

NEW YORK CITY WATER BOARD

NYC Water Board Meeting

**11:30 a.m.
December 16, 2021**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

[START RECORDING]

MR. OMAR NAZEM: Mr. Chair, we have all six members we're expecting on the call. This is Omar. Should I just start—should I just run through the quick introductory roll and then we can get started?

MR. ALFONSO CARNEY: Please do that, Omar. Just so—for the record.

[Crosstalk]

MR. NAZEM: Yes, we have members Freed, Fernandez-Ketcham, Shaw, Zarrilli, Goldin and Chairman Carney on.

MR. CARNEY: But we're going to have—we're going to have the Board secretary call the roll, yes?

MR. NAZEM: Yeah, so we're going to—I'm going to go through the etiquette section, basically.

[Crosstalk]

MR. CARNEY: There are people on the call who have—who are introducing—there's a great deal of background noise to the call. Could you put your phones on mute, please? Terrific. Omar, please?

1
2 MR. NAZEM: Okay, thank you. Okay, good
3 morning. This is—I think everyone is aware,
4 this is meeting of the New York City Water
5 Board. We just concluded a meeting at the
6 governance committee a few minutes ago you'll be
7 hearing about. This is a meeting of the full
8 Board to discuss a range of topics.

9 As authorized by state law, we are holding
10 this meeting as we have been in a virtual
11 conference call format to facilitate the ease of
12 access and public safety. The meeting is being
13 recorded. A transcript of the audio as well as
14 a written accounting will be placed on the
15 Board's website shortly following the meeting.
16 I would remind everyone this is a meeting of the
17 Board to discuss business matters in a public
18 forum amongst themselves and with the benefit of
19 DEP personnel and Board staff.

20 I would ask everyone, as the Chair pointed
21 out, please keep your phones on mute. And if
22 you have questions, we're always willing to hear
23 them and answer them. What you should do, is to
24 send them to us by e-mail at
25 nycwaterboard@dep.nyc.gov, or you can just call

Ubiquis

1
2 us at (718) 595-3594. You'll get a prompt
3 response to any reasonable question you send.
4 But that is the way to do it by e-mail or by
5 telephone, not in this meeting.

6 The meeting materials we'll be discussing
7 are all available on the Water Board's website
8 at NYC.gov/NYC Water Board. You'll see them on
9 the righthand side, under announcements. You
10 click on the PDF link that says meeting
11 materials, it will bring up everything we talked
12 about.

13 If you have someone with you, who is hard of
14 hearing, we have a text captioning service,
15 which is a long URL to stream or text URL. If
16 you open those PDF packets, open the agenda,
17 it's the long URL you see at the bottom of the
18 page. Copy and paste that, you can get text
19 captioning option as the meeting progresses.

20 That's everything for me. I'm going to hand
21 it to the Board secretary, Al Rodriguez, now to
22 call the formal roll. Thank you.

23 MR. ALBERT RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Omar. I'm
24 calling the roll. Chairman Carney?

25 MR. CARNEY: I am present.

Ubiquis

1
2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Very good. Member
3 Fernandez-Ketcham?

4 MS. EVELYN FERNANDEZ-KETCHAM: Yes.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Freed [phonetic]?

6 MR. ADAM FREED: Here.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Member Goldin?

8 MR. JON GOLDIN: Here.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Hsu? Member Shaw?

10 MS. ARLENE SHAW: Here.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Member Zarrilli?

12 MR. DANIEL ZARRILLI: I'm here.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. We have a
14 quorum, Mr. Chairman.

15 MR. CARNEY: Mr. Secretary, thank you very,
16 very much. I want to thank all the members for
17 making time today to have the meeting. We have
18 a long agenda, but I don't think the meeting is
19 going to be particularly long. There are two
20 high points today, two things to make note of
21 before we start. With luck, we have the DEP
22 Commissioner, Mr. Sapienza. Commissioner
23 Sapienza with us. He's going to give us a year
24 in review. If Vinny is on the phone, thank you
25 so much for being with us.

Ubiquis

1
2 The second important matter for me today is
3 that we are losing our ethics officer. A lawyer
4 who has been with the Board, with the DEP for a
5 number of years. A man who has been a great
6 advisor to me and somebody for whom I have
7 enormous respect, Greg Ascierito. Greg, if
8 you're on the phone, I'm going to give you a
9 second to get your thoughts together. But
10 before we start this meeting, I'm going to give
11 you an opportunity to say something to this
12 Board and to the public gather. Greg has always
13 been quietly enormously effective. A man who
14 has walked up to me before the meeting to remind
15 me that there are things that I need to do. A
16 man who has come up to me after the meeting to
17 say, hey, there're things you forgot to do. But
18 he has been absolutely clear in his both legal
19 advice and ethics advice, and we've been very
20 fortunate to have him.

21 He is retiring, I gather, from city
22 services. At least that's the note I got, Greg.
23 If you're not—if you're not retiring, stop me
24 now.

25 MR. GREG ASCIERTO: Yes, thank you.

Ubiquis

61 Broadway – Suite 1400 – New York, NY 10006
Phone: 212-346-6666 * Fax: 888-412-3655

1
2 MR. CARNEY: All right. He is retiring from
3 city service in January. And Greg, I wanted for
4 you to—if you want to, to say something before I
5 close out my congratulations on the commencement
6 of your new career?

7 MR. ASCIERTO: Well, thank you so much
8 Alfonso for those kind words and well wishes. I
9 didn't actually prepare anything. So perhaps
10 I'll throw it back at you. The thing I most
11 enjoyed on this Board, I would say, is listening
12 to you speak, Alfonso. You're one of the most
13 compelling public speaker I've had the pleasure
14 of seeing in person.

15 MR. CARNEY: You're very kind, Greg. - -
16 but lie to me because I love to hear it, thank
17 you.

18 MR. ASCIERTO: I would say, I learned a lot
19 from you.

20 MR. CARNEY: You're very kind to say those
21 things.

22 MR. NAZEM: I'll add—this is Omar. I had
23 the office adjacent to Greg and I've been
24 sitting next to him for five to six years. And
25 I have to say, he's been—I came to the city in

1
2 2016 with no prior governing experience and no
3 prior experience working for city government.
4 And Greg was just—I can't say how exceptionally
5 helpful he was in getting me up to speed very
6 rapidly on a complex organization with a myriad
7 of confusing and hard to understand dynamics.

8 So his departure from city employment, I
9 don't expect it to be the end of our
10 relationship. He's going to be around. He's
11 been a long-time resident of the city. He'll be
12 kind of informally advising us in one way or
13 another going forward and that's a welcomed
14 thing. He's been 28 years with the city, and
15 he's got the intricacies of our building systems
16 and the, you know, often crazy facts you see
17 with water bills, and the complicated
18 configurations in New York City real estate.
19 Just the nitty-gritty of where do the meters go
20 and who you're charging is really an area of his
21 expertise. That we—you know, we want to thank
22 you for those 28 years of service. And look
23 forward to continuing receiving his advice in
24 one capacity or another in the future. Thank
25 you, Greg.

Ubiquis

1
2 MR. CARNEY: We will look forward to hearing
3 about what you have—I wasn't kidding, your next
4 career. A retirement from city service does not
5 mean that you fade away. It means that you do
6 what your next career requires that you do.
7 You're the constable professional in many, many
8 respects and I want you to know that I have very
9 much appreciated your advice, your counsel and
10 your comradeship. Trust me when I tell you that
11 in the job that I have with the Water Board, one
12 just never knows what to expect. You've made
13 what I should expect easier to predict and I am
14 very grateful for that. So let's talk before
15 you go. I want to know which way you're going,
16 what you're going to do? And we'll spend—yes,
17 you can buy me a drink, Greg.

18 [Laughter]

19 MR. ASCIERTO: Well, that sounds like an
20 excellent idea to me. Thank you, Alfonso. And
21 thank you to all the Board members. Definitely
22 my most favorite board in 28 years.

23 MR. CARNEY: Thank you. You're kind. All
24 right, we've had the roll call—

25 MR. GOLDIN: I think we're all grateful for

Ubiquis

61 Broadway – Suite 1400 – New York, NY 10006

Phone: 212-346-6666 * Fax: 888-412-3655

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

your service. Thank you, Greg.

MR. ASCIERTO: Thank you.

MR. CARNEY: All right, I guess we'll get at the agenda. We've got an hour. We had a Board meeting on the 14th of October, those minutes were included in the Board packet. Those of you who were present at that meeting had the ability, the authority to vote in favor or against the approval of minutes. I'll ask for that vote. All in favor of the approval--well, I'm sorry. Because we're in the telephone conference format, I think we need to ask Al Rodriguez to call for a vote. So all in favor of the minutes as they are presented to you, Al, please ask for a roll call vote?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hello? I apologize, I was on mute. Chairman Carney, how do you vote?

MR. CARNEY: I approve.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Member Fernandez-Ketcham?

MS. FERNANDEZ-KETCHAM: Just a slight--my last name, Ketcham, is with an A, A-M. For a small edit, otherwise I approve.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. We'll -- it to

Ubiquis

1

2

A-M?

3

MR. NAZEM: This is Omar. That's my fault,
4 I'm sorry.

5

MS. FERNANDEZ-KETCHAM: It's okay. I
6 forgive you.

7

MR. NAZEM: I know how to spell your name.
8 I'm sorry.

9

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Freed, how do you
10 vote?

11

MR. FREED: I vote to approve and appreciate
12 the thoroughness of the minutes.

13

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

14

MR. CARNEY: And will we, before—I'm sorry.
15 Go ahead, please, Omar.

16

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Uh, approved. Member Shaw?

17

MS. SHAW: Approve.

18

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Zarrilli?

19

MR. ZARRILLI: Approved.

20

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. I'm sorry to
21 interrupt.

22

MR. CARNEY: Thank you, Secretary Rodriguez.
23 Member Freed, and—Members Freed and Goldin, are
24 the revisions, you've approved them, so I assume
25 the revisions are appropriate as offered here in

Ubiquis

61 Broadway – Suite 1400 – New York, NY 10006

Phone: 212-346-6666 * Fax: 888-412-3655

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

the minutes?

MR. FREED: Yes, sir. This is Member Freed.

[Crosstalk]

MR. CARNEY: Thank you, Jon. The next addenda item—I'm sorry. The minutes are approved, all members voting in favor of the approval. The next item on the addenda is the yearend review. Do we have Commissioner Sapienza with us?

MR. SAPIENZA: Chair Carney, I am here.

MR. CARNEY: Hot d**n. [Laughter]
Commissioner, thank you very much for joining us today. It is a pleasure to have you with us. Please, we don't want a long oration, but you may take as much time as you choose.

MR. VINCENT SAPIENZA: Thank you, Chair Carney. And that—I don't know, maybe five minutes of talking points I'd just like to get through. So first, holiday greetings to you and all the Board members and thank you for all the work that you all have done this past year and year's prior.

So I'm just—again, I'll briefly go through some of the highlights in 2021 for our

Ubiquis

1 operations and on the fiscal side. But we had a
2 relatively successful year despite the ongoing
3 pandemic. Employees, the vast majority
4 continued to, you know, report to work every
5 day, get their job done. Delivering a billion
6 gallons of some of the best drinking water in
7 the world. And then collecting and treating the
8 wastewater.
9

10 As I just noted, most of our employees are
11 hands-on wrench-type workers or doing
12 inspections. They didn't have the option of
13 teleworking, but we did have a group of support
14 folks who did. And they continued to telework,
15 generally through September, when the mayor
16 asked everyone to return back to the office. So
17 that was successfully done as well. And
18 actually, you know, I guess it helped us to, to
19 create a few things that we hadn't had before.
20 A lot of online ability to do permitting. A lot
21 of cloud storage. So, you know, necessity, I
22 guess, is the mother of invention. And it
23 helped us there quite a bit.

24 On the construction side, we did pretty well
25 this year. We completed 1.8 billion dollars'

Ubiquis

1
2 worth of funded capital construction during the
3 year. We issued 3 billion dollars in new debt,
4 both to pay for construction as well, to
5 refinance older bonds. And the capital markets
6 have remained receptive to our bonds and credit
7 ratings continue to be strong.

8 Just a couple things I wanted to highlight
9 on the construction side. We, we have continued
10 work on the Delaware aqueduct bypass tunnel.
11 This is the 2.5-mile-long tunnel that will help
12 to eliminate the leak of about 30 million
13 gallons in the Delaware aqueduct. We actually
14 will be shutting down the Delaware aqueduct. We
15 intend to this coming October for six months to
16 do that work. But we completed the lining of
17 the tunnel, the concrete lining. So that
18 essentially finishes off the new bypass section
19 and-before we connect it to the leaking section.
20 So that's moving along well.

21 And then I wanted to point out that we also
22 did a hundred million dollar plus work at
23 Pugsley Creek in the South Bronx, where the use
24 and combined to our overflows. And a hundred
25 million dollar plus upgrade at our Coney Island

Ubiquis

1
2 wastewater treatment plant has started up. So
3 those are two big projects as well.

4 I want to talk about the wet weather that we
5 had this year. Particularly, Hurricane Ida.
6 The night of August 31st, September 1st. I
7 think as everyone knows, the intensity of the
8 rainfall was a record for New York City, over
9 three inches an hour reported at Central Park.
10 It did—the amount of rainfall exceeded the
11 capacity of the sewer system and so there was
12 significant flooding, particularly in low-lying
13 areas. And people who were living in basement
14 apartment, about a dozen people passed away
15 unfortunately.

16 The mayor explained in the following day,
17 and with other elected officials, that that
18 amount of rainfall is beyond what the sewer
19 system is designed to accept and to convey. And
20 so we needed to look at a variety of tools going
21 forward to, you know, be able to absorb these
22 instance storms. Deputy Commissioner Licata,
23 who's on the call, has really been leading our
24 green infrastructure program, which is going to
25 become even more important going forward. To

Ubiquis

1
2 try to reduce the amount of paved streets and
3 the amount of run-off that gets into the sewer
4 system. So that's a significant thing that
5 we've looked at. The mayor accelerated some,
6 both green and grey infrastructure that we had
7 in the capital plan, added some funds to the
8 plan. So that's where we're making good
9 progress on that.

10 We're exploring how much money will be
11 coming through the new federal infrastructure
12 legislation. We don't have a sense yet of how
13 much we may get. We're very hopeful.

14 Generally, the way it's worked in the past is
15 that the state's - -, New York State, will
16 administer the distribution of funding. So
17 we're hopeful in New York City that we'll get
18 our fair share and can continue to do good work
19 that's needed for both the water and wastewater
20 sides. So that's just operations.

21 Quickly, I'll give a financial update. Some
22 highlights. So year-to-date, we're taking in
23 revenues of about 2.067 billion dollars in
24 customer payments. That's 2.5% ahead of year-
25 to-date plan. So that's good. And 1.6% ahead

Ubiquis

1
2 of where we were last year. So in terms of
3 dollars, that equates to 50 million dollars
4 ahead of this time last year, and 32 million
5 dollars ahead of plan. But I should note that,
6 you know, we did that 2.76% rate increase that
7 the Board approved earlier this year, so one
8 would think we would be 2.76% ahead and we are
9 not quite but fairly close. We did have
10 somewhat of a slowdown in billing as the new
11 billing system rolled out this past September
12 and that was successfully migrated, but it did
13 slow down the amount of bills that went out at
14 that time. And we seem to be catching up.

15 One thing to point out also is the lien
16 sale. So also, as you may recall, that the DEP
17 on the water system did not participate in the
18 lien sale last year because we were putting in a
19 new billing system and for other factors. The
20 city will be conducting a property tax lien
21 sale, but we're looking towards next year as to,
22 you know, how DEP may participate on the water
23 side.

24 Consumption has started to come back from
25 where it was during the pandemic, so that's a

Ubiquis

1
2 good sign too. You know, as metering rates go
3 up, we'll hopefully get additional revenues
4 going forward. Based on the current outlook,
5 we're cautiously optimistic that the Board will
6 meet its financial requirements for funding DEP,
7 OMN and bondholder requirements for the fiscal
8 year.

9 One thing we are still concerned about is
10 delinquencies. Those have gone up quite a bit
11 since the pandemic began. We started the
12 beginning of the pandemic with the delinquency
13 of about 380-or-so million dollars and it's
14 essentially doubled during that time. You know,
15 we're hoping to start to recover some of that as
16 the economy improves. We haven't been - -
17 customers or sending out any kind of notices. I
18 mentioned there was no lien sale last year, so
19 we'll continue to look to ways to recover that
20 money. One of the things we are hopeful for is
21 the federal program that was just rolled out in
22 the last couple of weeks or so, the low-income
23 household water assistance, that helps
24 delinquent water bill payors, you know, get
25 current. It's being implemented in our state by

Ubiquis

1 the Office of Temporary Disability Assistance.
2 We've been working with them, looking at our
3 accounts and trying to prioritize those that are
4 most in need. You know, those that are in—that
5 are already make the heat benefit assistance
6 program, and the SNAP foods benefits program.
7 The state was allocated \$70 million dollars for
8 this, we're hoping as the City of New York would
9 take the population to get approximately half,
10 but time will tell. I think that's it, I'll—and
11 I'm going to ask Joe Murin, who's on the call if
12 I've missed anything in particular that you
13 wanted to talk about?

14
15 MR. JOE MURIN: No, thank you.

16 MR. CARNEY: Before you do that,
17 Commissioner, thank you very, very much, just
18 for being here with us, and for giving us a
19 summary. A year-end review makes a great deal—
20 it means a great deal to me, and I think to the
21 board. So thank you for being here to do that.
22 Joe?

23 MR. MURIN: Thank you, Chair Carney, and
24 thank you, Commissioner. I have nothing to add
25 to that. I do want to note that the

1
2 Commissioner did take a bullet out of our agenda
3 sequence, there. So he went into a couple of
4 later agenda items. So I just wanted to point
5 that out for your edification, Mr. Chair, that
6 we're - - until now, but we're-

7 MR. CARNEY: Don't let me try to have you
8 guys repeat anything. I appreciate it very
9 much. Commissioner, I had a chance to see, and
10 I think you and I have talked about this, but
11 I'm not certain, I'm getting old. You were on
12 New York One prior to storm Ida, and you
13 predicted that if the rainfall was as predicted
14 there would be little that we could do. The
15 system simply could not accommodate the
16 extraordinary volume of water that was being
17 predicted at the time. You were spot on. Spot
18 on. It was a terrific interview, with that
19 fellow, Kiernan [phonetic], I think is his name.
20 Thank you very much for giving us that preview
21 of what ultimately-of the tragedy that
22 ultimately resulted from that zone. Making the
23 point that there was little that could be done
24 to prepare for it, though we were doing the best
25 we could. Your testimony at the city council

Ubiquis

1 was also spot on. I had a chance to read it.
2 Thank you very much for all that you do, for
3 DEP, and all you do to make the Weather Board
4 look terrific. I think we are, but whether we
5 are or not, you make us look good.
6

7 MR. SAPIENZA: Thank you. Thank you for the
8 kind words, Chair Carney. Then he appeared—your
9 team at the Water Board have been great
10 partners, and they appreciate the oversight and
11 guidance over these years, thank you.

12 MR. ZARRILLI: I also comment of Jeff's
13 efforts to—with regard to billing. This has
14 been a momentous year at—for DEP. The billing
15 process has been completely revised. We have
16 implemented a system that works extraordinarily
17 well. But it has been, as you predicted, and as
18 he predicted, a bit slow to get up to snuff.
19 With a jillion phone calls, and people who were
20 concerned about it. Thank you very much for
21 putting into place, and for allowing DEP to have
22 in place a system that works extremely—that will
23 work extremely well. They're very good with
24 that. I'm finished.

25 MR. CARNEY: I see a couple of hands-on

Ubiquis

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

comment in the screen. Adam?

MR. FREED: Thank you, and I'll just thank-
Commissioner, great to see you, and Deputy
Commissioner Licata, always a pleasure to see
you, and I'm thrilled that you both can join us.
It makes these meetings so much more impactful
and meaningful when we can hear from you and the
rest of your team. I had a couple questions
about Ida, and just following up on that. Words
of clarification and interest. I know that DEP
had completed the storm water study and flood
risk maps in advance of the storm. I'm just
curious how those maps aligned, knowing that
every storm is different, so there's not going
to be 100 percent alignment. But were the areas
that were most impacted areas that were deemed
risky by the city's storm water maps.

I'm curious to looking at those two areas of
risk. What type of options-creative structure
can help a lot, but there's obviously a lot more
that needs to be done as well in the scale of
which the mayor has been talking about expanding
the blue belt in some areas, and other
infrastructural creates. Just curious what

Ubiquis

1 those options look like, and what the time scale
2 of those would be to be implemented. Then how
3 that may align with the sustainable rate study
4 that's underway. Where we're looking at options
5 to incorporate a new - - charge, or ways of
6 modernizing our rate structure to help provide
7 the resources needed to make these really once
8 in a generation transformational changes.

10 MR. SAPIENZA: Well, thanks for the
11 questions, Adam. I'll start, and then hand off
12 to Deputy Commissioner Licata. Just regarding
13 the maps, we did look at the maps that were
14 published on rainfall, impacts that were
15 anticipated. The storm itself didn't fall
16 equally on the entire five borrows. We did see
17 some more intense rainfall and higher rainfall
18 totaled in some areas than others, but the
19 flooding totals in areas where we expected there
20 to be flooding incoming did line up fairly well
21 with the maps. Mostly these are areas that are
22 the lowest lying—the lowest apology in a
23 particular drainage area. So not to be
24 unexpected, but again, given the very large
25 intensity of the storm, at a certain point there

1 was deeper flooding than we did anticipate. So
2 we would have been looking at that.

3
4 Again, looking at options going forward—and
5 before I will turn it over to Deputy
6 Commissioner Licata, we understand that some of
7 the options to eliminate flooding in these very
8 low-lying areas may take time. So the mayor
9 did—in his own report that came out in the end
10 of September announce that he wanted to have a
11 task force to actually collect information on
12 who lives in some of these very low-lying areas,
13 but you're dealing with basement apartments.
14 You know, give them a notification ahead of the
15 storm so that they can get to higher ground.
16 You know, pending some resolution going forward.
17 Angela, I'll turn it over to you now.

18 MS. ANGELA LICATA: Sure, thank you, and
19 good morning. I'm very happy to report that we
20 are well under way with some of the planning
21 with respect to green infrastructure expansions
22 and how they might support some of the most
23 vulnerable areas. To answer to your specific
24 questions, the maps were remarkably accurate.
25 We found that because of what the Commissioner

Ubiquis

1 mentioned that the most flooding form inland
2 precipitation tends to be in these bowls, or
3 prior areas that were very low lying. What the
4 maps have done a very good job of indicating the
5 risks associated with those locations.
6

7 So I mentioned green infostructure, and I
8 mentioned that we were well underway with some
9 of that planning because we've already been
10 expanding the GI to be a water quality program,
11 plus a flood attenuation program. So you might
12 have heard of our projects for these large
13 mediums, where we're looking to increase the
14 amount of storage. We're also looking at doing
15 that on sites that are probably owned, where—
16 instead of just doing the one inch—for instance,
17 over an acre, which is—it constitutes a green
18 acre. We're looking at increasing the volume of
19 storage at those locations for resiliency. So
20 really getting beyond just a CSO control and
21 moving into green infostructure for resiliency.
22 In addition to that, you may have heard of our
23 tip it sports project. We're still in the final
24 negotiations with the CSX for the purchase of
25 that property that they will rail bang for our

Ubiquis

61 Broadway – Suite 1400 – New York, NY 10006

Phone: 212-346-6666 * Fax: 888-412-3655

1 use. That would allow us to get a significant
2 flow of our sewer system that goes to our
3 treatment plant on a daily basis for treatment.
4 This would allow for that flow to be daylighted
5 and follow from then Portland Park along the
6 rail corridor, and finally into the Harlem
7 River.
8

9 So not only would it be a wonderful
10 environmental project on reducing a significant
11 amount of CSO, it would also provide foreign
12 opportunity for those users and the residents in
13 that section of the Bronx to have a significant
14 access to the waterfront, and to all points
15 north. So there are too many projects to
16 mention here, but I would love to give it a more
17 detailed briefing. Because we have so many
18 site-specific projects that are underway, but
19 maybe I'll just close with saying that most
20 importantly we are looking at the cloud burst
21 neighborhoods. That's an opportunity where, I
22 believe Adam, you mentioned that we will rely
23 upon a variety of tools. So that would be where
24 we are going to be looking at the green
25 infrastructure in conjunction with some of the

Ubiquis

1
2 gray infrastructure improvements such as high-
3 level storm sewers, and such as changes to
4 discrete sections of the drainage system that
5 may need to be upgraded to meet the current
6 criteria. So by working in tandem with respect
7 to these various projects and with respect to
8 the different agencies that have received
9 funding under this program, we'll be able to
10 bring the best tools together and hopefully have
11 a wider impact on those most vulnerable
12 neighborhoods. And we are in the process of
13 shortlisting those neighborhoods and being able
14 to very soon identify which are the 10 that
15 we're going to focus on in the near future.

16 MR. FREED: Thank you. That sounds like a
17 terrific future board presentation. I'd love to
18 learn more about that. I'm into-before-before I
19 defer to Dan, just curious on the alignment of
20 the sustainable restructure study. I know that
21 you kicked off the advisory group that's met
22 twice in the year. I'm starting to see
23 engagement on that but how that may align with
24 new restructures for bringing financing into the
25 projects that are needed in the future.

Ubiquis

1
2 MS. LICATA: Yeah. We'll—and we'll be
3 discussing that under that section of the agenda
4 so I can just hold off on that detail for now.

5 MR. FREED: Perfect, thanks.

6 MR. CARNEY: This is under the fiscal year.
7 The dates, financial update, is that? Oh I'm
8 sorry. No, the update on DEP sustainable rate
9 structure study?

10 MS. LICATA: Yes.

11 MR. FREED: Perfect.

12 MR. CARNEY: Thanks.

13 MR. FREED: Thank you.

14 MR. CARNEY: Thank you very much. Are there
15 other questions from Board members for the
16 Commissioner?

17 MR. ZARRILLI: Yeah. This is—this is Member
18 Zarrilli. I'm interested and it's great to see
19 Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. Variance
20 in this conversation and I also agree with Adam,
21 Member Freed, on the desire to have some longer
22 conversations on what some of these investments
23 post Ida can look like. As we all know that
24 climate change is going to continue to change
25 what is—what we need to plan for and

1 particularly, I think I'm most interested in
2 this idea of when we exceed our design
3 capacities of what the drainage network can
4 handle, how much do we really understand about
5 the alternative pathways for stormwater. I
6 think the maps you published, and the bowl areas
7 are particularly vulnerable as low-lying areas.
8 But I wonder if there's other ways to think
9 through this sort of alternative pathways and
10 how the system, when it exceeds its design
11 capacity can fail more gracefully in some ways
12 rather than what might be thought of as
13 catastrophic.
14

15 I'm just really interested in this concept
16 because we know that, you know when we hit our—I
17 think you mentioned that we had the—had three
18 inches of rainfall in an hour and that was a
19 record for New York City. Well, the record was
20 set only two weeks prior to that and was less
21 than two inches. And so we don't really know
22 how—what the peak intensity can look like and
23 it's really helpful to think through what our—
24 what the failure modes of the system look like
25 after you exceed your design capacities because

Ubiquis

1
2 we're in uncharted territory. So I—all of it—
3 I'm not sure that's a question any more than
4 just a point and I'm very interested to help
5 engage as a member and to help you think through
6 these questions wherever it makes sense and I'm
7 very interested to have this longer conversation
8 on what your plans are.

9 A very discrete question for you. I'm
10 interested in all the conversations that have
11 been happening around the vaccine mandate for
12 the city, whether that's had any impact on your
13 workforce across the agency?

14 MR. SAPIENZA: Yeah, Dan. I'll start with
15 that one and then we'll migrate into your prior
16 question and turn that over to Angela Licata.
17 Just on the vaccine mandate, we did have some
18 early holdouts then, not many, couple of dozen
19 but I think when they understood that they may
20 lose the paycheck, most people signed on. We
21 still have a couple of people who haven't but
22 more than 99% of the DEP workforce has gotten at
23 least the one dose. So far, most are fully
24 vaccinated with boosters so thankfully that's
25 gone well.

1
2 MR. CARNEY: Commissioner, are the holdouts
3 senior people or junior people, people who are
4 well informed, people who are not well informed?
5 Where are they in the infrastructure?

6 MR. SAPIENZA: Across the board, you know,
7 we've got all ages and titles.

8 MR. CARNEY: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. SAPIENZA: Thank you. And then, Dan,
10 just on drainage and I'll just start briefly and
11 then turn it over to Angela Licata, and there's
12 a longer conversation. But I mean, you heard
13 the mayor right after the storm saying our
14 drainage system was designed for a different
15 climate reality, which is true. But again, the
16 way the system does fail now when sewers are
17 full and can't take anymore, stormwater
18 accumulates on the street, but it doesn't
19 accumulate on the street equally. It flows
20 downhill by gravity, so if you're on higher
21 ground your feet can be relatively dry if you
22 are in those bowls, as Angela mentioned, you
23 know water could be six or eight feet high. So
24 we want to certainly look at how we can have
25 this system fail more gracefully, as you said.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I'll turn it over to Angela.

MS. LICATA: You know that's the perfect point. I'll just pick up on that, to say that because of the events and the way they are manifesting themselves in the city, we feel that it's really important to look at a variety of storms. So we've had the superstorm Sandy that was really a story about storms surge. We've had Ida and Henri, which was mainly precipitation and some of that even occurred at low tide. You can imagine if we had sort of a trifecta of some of these points happening all together, that would even be a worse scenario than what we've actually experienced. So we are doing a lot of scenario planning to better understand, Dan, as you indicated. What those pathways are, what they look like and what the various vulnerabilities are for these different types of storm events that we may experience.

And one of the ways we're looking to educate ourselves and to really calibrate our models and better understand that is to develop a system of-on flood sensors. So we have a contract that we're writing. I won't tell you too much about

Ubiquis

1
2 it or I'll probably get myself in trouble but
3 it's a five-year contract and it's—we'll be
4 deploying about 200 sensors throughout the city.
5 To better understand that and we'll certainly be
6 looking at those in our cloudburst neighborhoods
7 because one thing that I think is really
8 important and I know that it would be important
9 for me to be able to report to our senior staff
10 is, what did the money that we invested get us?
11 So we need to be able to demonstrate that if
12 we're going to invest a lot of funds that we are
13 seeing improvement. So that's both the short
14 term and the long term and I'll just leave it
15 there for a longer-term discussion in the
16 future.

17 MR. ZARRILLI: Thank you.

18 MR. CARNEY: Dan, are you okay with that?

19 MR. ZARRILLI: Yes, thank you.

20 MR. CARNEY: Commissioner and Deputy
21 Commissioner, how do we capture costs? We
22 recognize that the once in a generation storm is
23 a—or twice in a generation storm, we—the system
24 will not handle the wastewater. The system will
25 not handle the run-offs. How much does it cost

1
2 for us to know what we cannot do, what we want
3 to do, what we may be able to do? Where are
4 those costs captured?

5 MR. SAPIENZA: Chair Carney, I think it's a
6 very important question and I think some of the
7 knee jerk reactions right after the storm as to
8 say well, you know, your system can handle
9 between an inch-and-a half and two inches per
10 hour. Ida was over three inches, just start
11 building your sewer system, your 7,400 miles of
12 sewers to accommodate those larger storms. And
13 we know that's just really not affordable.

14 MR. CARNEY: It's not realistic. It's
15 incredible—It's incredibly unrealistic. You
16 can't do that.

17 MR. SAPIENZA: Right. Exactly. So we
18 started looking at a variety of other tools in
19 the toolbox and what their relative costs are
20 and timelines to do some of the things that we
21 really need to do given the new climate reality
22 that we're in. Angela, I don't know if you want
23 to add?

24 MS. LICATA: No, I think that's a terrific
25 answer. It's always been about looking at the

1
2 cost benefit and what are the tools that may
3 give us co-benefits so that we're investing and
4 also getting some benefits during drier
5 conditions but also repeat storms so that these
6 are functioning during those events as well and
7 improving the water quality as they're managing
8 more stormwater and keeping it treated or out of
9 the combined sewer system. So that's why green
10 infrastructure tends to rise to the top of these
11 toolboxes. But the cost is obviously going to
12 rise, and I believe we're going to be looking at
13 some trade-offs, and as we normally do. We need
14 to balance that budget amongst all the competing
15 costs and pressures.

16 MR. CARNEY: Absolutely. That's why I asked
17 the question. This board is going to have to
18 deal with the question of revenue. What way are
19 we headed? What does the future in the next
20 year, two years, five years look like? Where
21 will that money come from? What will rates have
22 to look like in the process of making good on
23 our promise to A. provide the best quality of
24 water on the east coast, certainly, maybe in the
25 nation. And B. to make certain that we are

1 dealing with Adam's issue, which is wastewater.
2 Where does it go? How do we manage it? What do
3 we do? I'm just—I'm concerned that we are
4 beginning to have to look at a rate structure
5 that may be very different from what we've seen
6 in the past. And I'm looking to you,
7 Commissioner and to you Deputy Commissioner to
8 help us to get to that answer. At least
9 temporarily. The answer would change, it's a
10 moving target, but to the extent that you guys
11 can begin to predict where we need to be, the
12 public needs to understand where we're headed,
13 and I would help—look to you to help me to
14 figure that out.

16 MR. SAPIENZA: Thanks, Chair Carney. Now
17 we're looking at—and we're happy to work with
18 the Board going forward. You know it's—we have
19 some initial thoughts. We want to flush them
20 out a little bit more and I urge everyone to
21 also read out the report from the New Normal
22 that the mayor to shed some—it has some really
23 great information in there as well, but you
24 know, continue to work.

25 The other thing idea we just mentioned about

Ubiquis

1
2 the new billing system. That does give us a lot
3 of flexibility to do things that we could never
4 do before as far as different types of rate
5 structure, so that's helpful as well.

6 MR. CARNEY: Fingers crossed, Commissioner.
7 Thank you very much. Deputy Commissioner, thank
8 you very much for being with us today. I
9 appreciate it.

10 MR. SAPIENZA: Thank you.

11 MR. CARNEY: All right. We—the next agenda
12 item is the report of the Board's governance
13 committee. Chairman Goldin.

14 MR. GOLDIN: Hello?

15 MR. NAZEM: Jon, you may be on mute.

16 MR. CARNEY: Jon, are you on?

17 MR. GOLDIN: Yes. Sorry, I was having a
18 technical issue. I missed that part.

19 MR. CARNEY: I was—your report is the next
20 item on the agenda. The governance committee
21 report.

22 MR. GOLDIN: All right. Okay. So I just
23 wanted—I'll give everybody a very quick update.
24 We had a productive call just before this one
25 and I was appreciative of the fact that the

1 members of the governance committee, Member Shaw
2 and Fernandez-Ketcham joined and our esteemed
3 Chairman joined and we had a good discussion
4 about the—a couple of issues, most notably our
5 annual review policy. Did the State mandate the
6 annual review procedure and reform and what if
7 any, amendments can be made and should
8 potentially be made to more directly and
9 accurately reflect the work that it is that we
10 do with the Water Board. And we also got an
11 update on the work of the contracting officer,
12 and I've asked the staff to make a slight
13 amendment to the policy and procedure. So that
14 now as it's currently written, when a contract
15 is determined not to require bidding with a no-
16 bid contract, as the policy is currently
17 written, it only needs to be approved by the
18 Board if it's over \$100,000. It only needs—and
19 the board only needs to be notified if it's over
20 \$25,000. And so, we had a consensus that we
21 want to propose to the Water Board—the overall
22 Water Board that we receive a report on all no-
23 bid contracts irrespective of whether they meet
24 that \$25,000 threshold or not. Those are the
25

Ubiquis

1 highlights and apologies again about the little
2 technical glitch there.

3
4 MR. CARNEY: That's all right, Jon. It was
5 a vigorous governance committee meeting. Using
6 vigorous and governance in the same sentence is
7 probably confusing but we had a--an excellent
8 governance committee meeting. Chairman Goldin,
9 thank you very much for that.

10 MR. GOLDIN: Thank you.

11 MR. CARNEY: Are there questions for Jon?

12 MR. ZARRILLI: This is --

13 MR. CARNEY: [Interposing] Next is the --

14 MR. ZARRILLI: [Interposing] This is Dan.
15 One quick one just to get an understanding of--
16 what are the types of things that we're talking
17 about being done on a sole source or no-bid
18 basis, like, how the extent of this practice?

19 MR. GOLDIN: Yeah. My impression is that
20 it's not very extensive and the staff can give
21 us the sense as to how frequently the exceptions
22 are in fact deployed. We weren't looking at its
23 actual frequency. We were looking at the terms
24 of the policy which allow in exigent
25 circumstances or in situations where there is a

1 unique skill or other kinds of delineated
2 exceptions, the contracting officer is allowed
3 to proceed without the bidding process. As to
4 how common it is, that's information that we can
5 and should get from the staff. I don't think
6 it's used all that often, but we do want—I think
7 subject to the view of the whole Board, I think
8 we do want to know whenever it happens just so
9 that even if it's a \$10-, \$15-, \$20,000
10 contract, I think it's something that we should
11 just be apprised of rather than have, have it
12 not be brought to our attention or to the
13 attention of the public.

14
15 MR. ZARRILLI: And all of these are, no
16 matter what the frequency is, these are all
17 consistent with the City's—the PPB, the Policy
18 of Procurement Board rules. That's through —

19 MR. CARNEY: I'm sorry, the PPB? I've not
20 heard that before. What does that mean?

21 [Crosstalk]

22 MR. CARNEY: Rather than getting into the
23 weeds here in the Board meeting. Dan, may I
24 ask, could you contact Omar and spend some—

25 MR. ZARRILLI: [Interposing] Yeah.

Ubiquis

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Absolutely. Glad to do it. Yep.

MR. CARNEY: Okay. All right. Cool. Thank you. Jon, were you--was that the end of your report?

MR. GOLDIN: Yeah. Thank you.

MR. CARNEY: Terrific. Thank you both very much. The next agenda item is the appointment of the Board--of a Board Ethics Officer. With Greg Ascierto's retirement, we are losing our Ethics Officer. I'd made the point that it's an unfortunate occurrence for the Board. Terrific one for Greg Ascierto. The new Ethics Officer is, as proposed, is Albert Rodriguez and with a little luck and a lot of grace, he'll accept the position. Al, do you accept?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

MR. CARNEY: Is there anything you want to say about that?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a choice?

MR. CARNEY: Yeah. No, right? No.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: I accept it gratefully and look forward to determining whatever determinations need to be made. Whether it be -
- or not.

1
2 MR. CARNEY: You—both you and Greg have been
3 extraordinary with regard to your ethics advise
4 over the course of my time with the Board.

5 Thank you very much, Al.

6 Greg, are you still on the phone? Thank you
7 very much for your service. It's been
8 wonderful. Hate to see you go but thank you.
9 Fingers crossed that you're going to do some
10 terrific things and if you want to send some
11 business my way, it's fine.

12 MR. ASCIERTO: Sounds good for me. Thanks
13 again.

14 MR. CARNEY: It is what it is. The question
15 then is, and there is a resolution, the
16 appointment of the Board's Ethics Officer, that
17 the proposal is that Al Rodriguez will become
18 the Board Ethics Officer. Al, it's an odd
19 circumstance to ask you—

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: [Interposing] Yeah. I was
21 going to ask if Omar could take the roll?

22 MR. CARNEY: [Interposing] If Omar could
23 poll the Board?

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

25 MR. CARNEY: Yes. I think that's a great

Ubiquis

1
2 idea. Omar, if you—so the resolution is that Al
3 Rodriguez become the Water Board's Ethics
4 Officer. I will ask for the approval of the
5 Board and if—and Omar will poll the Board to see
6 whether or not that resolution is approved.

7 MR. NAZEM: Okay. All right. So we're on
8 the question of the adoption of the resolution
9 of appointing Albert Rodriguez Board Ethics
10 Officer. Chairman Carney, how do you vote?

11 MR. CARNEY: Yeah.

12 MR. NAZEM: Member, Fernandez-Ketcham?

13 MS. FERNANDEZ-KETCHAM: Yeah.

14 MR. NAZEM: Member, Freed?

15 MR. FREED: Aye.

16 MR. NAZEM: Member Goldin?

17 MR. GOLDIN: Approve.

18 MR. NAZEM: Member Hsu is not on the phone.
19 I'll just clarify he's not on the phone. Member
20 Hsu is not voting. Member Shaw?

21 MS. SHAW: Agreed.

22 MR. NAZEM: And Member Zarrilli?

23 MR. ZARRILLI: Aye.

24 MR. NAZEM: Okay. All right. We have six
25 in favor and the resolution passes.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MR. CARNEY: Thank you very much, Omar.

Congratulations you are now the new Board—the Board's new ethics officer.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

MR. CARNEY: All right. We have—the next agenda item is a fiscal year financial update. Will you do that Omar, or with someone else?

MR. NAZEM: If the Commissioner is still on the phone. - - the Commissioner.

MR. CARNEY: Well, he—everything you wanted to cover, he covered.

MR. NAZEM: Well, he did.

[Crosstalk]

MR. CARNEY: The update on the DEP's sustainable rate structures study. Are there any comments we need to hear on that issue, on that matter?

MR. FREED: Yeah, I'd love an update on that. Just to hear where we are. That I know, there's been a lot of work on the DEP side of the obligations. I'd love to give them an opportunity to talk it through.

MS. LICATA: It that my queue? This is Angela Licata speaking.

1
2 MR. NAZEM: This is the sustainable rate
3 study structure? Yes. Please?

4 MS. LICATA: Okay. Omar, I don't know if
5 you have the capacity to put any slides up or
6 I'll just speak to - - .

7 MR. NAZEM: So the presentation slides for
8 members of public are on the Board's website.
9 It's nyc.com/nycwaterboard. So when you go to
10 the announcements, click on the PDF, and that's
11 where they're accessible. We're not projecting
12 anything over video conferencing software. You
13 need to go to the website, look over the PDF and
14 they're in the PDF packet. Members have the
15 packs in their inbox, you know, I sent fifteen
16 minutes before the start of the meeting.

17 MS. LICATA: Thanks, Omar. Well, first and
18 foremost, I'm going to take you through the
19 status of the analysis, but the important point
20 is that this is not something that is being led
21 singularly at DEP. Obviously, the Commissioner
22 has commissioned this study. Has tasked me with
23 completing this assignment and has been
24 extremely supportive of the work that we're
25 undertaking. Also this is happening in

1
2 conjunction and collaboration with the Chief
3 financial officer, Joe Murin and with the Water
4 Board treasurer, Omar Nazem.

5 And we have various stakeholders that we'll
6 discuss in the moment, but we really do
7 wholeheartedly view this study as the
8 intelligence gathering and decision-making tool
9 for a variety of groups. Not the least of which
10 includes the mayoral team, the water finance
11 authority, OMB, and of course, the Water Board.
12 And then on top of that, we have a lot of public
13 stakeholders that are very interested in our
14 work. So we do provide updates to them as well.

15 And just a recap of where we are to date, is
16 that we kicked off this three-year study in
17 August of 2020 and we've had a variety of
18 stakeholders' engagement sessions and have
19 developed a frequently asked questions based on
20 feedbacks from our stakeholders. And so that
21 they can go, they can learn and build upon their
22 learning as we continue to work through the
23 process and with them and with others.

24 And most important accomplishment to date is
25 this comparative rate structure analysis. And

Ubiquis

1 we'll talk a little bit about that in a moment.
2 So to date, it has been a very time-consuming
3 research-oriented task process, but we are now
4 quickly coming upon what I believe to be a huge
5 transactions into a very complex and rigorous
6 analytic mode. So there is a lot of work ahead
7 of us. And we're looking forward to that
8 because I think it's going to get really
9 exciting at this point in time.

11 The next point I want to make is that the
12 advisory group meetings were held in July of
13 2021, October of 2021. And the next one will be
14 February or thereabouts of 2022. And then we'll
15 have our final recommendations by June of 2023.
16 So we're about halfway done, with about 18
17 months to go.

18 And the comparative analysis report, that's
19 really important to spend a moment on because it
20 really studies the rate structures, and rate
21 implementation options of the most like
22 utilities or utilities that have done some
23 really innovative rate structures that they've
24 adopted themselves. So we have the great
25 fortune of not being the first to have adopted

Ubiquis

1
2 some of these unique structures, but to really
3 study how they have worked. What the upsides
4 are, what the downsides are. And the work that
5 we'll be doing going forward is mainly to look
6 at how those various rate structures would
7 impact our customer base. So we have to really
8 tool this to really understand how it's going to
9 impact the variety of customers that we have.

10 One of the things that I'd like to note is
11 that the majority of the other utilities that
12 we've looked at, they have implemented a fixed
13 fee. So without getting to a punchline and I
14 really don't know until we do this very a
15 detailed analysis. The fixed fee seems like a
16 very common practice because it does allow for a
17 portion of the fee to be steady, for it to not
18 be linked entirely to consumption. It gives
19 certainty to the customer, and it gives
20 certainty to the utility. And it does
21 represent, fixed charges that the agency has
22 that do not rise and fall to consumption. So I
23 do believe that, that is going to be the element
24 of the changes that we will see.

25 And what we will also be looking at very

Ubiquis

1
2 carefully are the impacts on vulnerable
3 populations or socio-economically disadvantaged
4 communities. We want to make sure that we have
5 some type of lifeline rate for them. Some type
6 of a minimum amount of water that is guaranteed
7 to those customers at the safe and affordable
8 rate. And we would be also looking at the
9 various customer assistance programs that we've
10 already established and some additional ones
11 that may be available to us as we go forward in
12 this process as well.

13 And so I know I'm talking a lot, but just
14 trying to share some thoughts with you. Maybe I
15 will spark some questions from you. We talked a
16 little bit when we were talking about resilience
17 and climate change and adaptation, about
18 embracing uncertainty, looking at variabilities,
19 looking at how we need to be ready for a variety
20 of outcomes. But when it comes to a rate study,
21 I feel like I—the opposite side of the coin is
22 really important, and we need to make sure that
23 we have certainty and financial resilience. So
24 to the Chair's point earlier, that is really the
25 tightrope that we're going to be walking. And

Ubiquis

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I'll just pause there and see if there're any, any questions on what I've already said.

MR. NAZEM: Are there questions from the Board?

MR. FREED: I don't have a question, but I just want to say that I have attended both of the public meetings, and I appreciate the challenge you have in engaging the public on such a complicated specific issue. And I know, you know, some of the questions in the first meeting were, can you explain the rate structure? How does DEP bill? The knowledge base that, that is engaged in this and trying to bring everyone up to the same speed and the same common denominator, and that is quite a challenge. So I think that's going to continue to be a struggle as we get into more complex issues of how do we have space to delve into the nuance of it and the complexity of this is so important. At the same time, we're educating people.

MR. CARNEY: It's the nuances here that are extraordinary. How do you—how does the new billing system give us a better portal to know

Ubiquis

1 where people really are at risk? To know what,
2 what the trip measures there may be, to know
3 what it is that we're not addressing. We—we've
4 got the, the—the entire spectrum of folk from
5 absolutely no need to tremendous need. How do
6 we—can we, it's Adam's question, how do we
7 address those who are in greatest need? How do
8 we get at that? How do we know who they are and
9 then what do we do?
10

11 MR. FREED: Yeah, and I—I'll note, the one
12 thing I would just note that I had in my noted
13 from the first meeting and just to make all the
14 other Water Board members aware of this, the
15 current scope of work is for the study. It
16 doesn't include, and Angela, please correct me
17 if I'm wrong, the work for implementation of a
18 new rate structure. That would have to come in
19 the next generation and a next step in the Water
20 Board. So I think it's just a strong base to
21 build from but there's still a lot of work left
22 to do and how—you know, what, we'll need to be
23 very deeply involved in that.

24 MS. LICATA: Yes, that's absolutely correct.
25 And with respect to the question on the

1 customers, we've been looking at our customers
2 carefully for many years in terms of what the
3 socio-economic demographics are across the city.
4 We've done a lot of analysis on the
5 affordability question. We've looked at it from
6 the perspective of how do we raise rates to meet
7 various mandates, how much more debt can we take
8 on, how much more can some of these customers
9 afford to pay? And the way in which we've
10 really been able to collect that information is
11 to, you know, work with the human resources
12 administration and some of the other databases.
13 So there's been a lot of looking at our own
14 demographics and then comparing that with
15 customers that may be getting heating assistance
16 or SNAP Program assistance. So we have a pretty
17 good understanding of that issue. Now, what do
18 we do to address it, that's where it gets a
19 little trickier.

21 MR. CARNEY: And much more difficult. I
22 applaud your efforts. I believe that you're
23 doing everything that you can do right now.
24 That—the question is, do we need new ideas and
25 if we do where do we get them? And I—and I—my

Ubiquis

1
2 fingers are crossed that what you're doing
3 adequately addresses what we don't know, but
4 finger crossed that if there are new ideas,
5 we'll stumble over them or they'll just come to
6 us because we've earned the right to have them,
7 well see what happens.

8 All right. We are—we've had the sustainable
9 rate study presentation. We're going now to the
10 next agenda item, which is a briefing, well,
11 actually, we've done some of these, the LIHWAP
12 assistance program. Is there anything else we
13 need to do with that?

14 MR. MURIN: No, just Mr. Chair, this is Joe
15 Murin. I think the commissioner covered that
16 in his talking point.

17 MR. CARNEY: Yes, he did, I'm—and I'm very
18 comfortable with it. Is there any other
19 business to come before this Board for this
20 meeting? Hearing no comments and no questions,
21 may I have a motion please, to adjourn the
22 meeting?

23 MR. GOLDIN: So moved, Mr. Chair.

24 MR. CARNEY: Thank you, Jon. Is there a
25 second?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

[Crosstalk]

MR. FREED: Sure, I'll second.

MS. FERNANDEZ-KETCHAM: Second - -.

MR. CARNEY: Thank you very much. Mr. Secretary, if you would have poll of the membership?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sure. Taking a poll to terminate this meeting. Chairman Carney, how do you vote?

MR. CARNEY: To end the meeting.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, thank you. Member Fernandez- Ketcham, how do you vote?

MS. FERNANDEZ-KETCHAM: Yes, we can end the meeting.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Member Freed??

MR. FREED: I vote aye and wish everyone a wonderful new year and holidays.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, thank you. Member Goldin?

MR. GOLDIN: I vote to adjourn and wish everybody happy holidays and a good healthy new year. Thank you.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Shaw?

MS. SHAW: I vote to adjourn.

Ubiquis

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16

MR. RODRIGUEZ: And Member Zarrilli?

MR. ZARRILLI: Approved and looking forward to seeing everybody in 2022.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can I just check in one last time, Member Hsu, are you on the phone?

MR. CARNEY: I don't think so, Al.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

MR. CARNEY: Are you there - -? Before you all hang up I-happy holidays to everybody. I am a Christmas-a Christmas celebrant, and I will wish everybody a very Merry Christmas. Thank you all for joining us today. Take care. Okay.

MS. SHAW: Bye everyone.

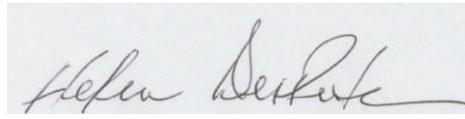
MS. FERNANDEZ-KETCHAM: Okay. Bye-bye.

[END RECORDING]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Helen DelPrete certify that the foregoing transcript of NYC Water Board Meeting was prepared using standard electronic transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability. I further certify that I am not connected by blood, marriage or employment with any of the parties herein nor interested directly or indirectly in the matter transcribed.

Signature



Date

December 20, 2021**Ubiquis**

61 Broadway – Suite 1400 – New York, NY 10006
Phone: 212-346-6666 * Fax: 888-412-3655