22 per million. The limit is 5, so they're doing really
23 well on this cumbersome conditions, but that will all be
24 resolved in the next week or so as the contractor moves
25 off site.

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1 The wind turbine performance in May, the winds were a
2 little lighter, so we're down to only 44 percent of the
3 power that we needed at Field's Point was generated by
4 the turbines. We're still averaging for the year 2014
5 57 percent. We just have to remember that the windier
6 months are at the beginning of the year, January through
7 March, and then the winds pick up again in the fall, so
8 they tend to quiet down in the summertime. So, all of

9 last year we averaged 43 percent of the power.
10 Our biosolids vendor Synagro has moved from reusing
11 50 percent of our biosolids, which they're required to
12 do by contract, now they're reusing 100 percent of it,
13 and they're now taking it to Woonsocket where they're
14 generating electricity with the material that they fall
15 off of our site, and that's along with other material,
16 other biosolids that they take from other facilities.
17 The Phase III CSO stakeholders group met last
18 Thursday. A couple of commissioners attended,
19 Commissioner Kimball, Commissioner Burroughs, so they
20 know a little bit about what the details of that are.
21 This is the fourth of six meetings we've just completed.
22 The next one is September 4th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
23 They're interesting from the point of view that you
24 can see the divergence of opinions on what we should do
25 next, how we should do it, how much money we should

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1 spend, and that's part of the whole process of what we
2 want to get out on the table to make sure that everyone,
3 that we have a broad range of support before we move
4 into Phase III of that program.
5 And speaking of the CSO Program, Phase II, we're
6 making progress on all contracts. The contractors are

7 doing well. The goal is to have substantial completion
8 of all the work by the end of the year. There will
9 still be some cleanup and paving work to do probably
10 next spring, but we should have everything operating by
11 the end of December.

12 And the lab building, the site across the street, the
13 foundation work is now beginning. That's also moving
14 along well. As you know, we had the groundbreaking last
15 month, and so far the contractor is doing a very good
16 job for us.

17 As far as our budgets go, FY '14 was successfully
18 finished under budget. We were about 2 1/2 percent
19 under budget through May, and we should be able to cross
20 the finish line at about that level; and the FY '15
21 budget will come before you for presentation,
22 consideration and your vote a little later today when
23 the Finance Committee reports. Karen and her staff will
24 be giving you a report on that.

25 The Public Utilities Commission was here for two days

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1 in early June. They spent one day on combined sewer
2 overflows and the second day on the wastewater treatment
3 facilities.

4 We had some classroom work that was presented by the

5 staff, and then we took them on a field trips to the
6 tunnel pump station as well as both of our wastewater
7 treatment facilities. They seem very impressed, and
8 they made remarks to the effect that they had no idea it
9 was this complex, it was this expansive, and hopefully,
10 it will help us in our rate case as we move forward over
11 the next couple of months.

12 The unions have completed their voting on the new
13 collective bargaining agreement, and they ratified all
14 the tentative agreements. We're now working on the
15 final language and wording on a couple of union issues
16 that are non-economic in nature, and we probably will
17 have a full signed agreement sometime in early to
18 mid-July.

19 We had to spend a fair amount of time, as you would
20 imagine, explaining how we're going to move from a
21 traditional health care delivery system to the
22 high-deductible system, but to the credit of the
23 employees, they were very engaged, very open minded and
24 asked a lot of great questions; and we're comfortable
25 enough to vote in favor of the new CBA, which includes

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1 that particular change.

2 And as a follow up to that, I've been going around to

3 meet with all staff on all shifts at all of our
4 facilities. I can tell you that morale is very good,
5 and there was a lot of positive feedback, just in
6 general by the way they feel they've been treated by the
7 board. They've been treated very fairly, and they
8 wanted me to extend their appreciation to the fact that
9 you all actually value what it is they do each and every
10 day. Sometimes they get the feeling that nobody knows
11 they're out there or cares, but you've shown them that
12 that's not the case.

13 I met with the two new commissioners, and I gave them
14 a little bit of a briefing on how the board operates;
15 and so, hopefully, they'll enjoy their tenure here on
16 the board. I'll make sure that we keep them busy, the
17 Chairman will see to that.

18 All of the commissioners should know that we are
19 planning to update or upgrade all of your I-pads at the
20 September board meeting, and anything you have on them,
21 IT will be available to transfer to the new units. So,
22 over the summer those will arrive with the new budget,
23 and then they'll configure them and have them all ready
24 for you; and we'll keep you posted.

25 Karen will send you e-mails and there might even be

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1 an opportunity to come in prior to the board meeting, if
2 we're able to get the deliveries on time so that you
3 won't have to scramble around on that particular day.

4 Just a head up on that.

5 We took the DEM director and the Director of
6 Administration into the tunnel last month, the one that
7 begins over by the Farmer's Market over by the Cuffee
8 School, and they walked the length of the tunnel down to
9 the Foundry complex.

10 They were very impressed and seemed to appreciate the
11 opportunity to actually get out of the office and see
12 something a little different. They were impressed with
13 the complexity and the scope of the project.

14 We've also been meeting with DEM and Resource
15 Recovery working out the details of the scheduled
16 connection to our system, which is planned for November
17 1st. There's a few items that we're trying to make sure
18 that we all agree on before that actually happens. We
19 have another one scheduled for September.

20 Senator Whitehouse was at Field's Point yesterday.
21 He was here as part of an educational program that the
22 Blackstone Valley Prep School in Cumberland run, and
23 that they have some 5th grade students that came in; and
24 the topic was Climate Change and Global Warming, so that
25 was set up at the request of Senator Whitehouse. The

1 kids were really bright engaged kids and very
2 well-behaved. After a little bit of discussion in the
3 classroom, they had the opportunity to walk around and
4 have a tour of the plant and see what actually happens
5 here.

6 The last couple of things, the legislative season is
7 over, and we have a couple of bills that will impact us,
8 and Joanne will give you a briefing on that a little
9 later in the meeting; and anything that is extensive in
10 nature, we might have to have a presentation for you in
11 September, especially on quasi-public transparencies,
12 legislation that was passed.

13 Finally, the stormwater regional study group
14 completed its DIMS studies, Does it Make Sense? The
15 conclusion is that a regional authority is the way to go
16 with stormwater. They're going to have now a follow-up
17 study which will begin in August and run through
18 September of 2015, which is going to try to better
19 define what that regional group or that regional effort
20 should look like, and that is my report, Mr. Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Thank you. Do any of
22 our members have any questions regarding the Secretary's
23 Report?

24 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

25 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: No questions. All

1 right. Moving right along, Committee Reports and Action
2 Items Resulting. Commission MacQueen is not here today,
3 so the Chair chaired the CEO Committee meeting.

4 There were two issues for action. Item A, which is
5 Review and Approval of Resolution 2014:16, which is
6 Award of Contract 120.00RS. It's for Professional
7 Services for our Biogas Generation System. The
8 resolution is included in your package.

9 The resolution resolves that they'll be a contract
10 entered into would be Brown and Caldwell, the amount not
11 to exceed \$322,000 for engineering services for our
12 biogas project.

13 As you can see by the notations, the biogas project
14 is intended to cost approximately \$4.9 million and
15 provides other benefits. Mr. Secretary, do you want to
16 go into the details?

17 RAYMOND MARSHALL: Sure. Very briefly, we
18 have a process over at Bucklin Point called anaerobic
19 digestion. It breaks down the amount of sludge that we
20 have over there to reduce the quantity that needs to be
21 disposed of. While you're doing that, you generate a
22 gas, a methane gas which is combustible, and a portion
23 of that gas you use to reheat the system; and it speeds

24 up the process to make it more efficient, but almost
25 every anaerobic digestion process generates more gas

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1 than you need to use to keep it self-sustaining, and we
2 flair that off right now. So, if you went down there,
3 you have to see it during the day, but at night it looks
4 like the Olympic Torch, and that is a big greenhouse
5 gas.

6 So, in the name of being as green as we can, we're
7 going to take that excess gas, we're going to generate
8 electricity, and we're going to reduce our greenhouse
9 gas emissions as well. We should be able to generate
10 about 30 percent of the power we need at Bucklin Point.
11 We spend somewhere around a million dollars a year in
12 electricity there.

13 This project has been in study and in development now
14 for several years. Plans and specs are finally done,
15 and it should be bid late this summer; and we'll bring
16 the bid results to you sometime in the fall, maybe
17 September, if not then, then October in order to get
18 this project under construction. So, we ask your
19 approval of 2014:16.

20 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Do we have a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER MILAS: Move passage.

22 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Commissioner Milas
23 moves passage of Resolution 2014:16.
24 COMMISSIONER FARNUM: Second.
25 VICE CHAIRMAN ROTELLA: Second.

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1 COMMISSIONER MONTANARI: Second.
2 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Seconded by
3 Commissioner Farnum, Rotella and Montanari. Further
4 discussion on Resolution 2014:16?
5 THE COMMISSION: (No response)
6 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Hearing none, all of
7 those that are in favor will say aye.
8 THE COMMISSION: Aye.
9 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Are there any opposed?
10 THE COMMISSION: (No response)
11 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: There are none opposed,
12 and the motion carries.
13 (MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY)
14 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: The next item is Item
15 B, which is Review and Approval of Resolution 2014:17,
16 which is Award of Contract 127.00RS-Agreement for
17 Professional and Technical Consulting Services for our
18 Field's Point Electrical Substation No. 1. Mr.
19 Secretary.

20 RAYMOND MARSHALL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This
21 project is to upgrade and replace one of the major
22 transformers at Field's Point. It's been in service for
23 quite a while, and it's old and needs replacement.
24 There's some corrosion that has occurred that goes with
25 being in the marine environment that it is.

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1 It's estimated to cost, the actual construction,
2 \$800,000. We expect to bid it some time this summer,
3 and the bid results will come before you this fall. The
4 engineering firm, SED Associates, has performed well in
5 the design, and we're looking to retain them to provide
6 technical support during construction, show drawing,
7 reviews and some limited inspection services. The price
8 for that is estimated to be \$31,000, and that's all
9 contained in Resolution 2014:17, and we ask your
10 approval.

11 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Do we have a motion?

12 COMMISSIONER HANDY: Move approval.

13 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Commissioner Handy
14 moves we approve Resolution 2014:17.

15 COMMISSIONER CARLINO: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Seconded by
17 Commissioner Carlino. Further discussion on the matter.

18 Further discussion on Resolution 2014:17?

19 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

20 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Hearing none, all of
21 those that are in favor will say aye.

22 THE COMMISSION: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Are there any opposed?

24 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

25 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: There are none opposed,

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1 and the motion carries.

2 (MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY)

3 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: That concludes the
4 report of the CEO Committee. The next committee
5 reporting is Long Range Planning Committee. I don't
6 believe there was a meeting today. The next committee
7 reporting is the Finance Committee. Commissioner
8 Andrade, do you have a report for us?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDRADE: Yes, I do, Mr.
10 Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Proceed.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDRADE: Thank you. The
13 committee met this morning to review the Operating
14 Budget in some detail. Most of the revisions that have
15 taken place since the last meeting, the last review was

16 at last month's meeting.

17 At this point, I would ask Karen to come forward.

18 She's going to go through the budget in some detail as

19 we present it to you for approval. Please feel free to

20 stop her, and ask any questions you may have as we go

21 through the budget.

22 RAYMOND MARSHALL: Are you going to need the

23 overhead at all?

24 MS. GIEBINK: No.

25 RAYMOND MARSHALL: Does everyone have a hard

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1 copy of the budget?

2 MS. GIEBINK: What I'm going to do is

3 actually go through the hard copy with you.

4 I would like to, first you all, acknowledge Sherri

5 Arnold, Gail Degan and Shaylyn McCauley for their help

6 on the budget as well as Leah Foster. Great job this

7 year.

8 The first tab is the Budget Message, and that's the

9 message from the Executive Director, and it highlights,

10 the first page, Page 1 actually highlights the

11 differences on a year-to-year basis between the Fiscal

12 Year 2014 budget versus Fiscal Year 2015 budget; and

13 overall, we're looking at a 1.5 percent increase over

14 the prior year, and I'll go into more detail on the
15 specific line items as we go further into the budget.
16 The Executive Director's message then continues on
17 the next few pages. On Page 3 there's an interesting
18 graphs that shows the permit requirements versus goals
19 for BOD and TSS. That's one of our core business
20 functions.
21 The nitrogen seasonal permit versus the seasonal
22 average, as shown in the chart below. You can see that
23 we'll be facing increasingly stringent requirements with
24 respect to nitrogen removal and the resources required
25 to do so are reflected in this year's budget. On Page 4

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1 highlights the CIP, a few of the major projects.
2 On Page 8 of the report you can see that this budget
3 does reflect an increase in the number of FTEs, a net
4 increase of 3 positions, and then that continues with a
5 summary of the Fiscal Year 2014 requirements, which
6 start on Page 9 and continue through Page 12.
7 The next tab, that's information about the
8 Narragansett Bay Commission. It gives you background
9 information discussing the commission, the organization.
10 On Pages 14 and 15 you can see the organization chart.
11 That gives you kind of a good overview in terms of how

12 the NBC is structured and what some of the major
13 functions of the different divisions and sections within
14 those divisions are.

15 On Page 16, there's a discussion of the regulatory
16 climate and some of our constraints with respect to
17 state and federal issues.

18 And on Page 17, there's discussion of the Field's
19 Point facilities. It's just an overview of the
20 treatment facilities and the collection system, and on
21 the bottom of that page, there's a chart that shows the
22 CSO Phase I facilities, the flow collections since
23 they've come on line back in 2009. I believe that they
24 captured over 5.6 billion gallons.

25 Additional discussion on the facilities is on Pages

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1 18 and 19. There's a discussion of the Rhode Island
2 demographics. These are GFOA, our requirements are that
3 we need to discuss all things within our Operating
4 Budget. It highlights the Rhode Island economy on
5 employment rate meeting household income.

6 On Page 22, there is a map that shows NBC service
7 area, and approximately 40 percent of NBC's accounts are
8 within the City of Providence. NBC's largest customers
9 are shown on the bottom of Page 23. Our largest

10 customers in terms of the total annual billing in
11 Fiscal Year 2013 was Providence Housing Authority
12 followed by Brown University and Rhode Island Hospital.
13 So, you can see that we have a nice stable set of
14 customers supporting NBC, and we don't have a
15 particularly high concentration in terms of our revenue
16 sources from one source.

17 On Page 24, there is a graph that shows the number of
18 accounts by customer class. You can see that there's
19 been a growth in the number of residential accounts as
20 well as non-residential accounts.

21 With respect to commercial users, there has been a
22 decline in the number of industrial users, and we've
23 talked about that in the past. That's shown in the
24 decline from 700 to 250.

25 Page 25 shows the projected population growth by city

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1 and town as well as age group and gender. Page 26
2 discusses the Strategic Plan, and really, the strategic
3 plan is what guides the development of the budget, and
4 our objective of making sure that the resources are
5 allocated to the functions that we need in order to meet
6 the strategic goals.

7 We've also included on Page 27 a few graphs that

8 show how the action for achievement, which are detailed
9 in the back, tie into the overall strategic objectives.
10 Page 29 through 32 show the goal actions for target
11 measures by key code.
12 Getting to the budget on Page 33, which is behind the
13 next tab, there is an overview of the budget, and as I
14 mentioned, the Fiscal Year 2015 budget is \$100,119,146.
15 It represents a 1.5 percent increase over the prior
16 year.
17 With respect to revenues, user fees are budgeted 1.4
18 percent higher than last year. Pretreatment fees, 9.1
19 percent higher, connection permit fees, 50 percent
20 higher at \$150,000.
21 Non-operating revenue, we are budgeting for
22 investment income of approximately \$5,000, which is a
23 \$20,000 less than last year's because interest rates are
24 just so low.
25 Late charges are budgeted 16.4 percent higher.

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1 Transfer from operating capital is budgeted 213,000
2 lower than last year, and the revenue fund balance, we
3 are budgeting this year of \$200,000.
4 With respect to expenses, the major changes are,
5 personnel costs are 1.7 percent higher, operating

6 supplies and expenses are 12.4 percent higher,
7 professional services, 9.1 percent higher, and I'll go
8 through this in some detail a little bit later.

9 The debt service is 4.3 percent higher. Programmed
10 new debt is 76 percent lower than last year, and that's
11 because we're moving through the construction of most of
12 our Phase II facilities as well as BNR facilities, so
13 with the construction activity, I think we should drop
14 off the next few years and so should our need to borrow.

15 Debt service coverage is 12.4 million, and the
16 operating capital is at 3.7 million.

17 Page 34 shows the sources and uses of revenue in a
18 graph format, and a ten-year historical comparison of
19 revenue and expenses are shown on Page 35.

20 We've also included on Pages 36 and 37 the key
21 assumptions. As I mentioned, the strategic plan guides
22 the development of priorities and program objectives and
23 measures.

24 Some of the short-term guidelines are that the budget
25 includes a 2.25 percent cost of living adjustment that

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1 was recently negotiated with the two unions as well
2 contracted step increases and comparable merit increases
3 for the non-union employees.

4 The contribution rate to the State Retirement System
5 on behalf of participating union employees remains
6 unchanged from last year. The contribution rate to the
7 State Retirement Health Benefit has actually decreased
8 from 7.8 percent to 6.75 percent.

9 The budget also reflects an implementation of a
10 high-deductible health plan as well as the tandem
11 funding of a health savings account and/or health
12 reimbursement arrangement by NBC.

13 Dental insurance premiums increased by 8.6 percent,
14 and vision insurance premiums remained unchanged from
15 the prior year.

16 COMMISSIONER FARNUM: Ms. Giebink, could you
17 comment on any idea why health insurance went down?

18 MS. GIEBINK: Because we, as far as a
19 collective bargaining process, NBC's transitioned from a
20 traditional health plan to a high-deductible health plan
21 because the premiums are significantly lower.

22 We also budgeted this year an increase in compensated
23 absences of approximately \$235,000, which was not
24 something we budgeted in the past, but every year we get
25 hit with that expense.

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1 The budget includes four new full-time equivalents,

2 and we did increase the budgeted turnover by one
3 position, to a total of 3 FTEs, and some of the other
4 adjustments really are reflections of updates and
5 quantity as well as pricing for some of our larger line
6 items, like biosolids and chemicals as well as
7 utilities.

8 On Page 38 there's a detailed discussion of the
9 revenue profile, and as I mentioned, user fees are
10 projecting a 1.4 percent increase, and they make up
11 approximately 93 percent of the total revenues; and this
12 is based on a 5.5 percent rate increase effective
13 September 23, 2014.

14 We have a rate increase pending, but almost half of
15 the rate increase is actually going to be for an
16 adjustment to the rate base because we have seen a
17 decline in consumption as well as larger non-residential
18 meters, so that would result in 50 percent.

19 Fifty-six percent of the rate increase is for
20 operations and maintenance expense, and 44 percent is to
21 adjust the rate base. That's why it doesn't translate
22 into a straight 5.5 percent increase in user fee
23 revenues, and I think that I have gone through some of
24 the other significant revenue changes already, unless
25 there are any changes on that.

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1 The top of Page 39 has a little rate history chart
2 which shows the rate increases since July 1, 2011.
3 We've had at least one increase every year.
4 On Page 40, there is a table that shows the flat fee
5 rate base. That just shows the decline in the
6 non-residential meters by meter size. You can see that
7 as the flat fees have increased, the larger users have,
8 those that are able to switch out of the larger meters
9 size have done so, they have downsized their meters, and
10 that definitely impacts our revenues. I think that year
11 we'll be under by approximately \$600,000 with respect to
12 the flat fees.

13 The change in consumption rate base is shown in the
14 table down below. We are projecting our Fiscal '15
15 revenues based upon that actual Fiscal Year '13
16 consumption levels, and right now we are projecting that
17 we will bill approximately \$13.6 million HCF, so we
18 think those numbers should be good.

19 There's a survey on the bottom of Page 41 that shows
20 NBC's current user chart is compared to the rest of the
21 State of Rhode Island. We are about in the middle of
22 the pack.

23 With respect to expenses on Page 43, there's a
24 discussion of the expense profile. You can see that our
25 largest expense category is debt services, which is

1 almost half the budget that's principal and interest,
2 and then the next largest expense category is personnel.

3 The category that has the largest projected increase
4 on a year-to-year basis is operating supplies and
5 expenses at 12.4 percent.

6 And we have some charts on Page 44 that look at the
7 expenses by element historically. On Page 45 there's a
8 discussion of the personnel costs, and there's a
9 description of the four new positions that were added.
10 There's two at Field's Point, one at Bucklin Point and
11 one at the laboratory.

12 And the table on the bottom of the pages shows that
13 we're projecting an increase in turnover one position,
14 so there's a net increase of three full-time positions
15 in this year's budget.

16 On Page 46, there is a table at the bottom that shows
17 the relative family coverage cost for, it's a weighted
18 average for health, dental and vision and this goes to
19 Commissioner Farnum's question, if you look at the
20 health net of co-pay, the premium has actually declined
21 25 percent to a weighted average of \$13,156. So, that's
22 resulted in a real savings to the NBC.

23 On Page 47 the single largest driver of the increase
24 in the operating budget is related to the higher

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1 and the preliminary budget. In fact, we've increased
2 from the preliminary budget. We had originally
3 allocated 5.1 million. We're now budgeting 5.6 million
4 for biosolids disposal at a total of 13,000 dry tons, so
5 hopefully, it will level off.

6 Electricity is shown at the bottom of the page.
7 We're looking at level expense for the prior year, and
8 that includes the additional electricity budgeted for
9 BNR. You have a graph that shows all of this
10 information. Chemical, we are also budgeting a slight
11 decrease in the amount budgeted for Field's Point based
12 upon actual usage as well updated estimated usage as
13 well as updated pricing.

14 Professional services, we're budgeting for \$181,000
15 higher than last year, and that's primarily because of
16 the PUC's regulatory assessment and the change in which
17 they calculate their assessments. Operating capital
18 outlays section on Page 50 --

19 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Excuse me.
20 Commissioner Milas.

21 COMMISSIONER MILAS: I just have a question.
22 So, when you're purchasing all of these chemicals and

23 all of that, is that purchased, like, long term, like,
24 you do a 5-year contract so that the price of the
25 chemicals is locked in, or is that a competitive thing

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1 that there's ten companies that make those same
2 chemicals and you bid them out every year for the
3 cheapest?

4 MS. GIEBINK: We typically bid those out
5 each year. I'm not sure if that's the function of our
6 desire to bid them out every year or the fact that
7 chemical companies in general won't commit to longer
8 than a one-year term.

9 COMMISSIONER MILAS: Thank you.

10 MS. GIEBINK: On Page 51, shows the annual
11 debt service in millions, and we're budgeting
12 approximately \$43 million this year, which includes a
13 new debt issuance through the Rhode Island Clean Water
14 Finance Agency, I believe the budget is based on \$25
15 million from Rhode Island Clean Water Agency, but I
16 believe they will have additional funding available for
17 NBC. We will borrow the max that we can borrow through
18 them for this upcoming fiscal year.

19 COMMISSIONER BURROUGHS: How do we compare
20 with other municipal utilities in terms of debt service

21 if we look at NWRA?

22 MS. GIEBINK: Well, my understanding is that
23 most of the wastewater utilities have similar capital
24 needs and similar structure.

25 COMMISSIONER BURROUGHS: The 50 percent of

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1 operating to our debt service, would be something we
2 expect to see in Cincinnati, San Francisco.

3 MS. GIEBINK: I can't speak for those
4 utilities. I can, with taking a look at them, but it
5 would not be surprising to me based on discussions that
6 we've had with credit ratings agencies as sort of
7 something that they would expect.

8 COMMISSIONER BURROUGHS: Thank you.

9 MS. GIEBINK: The budget philosophy is shown
10 behind the next tab. You can see that we love charts
11 and graphs, so we've got more charts and graphs; and
12 there is a flow chart that talk about the relationship
13 between budget process and the long-range planning
14 process.

15 On Page 54, the calendar's included, something that's
16 new this year. That was recommended by the GFOA and
17 will include our measures for compliance in the
18 financial policy section, so you can see that those are

19 included and those are also included in the back of the
20 budget by the cost center.
21 On Page 62, there is a flow chart that has the flow
22 of funds in accordance with the trust indenture. We now
23 have 20 supplemental trust indentures. The funds are
24 listed on Page 63. Something new also in this year's
25 budget is the chart on Page 64, which is the O&M

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1 certified trust transfer, and this is the amount that is
2 calculated in accordance with the trust indenture that
3 need to be transferred from the revenue funds to the
4 operations and maintenance account on a monthly basis.
5 The long-term debt overview is behind the next tab,
6 and this integrates the CIP into the overall long-term
7 planning process. You can see that the sources of funds
8 are shown on Page 68 and the uses are shown on Page 69,
9 and we try to maximize our lowest cost borrowing, which
10 is through Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency; so
11 we show that on the annual basis, and any unmet capital
12 needs are funded through what we call the open market
13 revenue bonds, and you can see that will be picking up
14 in year fiscal 2018 through 2020 with the CSO Phase III
15 facilities.
16 Outstanding debt, we're projecting as of June 30,

17 2015 approximately 62 percent will be related to the
18 Clean Water Finance Agency, as we're paying off a lot of
19 the debt that we issued sometime ago.

20 And on Page 71, there's a detail of interest and
21 principal payments, and Page 72 has a nice chart. At
22 the bottom it shows the debt service through maturity.
23 You can see it dropping off in 2035.

24 On Page 73 we have the chart debt service versus
25 total revenue, which Commissioner Burroughs was

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1 referring to, in terms of debt service making up a
2 significant portion of our overall annual revenue
3 requirements.

4 The impact of the CIP on the operating budget is
5 shown on the table on Page 74, and we roll all of those
6 requirements into our planning model and our rate impact
7 analysis model. On Page 75 we're projecting rates to
8 increase through fiscal year 2020 as our capital needs
9 continue. At this point, we're planning on funding
10 Phase III.

11 COMMISSIONER BURROUGHS: So, that Phase III
12 is built into all of that?

13 MS. GIEBINK: Correct. My understanding is
14 that both the timing and the amount of that project

15 might change significantly, but we're basing this on the
16 information that we have available now. The interesting
17 thing about that particular chart, you can see that the
18 debt service has made up a really significant portion of
19 all of our rate increases, but also the rate base
20 adjustment, which is that greenish portion, has also
21 contributed significantly to the need to raise rates.
22 This next section is the capital improvement program
23 which I think a lot of you have probably seen already.
24 It details all of the individual capital projects and
25 cash flows and a lot of good information.

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1 The next tab includes the division summaries, and
2 I'll take you through one so you can see how that works.
3 On Page 203, you will see the division summary for
4 planning, policy and regulation, so it would highlight
5 the different cost centers within that division and
6 tells you what percent they make up of that particular
7 budget.
8 On Page 204, it gives you the historical FTEs, and it
9 also has a part that shows the performance data by type
10 of measure.
11 On Page 205 is the three-year picture of their budget
12 and the cost by element for that division, and then if

13 you look on Page 221, environmental monitoring and data
14 analysis is monitoring cost centers within that
15 division, so it gives you a listing of their mission and
16 overview as well as the major accomplishments that
17 they've achieved during the prior fiscal year.
18 And on the next page, 222, which shows, again,
19 historical for that particular cost center and their
20 staffing, and then that's followed by their performance
21 data, which is on Page 223. So, that would give you the
22 core business goal, the action for achievement by key
23 code, the target measure and unit of measure, so each
24 cost center goes through this process every year, and we
25 know they're lower.

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1 The resolution for the fiscal year 2015 operating
2 budget is shown behind the next tab, and attached to
3 that is a detailed list of all the budgeted positions.
4 On Page 231, there's the budgeted benefits
5 comparison, so that will show you for the last 5 years
6 the benefits, and the weighted average basis for health,
7 dental and vision as well as other benefits on a
8 percentage basis, and on Page 232, there is a historical
9 position summary. Page 233 has the Fiscal Year 2015
10 operating capital outlays outlining detail. That is

11 followed by 5-year operating capital outlay by cost
12 center.
13 There's fund organization matrix and the detailed CIP
14 schedule, and last tab is the appendix. It has the
15 acronyms and the glossary, and the very back of the book
16 has what we call the mouse print, which has the detail
17 by cost center by line system, and that is the budget.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDRADE: Thank you, Karen.
19 Questions?

20 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

21 COMMISSIONER ANDRADE: Excellent job.
22 Compliments to you and your staff again this year for a
23 great job putting this together. With that, Mr.
24 Chairman, I'd like to move approval of Resolution
25 2014:18 for the Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget.

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1 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: We have a motion for
2 approval of Resolution 2014:18, Narragansett Bay
3 Commission Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget. Is there
4 a second?

5 COMMISSIONER MILAS: Second.

6 COMMISSIONER CARLINO: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Second Commissioner
8 Milas, second Commissioner Carlino. Discussion.

9 Commissioner Kimball, you always have a comment on the
10 budget.

11 COMMISSIONER KIMBALL: Excellent job as
12 always. This is just a massive undertaking that the
13 staff comes through every year for us.

14 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Further discussion on
15 Resolution 2014:18.

16 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

17 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Hearing none, all of
18 those that in favor will say aye.

19 THE COMMISSION: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Are there any opposed?

21 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

22 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: There are none opposed,
23 and the motion carries.

24 (MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY)

25 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Further report,

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1 Commissioner Andrade.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDRADE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

3 Just one more item that came before the Finance

4 Committee, and that is Resolution 2014:19,

5 Recommendation for Use of Environmental Enforcement

6 Funds. This is something we've done previously, and I

7 would ask the secretary to just tell us about it real
8 quick.

9 RAYMOND MARSHALL: This is the Leonard
10 Walker Memorial Scholarship Program. It's exactly what
11 the Environmental Enforcement Funds are supposed to be
12 used for, and that's to promote both the environment as
13 well as public education within our service district.
14 The scholarship fund, the Leonard Walker Memorial
15 Scholarship Fund, established at the Met School in
16 Providence, and it's in honor of the memory of the
17 Leonard Walker, one of our former commissioners. He had
18 a keen interest in protecting Narragansett Bay and was a
19 strong proponent of educational opportunities for
20 students in our urban center.
21 You have supported this in prior years. We ask for
22 your approval of \$2,500 to continue this worthwhile
23 program, and that's Resolution 2014:19.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDRADE: I'd like to make a
25 motion to approve of 2014:19, Mr. Chairman.

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1 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: We have a motion to
2 approve 2014:19.

3 COMMISSIONER MONTANARI: Second.

4 COMMISSIONER MILAS: Second.

5 COMMISSIONER CARLINO: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Seconded by

7 Commissioner Montanari, Commissioner Milas, Commissioner
8 Carlino. Discussion on the motion.

9 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

10 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Hearing none, all of
11 those that are in favor will say aye.

12 THE COMMISSION: Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Are there any opposed?

14 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

15 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: There are none opposed,
16 and the motion carries.

17 (MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY)

18 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: No further report?

19 COMMISSIONER ANDRADE: No further report.

20 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Moving right along, the
21 next committee reporting would be the Personnel
22 Committee. I do not believe there was a report today,
23 no meeting. Rules and Regs also did not meeting. The
24 next committee reporting is the Citizens Advisory
25 Committee. Harold.

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1 MR. GADON: Just a brief report, Mr.

2 Chairman. We did not meet in June, but we will resume

3 our meetings again in September. We do support and
4 congratulate the newly-appointed commissioners, and
5 welcome the two new commissions and welcome them to our
6 meetings at any time; and we wish you all a great
7 summer. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Thank you very much.

9 There was no meeting on the Ad Hoc Compensation
10 Committee nor the Internal Ethics Committee. No
11 Executive Committee meeting.

12 The next committee reporting would be the Legislative
13 Report. Joanne, I'm sure you have an exciting report
14 about the happenings of the General Assembly.

15 MS. MACERONI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
16 am happy to report that none of the bills that we
17 opposed passed.

18 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Good work, Jo. Good
19 work.

20 MS. MACERONI: I won't take credit for all
21 of them.

22 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Well, which ones will
23 you take credit for?

24 MS. MACERONI: The first bill to report is,
25 as I reported in my April report, Article 5 of the

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1 Governor's Budget had proposed a bond referendum for
2 Clean Water Finance, 20 million for Clean Water finance.
3 That did remain in the budget that the General Assembly
4 approved and the Governor signed last week.

5 In that article, Question 4, included in the 20
6 million, the total for Question 4 is 53 million, and it
7 included Clean Water funding for Roger Williams Park,
8 Roger Williams Park Zoo and recreational grants.

9 Jamie and I are going to be meeting with all of the
10 interested parties over the next couple of months to
11 strategize on how to promote Article 4 for passage when
12 the vote is brought before the voters in November. So,
13 we're hoping to be successful there.

14 The next bill, as Ray mentioned, is the Quasi Public
15 Transparency Bill, which as you know, we've been working
16 with the sponsor over the last couple of years to
17 address all of our concerns.

18 The bill that passed is one that has addressed all
19 our concerns, so we did support it; and we will be
20 reviewing -- the Narragansett Bay Commission, basically,
21 does most of the things now that the bill requires, but
22 we'll be going through the legislation to see if we need
23 to fine tune some things or formally adopt some
24 policies, so that we'll advise you in September.

25 The next bill on the list extends the Distributed

1 Generation Program beyond the 4-year pilot program.
2 This would allow, the bill would allow the project that
3 we're proposing for Bucklin Point, the solar project
4 that we're proposing for Bucklin Point, it would allow
5 us to participate in the National Grid Distributed
6 Generation Contracts Program.

7 This would give the NBC the alternative of either
8 using the power on site, thereby reducing the electric
9 bill or selling it back to National Grid, whichever
10 would be more beneficial to our ratepayers.

11 The next bill, the next set of bills create the
12 Climate Change Coordinating Council. This Council is
13 going to assess, integrate and try to coordinate climate
14 change throughout the state and all its agencies.

15 The next to the last bill made amendments to the Dig
16 Safe statute. This is the, Dig Safe is whereby anyone
17 who is going to be doing excavating has to file with Dig
18 Safe exactly where they're going to be excavating so
19 that that all surrounding utilities would be made aware
20 of it.

21 All this bill does is increase the information that
22 the excavating facility has to provide Dig Safe, which
23 again, would make the process a lot safer. We
24 wholeheartedly supported that.

25 And last, but not least, is a bill that amended the

1 net metering statute. This bill, the amendment that the
2 bill made would now allow all public entities, including
3 Narragansett Bay Commission, Providence Water Supply
4 Board, the State, et cetera, to actually generate
5 electricity at an off-site location to offset their own
6 electrical consumption. We supported that bill, and
7 that bill did pass in the wee hours of the morning.

8 Since the General Assembly adjourned, they recessed
9 on Saturday. There are still bills that I feel I have
10 to go through to see if there are any last amendments
11 that may affect us. You may be getting an amendment to
12 the report, but so far, this is what I see passed that
13 would affect us.

14 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Thank you. Any of our
15 members have any questions with regard to the
16 Legislative Report?

17 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

18 MS. MACERONI: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Thank you. Moving
20 right along, the Chairman's Report. We're moving close
21 to the time we have to go across the street for the
22 dedication, to wit, I hope all of you will join me as we
23 dedicate the new Operations Building to our own

24 commissioner, our past commissioner, our dear friend,
25 Mike Salvadore.

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1 A couple of things. The first thing is, in addition
2 to the two, our two new commissioners, we have some
3 commissioners who are without committee assignments.
4 Over the next couple of months, the commission, we will
5 not be meeting. We're probably going to reorganize some
6 of the committees, and make some committee assignments.
7 So, we'll have that done for you when you come back in
8 September. You'll be notified prior to that, so you'll
9 be reappointed, probably reappointed to a new committee.
10 Interesting, on the Executive Director's Report,
11 we're sending another 30 tons of dry sludge to Synagro
12 in Woonsocket. They're going to be generating
13 electricity, and about how many years ago, about 25, 30
14 years ago, I was the environmental public enemy Number 1
15 for promoting such a drastic thought of incinerating
16 biosolids to generate electricity, probably our second
17 most sustainable source of energy besides the sun.
18 Other than that, I'm anxious to get across the
19 street. Again, there will be a ceremony. So, our next
20 board meeting will be in September.
21 RAYMOND MARSHALL: September 23rd.

22 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: September 23rd. So,
23 before we do adjourn today, I just want to wish everyone
24 a great summer, a safe and happy summer, and look
25 forward to everyone's return in September.

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1 Having said that, is there any new business to come
2 before the commission?

3 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

4 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Any new business at
5 all? Other business of any nature?

6 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

7 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Okay, in such case,
8 Commissioner Rotella.

9 COMMISSIONER ROTELLA: Motion to adjourn.

10 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Any other, before we
11 adjourn, anyone on any matters?

12 THE COMMISSION: (No response)

13 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: We have a motion to
14 adjourn.

15 COMMISSIONER KIMBALL: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Seconded by
17 Commissioner Kimball. All in favor of adjournment will
18 say aye.

19 THE COMMISSION: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Any opposed?

21 THE COMMISSION: There are none opposed and
22 the motion carries.

23 (MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY)

24 CHAIRMAN MESOLELLA: Please join me across
25 the street for the dedication.

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1 (BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING CLOSED AT 12:03 P.M.)

2 C E R T I F I C A T E

3

4

5 I, Heather Marie Finger, do hereby certify
that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete
6 transcript of my notes taken at the above-entitled
hearing.

7

8 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand
this 11th day of July 2014.

9

10

11

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13

HEATHER MARIE FINGER, CSR, NOTARY PUBLIC
14 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 4/02/16

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23 DATE: June 24, 2014

24 IN RE: Board of Commissioners Meeting

25 HEARING OF: Narragansett Bay Commission

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