

The Narragansett Bay Commission
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Vincent J. Mesoella
Chairman

Raymond J. Marshall, P.E.
Executive Director



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF:

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| Meeting of: | Finance Committee Meeting |
| Date: | April 20, 2011 |
| Time: | 10:30 a.m. |

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Andrade, Committee Chairman
Mario Carlino
Jonathan Farnum
Joseph Kimball
Ronald Leone
John MacQueen
Vincent Mesoella
Michael Salvadore
Leo Thompson
Harold Gadon, CAC

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael DiChiro
Leslie Gray, III
Joan Milas

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Raymond J. Marshall, NBC Executive Director
Thomas Uva, NBC
Karen Musumeci, NBC
Leah Foster, NBC
Joe Pratt, Louis Berger Group
Paul Nordstrom, NBC
Jennifer Harrington, NBC
John Zuba, NBC

Tom Brueckner, NBC
Rich Bernier, NBC
Laurie Horridge, NBC
Deborah Samson, NBC
Jamie Samons, NBC

1. Call to Order

Finance Committee Chairman Robert Andrade called the March 23, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes** – June 23, 2010 Joint LRP-Finance Committee
November 3, 2010 Joint LRP- Finance Committee
March 23, 2011 Finance Committee

Chairman Andrade asked for a motion to approve the Joint LRP-Finance Committee meeting minutes of June 23, 2010 and November 3, 2010 and the March 23, 2011 Finance Committee meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Farnum moved to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2010 and November 3, 2010 Joint LRP- Finance Committee Meeting minutes and the March 23, 2011 Finance Committee meeting minutes as written. Commissioner McQueen seconded the motion. The vote taken by the Joint LRP- Finance Committee was unanimous. The motion carries.

3. **Items for Action**

- A. Review of Monthly Financial Statements and Expenditures

Ms. Giebink reviewed the March 2011 monthly financial report. With respect to the Budget vs. Actual she stated that we are continuing to spend under budget most notably with respect to the operations and maintenance accounts for electricity and bio-solids disposal. She noted that NBC has filled 98 % of the budgeted positions.

She noted that Page 2 of the report under Item A, user fee billings. NBC on a cumulative basis is continuing to bill above what we projected. Although we did see a slight decrease in April's billing we still anticipate that we will finish the year well above projected levels. With respect to the receivables under Item B, she stated that the total receivables outstanding as of March, is approximately \$11.2 million which is about where we were last year at this time. The moratorium for water shut-offs has been extended however shutoffs will be starting soon and we should see a big increase in collections as a result. The on-line payments began on March 15th and it has been very successful.

Ms. Giebink stated on Page 3 of the report, cash and investments total \$57.4 million and the investments are detailed under Item B. Page 4 of the report, the VRDB's are pricing lower than the index at less than .3 %, and the total outstanding debt as of March 31st \$414. 5million.

She stated that Page 5 shows that the available balance for Capital Funds is \$91.4 million and that increased significantly because we closed on a \$30 million dollar loan from the RI Clean Water Finance Agency at the end of March. The good news about this loan is that the effective yield is 2.25 % as a result of the fact that we received \$1.85 million in principal forgiveness for green projects. NBC identified \$9.75 million in green projects on this loan. Page 6, of the report shows capital payments by month and source. Ms. Giebink noted the attachments to the Monthly Financial Report include the Statement of Net Assets, the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets as well as the detailed Budget vs. Actual.

This concluded Ms. Giebink's report.

- B. Consideration of Purchase Requisition

Mr. Marshall stated the Committee members have before them a list of Purchase Requisitions that were included as part of the Budget and are in excess of \$10,000. There are none that require the Committee's approval. They members also have a list of budget transfers for the month of March.

C. Consideration of Personnel Actions

None.

D. Review and Approval of Resolution 2011:10; Recommendation for Use of Environmental Enforcement Funds

Mr. Marshall advised that the NBC has received a request from the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council for grant funding with Environmental Enforcement Funds. This organization has requested a \$2,400 grant to fund 400 scholarships to students from the economically disadvantaged communities in the Blackstone Valley, providing the students an opportunity to participate in the *River Classroom* River Study program aboard the Blackstone Valley Explorer riverboat.

The River Study program teaches the history of the Blackstone River, allowing students to observe the river wildlife and perform hand-on water quality testing while teaching the importance of keeping the river healthy. The NBC staff recommends funding \$2,400 to the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council to support the scholarship program so that students can participate in this extraordinary and valuable activity.

There are adequate funds available in the Environmental Enforcement Fund to sponsor this worthwhile project.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve Resolution 2011:10; Recommendation for Use of Environmental Enforcement Funds. Commissioner Farnum seconded the motion and the vote taken by the Joint LRP-Finance Committee was unanimous. The motion carries.

E. Review and Approval of Resolution 2011:11; Recommendation for Use of Environmental Enforcement Funds

Mr. Marshall advised that the NBC has received a request from Save the Bay for grant funding with Environmental Enforcement Funds. This organization has requested a \$2,000 grant to help fund a project that will update the inventory of eelgrass beds in Narragansett Bay and RI's coastal waters through a significant project involving aerial imagery, mapping and monitoring with other members of the Rhode Island Eelgrass Task Force. Eelgrass beds are an important indicator of water quality in Rhode Island's ecosystem and provide critical habitat for many juvenile fish and shellfish. Trends in eelgrass aerial extent are indicative of how clean or polluted our coastal waters may be.

Currently, there are major upgrades and improvements being constructed at both the Field's Point and the Bucklin Point Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTFs) that will reduce the amount of nitrogen entering into the Bay. These upgrades will lead to improvements in water quality which could allow for the reestablishment of eelgrass beds in previously unsuited portions of the Bay, particularly in the Upper Bay that is the receiving water of the NBC. Tracking and monitoring the growth of eelgrass over the course of NBC's major construction projects can provide a method of evaluating water quality improvements associated with NBC's investments of CSO and WWTF nutrient upgrades. The NBC will have access to all findings from this assessment of eelgrass beds.

There are adequate funds available in the Environmental Enforcement Fund to sponsor this worthwhile project.

Commission Nathan recuses himself.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve Resolution 2011:11; Recommendation for Use of Environmental Enforcement Funds. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and the vote taken by the Joint LRP- Finance Committee was unanimous. The motion carries.

F. Review and Approval of Resolution 2011:12; Recommendation for Use of Environmental Enforcement Funds

Mr. Marshall requested the Committee's consideration for an Environmental Enforcement Fund grant of \$5000 to the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council for the 2011 River Rangers Program.

The WRWC has thanked the Narragansett Bay Commission for generously funding their River Rangers Program in 2009. The program was extremely successful and employed close to 20 young men and women, giving them valuable job skills and fostering local stewardship for the Woonasquatucket River.

The WRWC has submitted a new request for \$7500 in funding for the 2011 River Rangers Program.

The River Rangers Program is a green job training program for youth at risk between the ages of 18 and 24 created by the WRWC in 2005. WRWC has very little funding for the program this year because two funders that have supported this program from the beginning have chosen to focus on other priorities.

WRWC's request to the NBC would allow them to assure the continuation of this effective program, support the Program Director in supervising this program and allow them to buy needed supplies for the program, such as paint, tools, and cleanup equipment for the RRs.

In 2011, they plan to train the RRs on managing invasive plant species for habitat restoration as a pilot project in the Woonasquatucket Corridor along Kinsley Avenue between Eagle Street and Sims Avenue. This will be an important new program both for improving habitat and providing the RRS with new skills for future employment.

We recommend funding in the amount of \$5000. There are adequate funds in the EEF to support this Request

Commissioner Kimball made a motion to approve Resolution 2011:12; Recommendation for Use of Environmental Enforcement Fund. Commissioner Macqueen seconded the motion and the vote taken by the Joint LRP- Finance Committee was unanimous. The motion carries.

G. Review and Approval of Resolution 2011:13; Recommendation for Use of Environmental Enforcement Funds

Mr. Marshall stated that the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on construction projects to reduce bacteria and nutrient pollution in the Upper Narragansett Bay. Regulators have indicated that additional nutrient reductions may be necessary in the future to fully achieve water quality standards. To obtain sound scientific data, the NBC has made evaluating receiving water quality a priority and is now regarded as the premier agency performing monitoring in the waters of the Upper Bay. It is important to educate our stakeholders and regulators about NBC's construction accomplishments, environmental performance and share scientific findings. By sharing scientific

findings with other Bay researchers and regulators we can guide future research necessary to ensure that future regulatory mandates are based upon sound environmental science.

Therefore, the PP&R Division is coordinating a full day workshop tentatively scheduled for June 16th entitled “A Day on the Bay – Current Monitoring Findings & Research in Narragansett Bay.” The purpose of this workshop will be to provide an opportunity for scientists, stakeholders, regulators and the NBC to share vital water quality information to better evaluate the environmental conditions of the Upper Bay to ensure future regulatory decisions can and will be made on the basis of sound scientific data. The PP&R Division plans to host this workshop at a local facility and expects between 100 – 125 attendees. The PP&R Division is requesting funding not to exceed \$2,500 to sponsor this day long workshop.

There are adequate funds available in the Environmental Enforcement Fund to sponsor this worthwhile project.

Commissioner Worrell made a motion to approve Resolution 2011:13; Recommendation for Use of Environmental Enforcement Funds. Commissioner Salvadore seconded the motion and the vote taken by the Finance Committee was unanimous. The motion carries.

4. Other Business

None.

5. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Salvadore, seconded by Commissioner Carlino and the Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Raymond J. Marshall, P.E.
Executive Director/Secretary