

**NYSERDA 247<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**  
**June 23, 2020**  
Clean Copy Transcript

**Peter Costello:**

We can begin.

**Richard Kauffman:**

I'd like to call this meeting to order. This is the 247th meeting of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the Members and to the press on June 10, 2020, and a revised agenda was provided today. I direct a copy of the notice be annexed to the Minutes of this meeting. Welcome everybody to the meeting.

This meeting is conducted by video conference. The Authority will post a video and a transcript of this meeting on the web. To confirm that we have a quorum I'd like to ask the Authority's Secretary Peter Costello to conduct a roll call and be to the Members in attendance. Peter, would you conduct the roll call?

**Peter Costello:**

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will first note your attendance and now take the remainder of the roll call. When I call your name, please indicate present.

Authority Vice Chair Gil Quiniones.

**Gil Quiniones:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Shere Abbott.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Present.

**Peter Costello**

Chuck Bell.

**Charles Bell:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Ken Daly.

**Ken Daly:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**  
Commissioner Dominguez.

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**  
Present.

**Peter Costello:**  
Thank you. Kate Fish.

**Kate Fish:**  
Present.

**Peter Costello:**  
Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**  
Present.

**Peter Costello:**  
Thank you. PSC Chair Rhodes.

**John Rhodes:**  
Present.

**Peter Costello:**  
Thank you. Commissioner Seggos.

**Basil Seggos:**  
Present.

**Peter Costello:**  
And Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**  
Present.

**Peter Costello:**  
Mr. Chairman, there are 11 Members in attendance. We have a quorum.

**Richard Kauffman:**  
First item on the discussion agenda a word from the Authority's President and CEO Alicia Barton on the Authority's recent activities. And this is obviously a bittersweet moment for us all. This is Alicia's last report to us, and we are deeply grateful for Alicia's leadership. We're sad that she's leaving, excited for her next adventure and delighted that she will continue to be a leader in clean energy. We'll have time to talk more about Alicia at the end of the meeting, but right now I know Alicia would like to get to the President's report. So Alicia?

**Alicia Barton:**

Thank you, Richard, for that kind introduction. And I just want to check, can everybody hear me okay? Yep. Okay. So, next slide please.

So, and the next slide, I am eager to provide the report from, from the President and CEO. And as we have been doing since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, want to start by reflecting where we are as a State, which is obviously critically backdrop to all the work we do as a public authority here in the State of New York. And so I think it is, of course, good news to be able to say that since the last time we met, virtually back in April, the State's condition has improved quite a bit. And the metrics that we have seen recently are really extraordinary and you can see that very clearly, through the Governor's presentations and through the curve that has in fact, not only been flattened, but declined substantially.

And so, while we are not out of the woods yet, so to speak, it is truly remarkable that the Governor reported recently that New York State has the lowest rate of infection for COVID-19 in the country, given where we have come and where, where we were just a few short months ago. So, that's a message that obviously is really important to reinforce, but also is the message of, cautious optimism and vigilance as we look forward.

Next slide, please, just to highlight the Governor's phased reopening strategy has led us to the point where the majority of the State has now entered phase three, and then the downstate region mid-Hudson, New York City on Long Island has achieved phase two as of this week, which is a very exciting milestone, particularly for New York City.

All of this information of course, is available on the New York forward website. And we do encourage, our team, our program partners, and everyone to check that website regularly to make sure that they understand the phase reopening, which guides not only NYSERDA's operations, but obviously the work that the clean energy industry is doing around the State and we have had a clear focus on trying to provide updated access to information for the clean energy industry through this difficult time to make sure that they have the latest information. And, at this point, again, we are reaching a phase where, where most of our industries are really getting back to work, which is a tremendously good thing.

Next slide please.

And I just I do want to highlight as I'm providing my final President's report with, with a great deal of pride, having been able to personally be a part of, the New York State response led by the Governor first and foremost, but really every employee, every leader within New York State government and mobilized in a truly unprecedented way to respond to this crisis. And, I'm proud to have been part of it, but also proud of our team who contributed quite a bit. And I just we'll, we'll highlight a couple of things. We reached a bit of a new chapter in the saga, of course, with the Governor ending his daily emergency briefings and press availabilities last week and I, we take that as a strong signal that the State government response that we've all been participating in has been, very successful.

Again, it's not over yet, but we have seen clear milestones of success and it really has been led by. I want to recognize some of my fellow commissioners on this call in particular who, not only themselves individually, but their teams have just been a critical part of the state response to this. So, including Commissioner Dominguez, Commissioner Seggos, President Quiniones, Chair Rhodes, it has really been, extraordinary to see how State government mobilized and we have played a supporting role, too many of those emergency efforts, which we updated the Board about previously. But I really just want to reiterate and acknowledge the importance of state government, we acknowledge my fellow public servants in New York State service who have really just gone above and beyond to step up, to do what was needed to protect the public during this truly unprecedented situation. And, as I said that really does go particularly individually for some of the commissioners who are, are with us, on this call today. And I just want to really acknowledge and commend their leadership and their team's leadership throughout all of this.

Next slide, please.

And picking up on some of the conversation at the Committee meetings and also building on the report I provided previously to the Board, unfortunately, as we have seen of course, across the State and economy-wide, clean energy has been hard hit by COVID-19 and in particular, by a lot of the work that needed to stop, in order to ensure public safety, the trend is I think interesting, certainly to note, if you look at, on the slide, the March claims, and then the April claims and the May claim. So March was very bad with, in these are based on Bureau, Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reporting that was compiled by an outside firm. You know, March was very bad with 6,000 jobs lost in April was really disappointing.

I was very shocked to see those significant numbers, which were even worse than I had feared. However, May claims then dropped significantly from 13 to almost 14,000 and April to just around a thousand and May. And I want to stress a couple of things. One is that each one of those, those job losses is tragic. And we as a State obviously have been mobilizing to support, unemployed workers led by the department of labor and many other agencies. We certainly want to do that for the clean energy industry in New York as well. And to have been trying to work directly with, companies in this sector to make adjustments that can mitigate some of these trends, it could be too early really to say, what, what will be at the end of the day. It's great news to see the leveling off in May. We will obviously continue, NYSERDA, we'll continue to monitor that carefully to ensure that that's not a temporary situation that reverts to bigger numbers and months ahead. We hope that some of the 20,000 jobs that were lost over that time will be, recovered in the months ahead, as we do look forward to, build black strategy, and economic recovery, and with clean energy, at the forefront, we hope here in New York State.

Next slide, please.

And as we've gotten back to work, we have, again as part of our efforts to support the clean energy industry, work to make sure that they have access to the requirements and state of the art best practices that the New York State Department of Health has promulgated. We have, directly worked to put this information in the hands of all of our program partners and contractors. We think it's critically important, to the public confidence in getting back to work. We think it's critically important of course, to protect workers and, occupants of buildings where

work may be taking place, as well as the general public at large. We need to make sure that the clean energy industry is putting safety front and center. And so we are working with them to provide training and other resources, so that, really can be the case.

And I just, again, want to acknowledge our colleagues at the New York State department of health for putting together such outstanding reopening guidance, for example, with the construction activities, which covers a lot of the clean energy work that NYSERDA is involved in. And we have, I think seeing good progress for companies getting back to work and doing so, again, within the requirements, of department of health. And, we have reinforced that as a requirement for doing business with NYSERDA as well.

Next slide please.

But of course, in looking at what we've seen in terms of, the impact of COVID-19 on not just our clean energy industry, but moving to the broader population, the Governor has been, clear and calling out the direct link between pollution and, COVID-19 vulnerability and susceptibility and the mortality rates that we've seen as well, which are also shown on the, on the, on the slide there from independent research out of Harvard. And this is tragic, and it is reinforcing to the state's commitment to climate justice, to building a different energy future that will be cleaner, more protective of public health and better for, all of our citizens, but most especially our most vulnerable citizens. And so you know, we have a lot to do ahead as a state in this regard, and we will, NYSERDA will be playing a large role in that.

However, we'll be doing that alongside many partners in state government. Certainly with our partners, in the many agencies that are represented on the climate action council to ensure that we follow through on the provisions and the climate leadership and community protection act that to put climate justice front and center, it's critically important. We knew that before, and that's why the CLCPA, put this issue front and center and certainly everything that has happened throughout the last several months of this, COVID-19 crisis has been nothing but reinforcing to the need for a cleaner, less polluting, sources of energy, whether that's, on the electric grid or mobile sources as well. We have to, we have to move to a cleaner energy future.

Next slide, please.

And, with the corresponding crisis we have seen around society and the wake up calls and response to, for example, the murder of George Floyd and calls for ending systemic racism and, improving social justice.

I think the twin crises of these that the Governor has focused so often about really reinforce that these type of broad-based underlying threats to our society, if they are not dealt with erupt in, in, in a form of a crisis. And that's exactly what we need to get ahead of in terms of averting the climate crisis, this, unfortunately these, these events, I think, have also served as a wake up call for the fact that if we ignore science, if we ignore, systemic issues, like racism or environmental justice issues, we will not be well to deal with them before we get to a crisis mode. And, just as there has been a direct link between COVID-19 and minority populations in disadvantaged communities I was certainly struck by a recent New York times reports that, that climate change,

that there is science showing that access to, excuse me, exposure to particulate matter exposure to extreme heat, also disproportionately impacting, pregnant women and, black mothers most especially. So again, we see these reinforcing trends and it just reinforces the importance of the work that we are doing the importance of the Governor's leadership to make sure that New York is, moving forward aggressively to solve these problems including, including climate change.

Next slide, please.

And I know this, this came up a bit, at the Committee meetings, and I just want to thank our board Members who have made those comments. Several of you did that clean energy needs to be a part of the solution to the current economic crisis. And we strongly agree with that and believe that under the Governor's leadership, New York we'll be well positioned to do that we also spoke about, for example, some of the impacts and adjustments to COVID-19. So for example, timing of various, program efforts was asked about, we also talked about, Janet Joseph presented on some of the adjustments we've made, for increased flexibility in our programs or adjusting payment schedules. We believe that where we are today through some of those adjustments, as well as the relatively minor delay that we have seen in, in some of these, initiatives that just really want to underline that New York remains on track to meet our climate commitments under the climate leadership and community protection act.

The clean energy, we believe will be a springboard for economic activity and position New York at the forefront of this nationally. if, if there are, future federal stimulus bills that will, signal greater investment in clean energy infrastructure, New York will be well situated to move forward, in a way to capitalize on that opportunity. we, this is the work we have been doing, and we believe, that this is the right time to make those investments. And the Governor also, again, has been clear about the need for, investments in large infrastructure in order to build back our economy. And we are doing the hard work of using this this moment. Re-envision our work, not to go back to, the way we did business before, but to try to harness new solutions, to make sure that the clean energy industry will be smarter and more resilient and more cost effective over the long-term.

Again, Janet Joseph presented some specific examples of that to the, to the Members of the Program Planning Committee. This is something that we are looking at across the board and, welcome input from stakeholders as well as certainly from, the Members of the Board, to inform that work and make sure that we do reach forward to a re-imagined future. That is better. And that we turn this moment of crisis into a moment of opportunity.

Next slide, please.

And I think one great example of that. I'm very excited to share, although it was, previously presented in the prior Committee meeting, but for those Members that weren't in attendance, I think an extraordinary milestone for, implementing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, when, our colleagues at the Department of Public Service, as well as our team at NYSERDA jointly authored and filed a white paper, to, really lay out a detailed roadmap for how the state will achieve 70% renewable energy by 2030.

And, again, it speaks to the core of these themes. You know, we are accelerating renewable energy development, creating thousands of good paying jobs, and critically advancing environmental justice for those communities that have been, left out of the conversation around energy policy in the past. This is really reinforcing to, the significant milestone that occurred as part of the State budget this year with the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act, which we believe creates a new model for siting and permitting renewable energy in New York. That is, again, nation leading in its approach to putting a clear focus on, renewable energy as a specific need, to advance. So that that white paper is fairly detailed. And, we presented some, some aspects of it to the Program Planning Committee, and would encourage any, any Members of the public who are observing this Board meeting to pay attention to the docket at the, at the Public Service Commission where there will be an opportunity for public input. And we really, are eager to see, the outcome of that critically important Public Service Commission proceeding to set out a schedule and a clear trajectory to hitting these critical clean energy milestones.

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So, I will wrap up with just a couple of slides of reflection, although, I do want to keep it brief, because I want to keep the focus on, on, the team's work and the look ahead, but it would be, I can't help, but say just really clearly how, how proud I am of what New York has done over the last three years and how meaningful it's been to me to be able to be a part of that. I do believe that what has been accomplished over the last three years is really unprecedented for the acceleration of clean and renewable energy in any state around the country. And I won't belabor the individual contributions. We talk about a number of them, but it is nothing short of remarkable what New York has done under, under Governor Cuomo's leadership. And I just have to observe that New York has become the leading state in the nation. New York Governor Cuomo is hands down the leading climate Governor in America. And what has occurred in three years is, is really going to fundamentally lead to a different, cleaner, better future for New Yorkers. And I'm really very proud to have played a role in that. I also. [Pause].

There's a little bit of feedback, John. Is that better?

I also wanted to just also make a personal comment that those, those three years, required, a heck of a lot of hard work, and on, on, under any circumstances these, state leadership positions are like 24/7 jobs. And especially when I think you look at what we've been able to do and in a relatively short number of years, but I feel really glad to be able to look at all of you, Members of the Board, and more importantly, to be able to look in the mirror and be able to say that that I gave this job 110% every single day that I was here. And some days it was probably more like 150%. But we really, we got a long way and, it is, it's just really, with a lot of pride that I want to really shout out the team because, as much as I'm proud of being part of it, they are the ones that top to bottom have really stepped up. I've updated the Board before, but every single program at NYSERDA has essentially broken all of its prior records for achievements. The records we've broken nationally in terms of, our renewable energy procurements and our records, solar installations, all of this has been, just obviously delivered by, a dedicated team of outstanding professionals. And I'm just really proud of them and want to want to really report to the Board as I move forward that, I hope you have as much confidence in them as I do. They are

the best, I think, the best team in the country doing this work. So, I started as ready to keep pace, as we have been over the last three years, which is not an easy thing to say, but I have full confidence in reporting that to the Board.

And next slide, please.

And the future is, we haven't solved everything to say the least there is a lot of hard work ahead, important challenges, but I, remain again incredibly confident that, from top to bottom from the Governor's unwavering leadership to really every member of our team at NYSERDA, and our colleagues across state government, that we are set up to continue pioneering the new approaches that will deliver better outcomes for kids combating climate change and building a cleaner energy future. So, that's easier said than done, but all of what it takes is, is represented. And we've set the stage well with, certainly the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which will be transformative. And really, I just can't wait to continue to watch what New York is going to pioneer.

So, with that, I just wanted to end with, a couple of thank you's, which I think is probably the most important thing I wanted to say today. And thank you, probably first and foremost, to Governor Cuomo for the opportunity to serve its been the honor of my career. Thank you to the Members of the Board for your support of NYSERDA and your, and thank you in advance for your ongoing support of the team. I would especially thank, Richard Kaufman, who's been, such a great leader for our organization and for our country on clean energy and just a friend and resource personally. Thank you, Richard, for that. Same to my fellow commissioners. I'm not going to go one by one in the interest of time, but you are all just the best colleagues I could imagine having. And our team at NYSERDA, which I already talked about, they're the best. So with that, I'm going to hand it back to Richard. And thank you for the opportunity to share a few personal thoughts.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Alicia, we're gonna have more opportunity in the meeting cause I know you'd like to keep going with the business part of this, but I'd like to ask if the Board Members have any questions about Alicia's report.

**Alicia Barton:**

You can go to the next slide, John.

[Pause].

**Richard Kauffman:**

Okay. In that case, I'd like to get to the next agenda item, which concerns an executive session. The Members will convene an executive session pursuant to Section 105(1)(f) of the New York Public Officers Law to discuss the employment history and matters leading to the appointment of a particular person.

So may I have a motion for Resolution number 1586 to enter into executive session to discuss the employment history and matters leading to the appointment of a particular person?



**Mark Willis:**

So moved. Mark.

**Jay Koh:**

Second. Jay.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you. So, when Peter calls your name, please indicate whether you are in favor by stating "Aye" or opposed by stating "No".

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will start with you for your vote.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Vice Chair Quiniones.

**Gil Quiniones:**

Aye

**Peter Costello:**

Shere Abbott.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chuck Bell.

**Charles Bell:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Ken Daly:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez.

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Kate Fish.

**Kate Fish:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chair Rhodes.

**John Rhodes:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos.

**Basil Seggos:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mr. Chairman, the executive session resolution has been approved.

**Richard Kauffman:**

All right, we'll go into executive session.

[Meeting paused during Executive Session].

**Peter Costello:**

Okay. I believe I've counted everyone as present.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Okay. Thank you, Pete. I now reconvene the meeting in open session. No formal action was taken during the executive session, but as a result of our discussions, we will now consider the appointment of Doreen Harris as acting President and CEO of the Authority.

Doreen is the Large Scale Renewables Vice President at NYSERDA. She's held technical policy and management positions at NYSERDA. In her 10 years of public service, she's led the State's nation leading advancement of renewable resources under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and Clean Energy Standard. Doreen also spearheaded the strategic development of New York's offshore wind resource, including the execution of the State's Offshore Wind Master Plan. She was instrumental in advancing and implementing the Accelerated Renewable Energy and Community Benefit Act as part of recently enacted budget and is committed to bringing forward renewable resources in a cost effective and responsible manner.

Before embarking on a career in public service, Doreen spent over 10 years in private industry, serving a management engineering role focusing on the energy sector. Most recently as a project director for Global Water Technologies, Inc. Doreen earned a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering, Summa Cum Laude from the University of Rochester and a master's in business administration from the University of Albany.

So are there any questions? [Pause].

In that case, may I have a motion for resolution 1587, approving the appointment of Doreen Harris as Acting President and CEO of the Authority effective this Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM?

**Mark Willis:**

So moved.

**Kate Fish:**

Second.

**Richard Kauffman:**

When Peter calls your name please indicate whether you are in favor by stating "Aye" or opposed by stating "No".

**Peter Costello:**

Okay. Thank you. Chair Kauffman, your vote?

**Richard Kauffman:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Vice Chair Quiniones.

**Gil Quiniones:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Shere Abbott.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chuck Bell.

**Charles Bell:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Ken Daly:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez.

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Kate Fish.

**Kate Fish:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chair Rhodes.

**John Rhodes:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos.

**Basil Seggos:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to report that the appointment of Doreen Harris as Acting President and CEO of the Authority has been approved.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Ah, very good. We congratulate Doreen on being named Acting President of the Authority and look forward to working with you to further NYSERDA's nation leading the climate mission. The Board Members offer Doreen whatever support they can offer to you.

Would you like to say anything?

**Doreen Harris:**

Yes. Thank you, Chair Kauffman. And thank you to the entire Board for asserting your confidence in me to assume this pivotal role. As we move forward together, I genuinely appreciate your confidence, your partnership, and your leadership, together. And it's a real honor for me to accept this position as Acting President and CEO of NYSERDA. We at NYSERDA are lucky to have such a remarkable group of talented individuals not only within the Authority, but also across the State at other agencies and broadly within the clean energy industry. And I believe we are well positioned to tackle the climate crisis and to continue our work, as we move forward. So, it's an honor to take on this leadership role and ensure our continued progress as we work aggressively to accelerate renewable development, reduce emissions and create a thriving green economy.

So, my continued thanks to our outgoing President, Alicia Barton. Alicia, we have benefited so much from your term as President. Your leadership of the organization was steady and pragmatic, but most of all had a clear vision for us as a State and allowed us to become the leader that we are, both nationally and globally. So thank you. And my sincere thanks to the Board for advancing this action. I stand ready to assume this critical role and look forward to our continued collaboration.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Well, thank you, Doreen. we're delighted with this appointment and we look forward to working with you.

The next item on the discussion agenda is a resolution appointing our newest Member, DOT Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez to the Program Planning Committee. Marie has served in numerous leadership positions within the federal government and private sector in transportation, water, and energy infrastructure and safety logistics for more than 20 years. Most recently, she was appointed Administrator of the Pipeline and Real Safety Administration at the U.S. Department of Transportation by President Obama. Marie Therese also served as Principal

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works at the U.S. Department of Defense, Deputy Chief of Staff and Counsel at the Federal Aviation Administration, Special Assistant to the Chairman at the National Transportation Safety Board, and as a Special Assistant to the President as, excuse me, and as a Special Assistant to President Clinton and Associate Director of Presidential Personnel at the White House.

We have spoken to Marie Therese and she's willing to serve in this capacity. We will certainly benefit greatly from her time and attention to the important work of the Authority.

May I have a motion for Resolution Number 1588 appointing Commissioner Dominguez to the Program Planning Committee?

**Mark Willis:**

So moved. Mark

**Gil Quiniones:**

So Moved.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Great. So I think we have a second. When Peter calls your name please indicate if you are in favor by stating "Aye" or opposed by stating "No".

**Gil Quiniones:**

You're on mute, Peter.

**Peter Costello:**

Sorry about that. Chair Kauffman.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Vice Chair Quiniones.

**Gil Quiniones:**

Aye

**Peter Costello:**

Shere Abbott.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chuck Bell.

**Charles Bell:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Ken Daly:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez.

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**

I don't think I can vote for myself, but thank you.

**Peter Costello:**

Oh Sorry. True. True. Kate Fish.

**Kate Fish:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chair Rhodes.

**John Rhodes:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos.

**Basil Seggos:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

I'm pleased to report that the appointment of Commissioner Dominguez to the PPC has been approved.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Excellent news. Thank you very much. Welcome to the Program Planning Committee. We're delighted to have you.

Our next item, I will ask Shere Abbott to report on the meeting of the Governance Committee. Shere?

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Okay. The Committee met yesterday; a quorum was present throughout the meeting. The Committee received a presentation from the Authority's Treasurer of Jeff Pitkin on the Authority's annual report pursuant to section 2800 of the Public Authorities Law. As part of its annual report submitted to the Authorities Budget Office through the Public Authorities Reporting Information System, the Authority is required to submit a compensation schedule that lists all employees in decision making or management positions whose salaries exceed one hundred thousand dollars. In addition, Section 2800 requires the Authority to submit biographical information for each employee included on the list. The Committee unanimously recommends that the board approve the compensation schedule and the submission of the curriculum vitae.

The Committee also reviewed the Governance Committee Charter. No changes are recommended, and the Committee unanimously recommends approval of the Governance Committee Charter.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Okay, thank you. Any questions?

Okay. So, the next agenda item concerns a private session. Section 108 of the Public Officers Law authorizes the Members to convene in private session in order to review a matter made confidential by State law. Section [inaudible] of the Public Authorities Law states that the Annual Confidential Board Member Performance Evaluation is confidential it may be discussed by the Members in private session.

May have a motion for Resolution Number 1589 to enter into private session for the purpose of reviewing the Annual Confidential Board Member Performance Evaluation of the Authority?

**Jay Koh:**

So moved. Jay

**Charles Bell:**

Second. Chuck.



**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you. When Peter calls your name please indicate whether you are in favor by stating “Aye” or opposed by stating “No”.

**Peter Costello:**

Okay. Thank you. Authority Chair Kauffman.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Vice Chair Quiniones.

**Gil Quiniones:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Sherre Abbott.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chuck Bell.

**Charles Bell:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Ken Daly:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez.

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Kate Fish.

**Kate Fish:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chair Rhodes.

**John Rhodes:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos.

**Basil Seggos:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

The private session resolution has been approved, Mr. Chairman.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you. So the Members will now enter into a private session. During, during that time, the webcast will remain up. Upon our return we will reconvene the meeting.

[Meeting paused during Private Session].

**Peter Costello:**

Okay. All accounted for. [Pause]. Richard, I think you're on mute.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you. I now reconvene the meeting in open session. No formal action was taken during the private session.

The next item considered by the Governance Committee was the Annual Confidential Board Member Performance Evaluation. Shere, please discuss this item.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Okay. Then. The Committee met in private session to discuss the results of the Members' evaluation of the Board's performance. The Committee makes note of the following issues and questions.

First, we want to make note of the fact that over the last several years, the evaluation shows steadily and measurably increased satisfaction with the Board's operation and enthusiasm about the positive and formative interactions with management, with each other, and with the staff.

Second, we ask whether ex officio Members of the Board are included in the evaluation as participation, that is six responses, is either low or does not include all Members. If ex officio Members are included, then we need to find a way of increasing participation in the evaluation.

Third, we love the highly consultative nature of NYSERDA management in terms of active engagement with a wide range of external advisory Committees and building toward and making decisions because this is such an important aspect of good governance and policy making. We suggest that a question be added to the Board performance evaluation to keep the Board's assessment of staff consultative effort in decision making under review.

Fourth, we discussed the pros and cons of virtual participation initiated during these press, unprecedented times and whether it makes sense to consider some model for periodic virtual participation, noting the contributions to reducing our carbon footprint and increasing efficiencies. However, there's concern about onboarding new Members in a virtual environment, about state regulations in normal times, excluding virtual engagement, and about impacts on the collegial collaborative nature of the relationships.

And finally, as a related matter, we discussed the need to look for opportunities for more Board, management, staff interaction of individual Board Members outside of Board meetings.

The Committee unanimously recommended approval of the Annual Confidential Board Member Performance Evaluation Report and its submission to the Authority's Budget Office.

This concludes my report.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Is there further discussion. [Pause].

In that case may I have a motion for Resolution Number 1590 approving the submission of the Authority's Annual Confidential Board Member Performance Evaluation Report?

**Charles Bell:**

So moved. Chuck.

**Kate Fish**

Second. Kate.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you, Kate. When Peter calls your name, please indicate whether you are in favor by stating "Aye" or opposed by stating "No".

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Authority Chair Kauffman.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Vice Chair Quiniones.

**Gil Quiniones:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Shere Abbott.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chuck Bell.

**Charles Bell:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Ken Daly:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez.

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Kate Fish.

**Kate Fish:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chair Rhodes.

**John Rhodes:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos.

**Basil Seggos:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Annual Confidential Board Member Performance Evaluation Report has been approved.

**Richard Kauffman:**

The next item on the discussion agenda is a report from the Audit and Finance Committee and discussion of the Authority's and NY Green Bank's financial statements. Jay Koh will provide this report. Jay?

**Jay Koh:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Committee meeting was held earlier today, and a quorum was present throughout. The Committee reviewed the Annual Investment Report for fiscal year that ended March 31, 2020 and the proposed 2020 Investment Guidelines. The details are outlined in the memo included in your information package. So highlight only a few of the results. The report indicates that the Authority's overall investments decreased from \$816 million to \$672 million principally from market disruption in U.S. treasury markets in March resulting from the COVID-19 health crisis, which shifted certain maturing U.S. treasury investments to be held in fully collateralized demand deposits. According to maintain deposit accounts, to maintain liquidity interest earnings for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020 were \$19.7 million, an increase of \$3 million from the prior year. The rate of return was 2.6% as compared to 2.3% in the prior year.

The Authority's independent auditors reviewed the Investment Report and said that nothing came to their attention that was not in compliance with the Investment Guidelines.

The Members are also requested to adopt a resolution approving the Investment Guidelines annually. No changes are recommended at this time.

The Committee unanimously recommends approval of the Annual Investment Report and the Investment Guidelines.

Next, the Committee reviewed the Annual OPEB Trust Investment Report for the year ended, that ended March 31, 2020 and the proposed 2020 Investment Policy Statement for the NYSEDA OPEB Trust. The market value of the Trust as of March 31, 2020 was approximately \$50.5 million. As of the most recent actuarial valuation of January 1, 2020, 8.1% fund compared to its OPEB liability. Now further note that there has been an adjustment in the long-term actual rate of return assumptions down from 6.5%, 6.25%. And that this 98.1% funded analysis reflects the 6.25% compounding rate of a launch of actual return due to the recent volatility in the stock and bond markets.

The total return on the Authority's investments was negative 6.9% outperforming the weighted average return for the benchmark indices of negative 7.5%. While it was understood that a certain level of risk is expected in the plans portfolio, the ability to withstand short and intermediate term grip by variability was specifically considered in the development of the IPS risk tolerances.

The investment consultant has not recommended taking any actions in response to recent fund performance results. Milliman has recommended an income revision to long-term rate of return. These were actual purposes as I discussed earlier, 6.5%, 6.25% based on their projections for long term expected returns to the weighted average indices.

No changes recommended for the Investment Policy Statement.

The Committee unanimously recommends approval of the Annual OPEB Trust Investment Report and Investment Policy Statement.

Just further make the note here that the OPEB Trust is in its second year of operations following decarbonization reduction. A substantial reduction to diminish amounts of holdings, of, carbon intensive energy, related, investments.

The Audit and Finance Committee also reviewed the financial statements for the recently completed fiscal year. Peter Mahar summarized significant fluctuations compared to last year's financial statements. The notable changes and fluctuations are described in detail in the materials provided to the Members. After Peter's presentation, we met in executive session with the independent auditors and there ample and detailed review of the Authority's investments and financial condition. No substantive problems were identified. The independent auditors will issue an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.

I also note that this is in keeping, I think since time immemorial, as far as we know, but of unqualified opinions issued by our external auditors to the NYSERDA staff and commend NYSERDA staff's cooperation with the auditors, which is commented on in the executive session. Even in spite of having to complete most of the audit process in this COVID-19 remote working environment. The Committee unanimously recommends approval of the Authority's and NY Green Bank's financial statements.

[Inaudible]. KPMG, LLP as the independent auditors of the Authority and NY Green Bank over the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021. And for the independent audit of the NYSERDA OPEB Trust. KPMG was competitively selected under an RFP issued in 2016. This will be year five out of a possible five years. The proposed fee for fiscal year 2020 to 2021 will not exceed \$119,160. The Committee recommends unanimously their appointment.

Next, the Committee reviewed the annual bond sales report. The report includes no new issuances, refunding or conversions were completed during fiscal year 2019 and 2020. In addition the report includes the schedule of authority bonds that are outstanding as March 31, 2020, which totals approximately \$1.6 billion. The Committee unanimously recommends approval of the annual board sales bond sales report.

Lastly, the Committee completed its annual review of the Committee's Charter. No recommendations were made, and the Committee unanimously recommends approval of the Committee's Charter.

I just wanted to add two points here. One is I want to thank again the Members of the Audit and Finance Committee for their participation on an ongoing basis in this Committee and the review of the Committee's financial statements. Obviously the external auditors have continued to see that we have complied with our internal processes and there are an unqualified set of opinions again issued, and we commend management for that capability and do expect there to be fluctuations in the financial performance of some of the Authority's assets due to the region, recent fluctuations in the market related to the COVID-19 crisis. And then finally, I'd like to add my personal thanks to Alicia Barton and her leadership of this Agency, particularly in the context of the audit and finance function. I think that her professional leadership and the execution of the management team is a testament to excellent public service, particularly in the areas of finance and audit, which are critical to safeguarding repair funds on behalf of the State of New York.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you, Jay. Are there questions? [Pause].

In that case, do we have a motion for Resolution Number 1591 approving the financial statements for the Authority and NY Green Bank for fiscal year 2019-2020?

**Jay Koh:**

So move.

**Kate Fish:**

Second.

**Richard Kauffman:**

When Peter calls your name, please indicate whether you're in favor by saying "Aye" or opposed by saying "No".

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Authority Chair Kauffman

**Richard Kauffman:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Vice Chair Quiniones.

**Gil Quiniones:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Shere Abbott.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chuck Bell.

**Charles Bell:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Ken Daly:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez.

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Kate Fish.



**Kate Fish:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chair Rhodes.

**John Rhodes:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos.

**Basil Seggos:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the financial statements for the Authority and NY Green Bank have been approved.

**Richard Kauffman:**

All right. Thank you very much. And we're going to consider the resolutions for the remaining items as part of the consent agenda.

The next item on the discussion agenda is a report from the Waste and Facilities Management Committee from that Committee Chair. Chuck?

**Charles Bell:**

Thank you very much, Richard. The first item on the Committee's agenda was approval of the Waste and Facilities Committee Charter. While the Committee did again, vote to approve the Charter this year with no changes, the Committee recommended that staff revisit the Charter Bylaws changes to consider whether the Saratoga Technology and Energy Park was included in the Committee's review, as well as other facilities. Staff will review that issue and report back with any recommendations at a future meeting. agenda item number two was a nuclear coordination updates.

The second item on the Committee's agenda was a brief report on the status of the nuclear coordination program presented by Alyse Peterson at least provided an update on the closure of Indian point unit number two, which took place as scheduled on April 30th. All of the fuel in the reactor was removed and placed in the spent fuel pool for cooling prior to transfer to dry cask storage water was drained out of the reactor vessel and the reactor containment building was bin was closed up and no further physical decommissioning actions are planned until after the shutdown of unit three next year. Elise also provided an update on the authorities engagement in the proceedings surrounding Indian points, decommissioning at the federal and state level, indicating that NYSERDA filed legal papers in both proceedings, which are now pending resolution by the regulators

Agenda item number three was an update on the West Valley sites. Mr. Paul Bembia then provided a brief report on the status of the West Valley program, providing an update on West Valley operations during New York on Pause. He reported that work on the West Valley demonstration project and the state licensed disposal area remained safe and that work activities are being ramped up slowly in accordance with state and federal directives and guidance. During the COVID pause, central onsite work such as field work included, including monitoring inspections and maintenance activities continued and is continuing today. but NYSERDA staff continued to telework as to the West Valley solar project. Paul noted that onsite work began in early March and was halted on April 1st, but that work resumed in May with the lifting of New York laws in Western New York construction activities. And Paul is on hand here today to answer questions if there are any.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Excellent Chuck. Are there questions from the Members? [Pause]. Okay. Thank you, Chuck.

The last item on the discussion agenda is a report from the Program Planning Committee. Mark Willis, that Committee's Chair will present this item. Mark?

**Mark Willis:**

Thank you, Richard. Earlier today, the Program Planning Committee met and discussed the following items, the Committee review of the Program Planning Committee charter and recommended one change be made to the Charter to correspond with the Bylaws, allowing a membership of no less than three and no more than 10 Members to the Committee. The Committee unanimously recommends approval of the Program Planning Committee Charter.

The Committee also received a report from when the new directions of the Authority's clean energy programs and the CLCPA and their response to COVID-19 from Senior Vice President for Strategy and Market Development. Janet Joseph provided an update on the Authorities CEF program.

Next David Sandbank, Vice President for Distributed Energy Resources and Technology on a recent order from the New York State Public Service Commission, new efforts to spur low- to

moderate-income solar access, meeting CLCPA requirements for disadvantaged communities, and NY Sun's recent report to the PSC on its COVID response. Lastly, Vice President for Large Scale Renewables Doreen Harris discussed the Authority's recent activities in that sector.

This completes my report in the Program Planning Committee meeting. Thank you.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you, Mark. Are there questions? [Pause]. I want to thank, non-committee Members for, attending the Program Planning Committee and again, extend an open invitation to all Members to attend the Program Planning Committee meetings. Since we do go into quite detail on NYSERDA programs.

We now turn to the consent agenda. There are 11 resolutions to be considered and information on each of these items is included in your meeting materials, a resolution, resolutions, number 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595 and 1596 were recommended for approval by the Committee's. Resolution Number 1597 would approve the Charters for each of the Authority's Committees. Resolution Number 1598 would approve the Operations and Accomplishments and Mission Statement and Measurements Annual Report. Resolution Number 1599 would approve the Annual Report on Acquisition and Disposition of Real and Personal Property, the Real Property Acquisition Guidelines of June 2020, and the Guidelines, Operative Policy and Instructions for the Disposal of Real and Personal Property June 2020. Resolutions Number 1600 and 1601 would approve the Annual Report and the Periodic Contracts Report.

Counsel's office has compared the list provided by Members of entities with which each Member is associated, which he or she believes may enter into contracts with NYSERDA to the list of contracts and in the Annual Contracts Report and the Periodic Contracts Report. Counsel's office reports just a few potential conflicts. Specifically the Authority has entered into, or anticipates entering into, contracts with Columbia University identified by me; Adirondack North Country association identified by Kate Fish; Syracuse University identified by Shere Abbott; Alliance to Save Energy identified by Gil Quiniones; and National Grid identified by Ken Daly. Can we assume that each of you and me wish to abstain from the contracts with those specified entities?

**Gil Quiniones:**

Will do.

**Ken Daly:**

Will do.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Agreed.

**Kate Fish:**

Agreed.

**Richard Kauffman:**

I thank you.

Resolution Number 1602 would approve the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Authority's Prompt Payment Policy.

Are there any questions on these items then? [Pause].

May I have a motion approving Resolutions Number 1592 through 1602?

**Jay Koh:**

So moved

**John Rhodes:**

Second, John.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you. When Peter calls your name, please indicate whether you are in favor by stating "Aye" or opposed by stating "No".

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Authority Chair Kauffman.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Vice Chair Quiniones.

**Gil Quiniones:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Shere Abbott.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chuck Bell.

**Charles Bell:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Ken Daly:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez.

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Kate Fish.

**Kate Fish:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chair Rhodes.

**John Rhodes:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos.

**Basil Seggos:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mr. Chairman, the Resolutions Number 1592 through 1602 have been approved.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you. the last item on the agenda is other business, and as you already know, Alicia will be leaving us at the end of the week. So rather than reviewing her many accomplishments at NYSERDA, I wanted to make [Inaudible].

So I met Alicia, I think about eight years ago when she was running the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and she stood out [Inaudible]. She was obviously passionate and expert in clean energy. And it was very clear that she had strong points of view. So I wasn't surprised then by the way that she approached the NYSERDA Presidency opportunity and offer. She was analytical, thoughtful, and decisive and involved in many searches. Very few have been this clear, organized and efficient. I was more surprised then by the things that I, that I learned that lay behind Alicia's decisiveness and her strong points of view. And it's these things that make her a really great leader for behind her decisiveness is the way that she listens to others, ways thoughts carefully, and then decides it's really a model of decision making. And behind her firmness of view is an emotional steadiness being the presidency or NYSERDA is a tough job with lots of stakeholders. You know, you've done a good job when everybody is not too unhappy with you more than once. Alicia has had to talk me off an emotional ledge. She is an emotionally thoughtful, decisive, and steady, and that's Alicia as President and CEO of NYSERDA. So Alicia, thank you. And we look forward to your future success before we get a special citation from the Governor, thanking Alicia for all of her hard work during your time at the authority. Would any of the Members, like to say a few words? And of course you can also, send, say a few words to her privately. I don't want to put anybody, under a lot of scrutiny here.

**Gil Quiniones:**

Mr. Chairman, it's Gil Quiniones from NYPA. I just like to, say Alicia, that your, your expertise and passion inspired a shared vision within NYSERDA in advancing the Governor's clean energy goals, your character and your integrity enabled alignment, your work ethic and positive energy facilitated the ability to execute and deliver outcomes that are so important in our battle in this climate crisis. And you did it all while enabling NYSERDA and its employees to renew and reinvent itself so that it can do more and continue to push that proverbial rock up the mountain, as a peer, I will, I will miss you, and all of the advice and counsel and both the formal and informal coaching that we talk about along the way in our respective roles. And, I wish you all the best. And may you only go from strength to strength. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair

**Basil Seggos:**

Mr. Chairman. I'll say a few words if that's okay. Basil here. I'll second everything that both you and Gil have said. It's been a great pleasure and honor to work with Alicia. She's been an absolutely fantastic President and CEO of NYSERDA. We've been through so many battles together to get to where we are now and you've, you've done such incredible work on behalf of the State. The Governor was brilliant to pick you and you really have flourished. You leave huge shoes to fill, which I know Doreen will certainly do in acting capacity, but you just built so many relationships that it'll be on all of us to carry on. And, I think the people of New York owe you a debt of gratitude. You really have done a good job. So, good luck. We wish you the best. I know we'll all stay in touch with you and you can help, help keep us, keep us honest on the outside. Good luck, Alicia.

**Kate Fish:**

Hi, Mr. Chairman, this is Kate Fish. just very short, couple of words. Alicia, I have been working with NYSERDA for years and the last three years, or for way more than three years, the last three years, it's been such an honor to be part of an organization under your leadership that has aligned and kind of focused it's both vision and the, all the steps that need to be in place to implement a spectacular vision for the State of New York. So I join everyone in just saying, thank you, deepest gratitude to what you've brought to this organization. Thank you.

**Ken Daly:**

Chairman it's Ken and I'll jump in and say, Alicia, I remember meeting you three years ago. It feels like yesterday. And my first reaction was, wow. We have a clean energy rockstar that that's a technical nerd on our hands. And I have to say every step of the way, the whole time you really led the state forward in terms of clean energy. And you had such a nice mix of engagement and results focus. And I think under your watch a lot was able to get done to move the State forward. I know you probably have mixed emotions leaving, I'm going through it as well, starting a new job next week, but I will say this, I think you saved your best for the last when you look back at your time at NYSERDA. I think it was just last semester, if you will, the COVID challenge, the social justice issues, all the things that we discussed as a Board, really with your leadership and your stewardship, and most importantly your friendship, but we thank you so much for all you've given to New York State.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Yeah. Alicia, this is Shere. I echo Ken's lovely remarks. What I found astounding about you, in addition to all these other things, in terms of a great leader, it seems to me, somebody who can run a bureaucracy and manage the inside, work up the chain and also, deal with, outside as, as, as seamlessly as you do is quite extraordinary. And I think it's been an amazing three years and I really wish you luck in your next endeavor because you really have achieved a lot. And you are a great leader. So congratulations.

**Jay Koh:**

Mr. Chairman, if I could just say two things quickly, because much has already been said, and I wholeheartedly agree with all of them. I'd say just to Alicia, I think it's an unusual leader that in a time of great ambition, when the ambition just keeps getting larger, it seemed year to year to year, that continues to be that study focused person that drives, all of us to greater ambition. And we need that ambition in the climate crisis that we're in and the transition that country is currently in, and New York will be, we'll be losing a great leader in that context. Cause I think she has shown incredible steadiness and judgment and focus and the ability to manage an excellent team to even greater amounts of, ambition. So I really hope that you continue to hold onto that, ability to drive forward because we need that ambition and the climate situation. I'm sure you'll be incredibly successful with going forward and I really applaud you for all that you've done for New York State and for our battle in the climate change situation.

Now, the second point is one that I just want to make on a personal basis that over the last three years and through the crisis, which feels like it's another three years, I have just grown personally find these meetings in part, because I think your style and your leadership is something that adds a really charming personal element to accomplishing what it is a very challenging situation. So

I'll simply say that I'll personally miss seeing you at these discussions driving forward. I hope that, as with all of us in this kind of situation that remain in touch, and, that, they'll take a charm to your next, position as well.

**Mark Willis:**

Richard, this is Mark. I just want to, I've got to be very, very brief because I just want to, again, thank Alicia has just been amazing, came on board and, took control and trauma us and did all the things and the wonderful things that everybody else said. So thank you for that. And I just want to wish you the best in everything that you do. So again, thank you very much,

**John Rhodes:**

Richard it's John, may I? So this is as a bittersweet as it gets, but my overwhelming thoughts are ones of appreciation, for what you've done or the way you've, driven led NYSERDA forward, you've brought the whole state forward. and it's been, a treat to watch you in action, from a front row seat and it's been a pleasure, and, I can't wait to see what happens next.

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**

Mr. Chairman, just one more, just a quick, thank you to Alicia for her incredible, leadership and efforts. She welcomed me with open arms as I embraced this new job about a year ago and was one of the first to reach out. And, not only just, embrace the mission, and the larger goals that the state is, outlined under Governor Cuomo, his leadership, but really partner. And I can't thank her and the NYSERDA team enough, under her leadership. And I wish you well and all that you do. I know that you're not very far away and again, can't we just see what you do next. Thank you.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you, Marie Therese. All right. In that case, I would like to, read a special citation from the Governor.

Whereas the Empire State is [inaudible] honor individuals who have made lasting contributions to the betterment of our state and the lives of its residents to their noteworthy professional accomplishments. We therefore joined to extend appreciation to Alicia Barton, who is President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and valued member of this administration's cabinet has served the people of New York state with dedication and excellence notably through her pivotal role in leading the state's efforts to combat climate change and grow a clean energy economy.

Whereas, Ms. Barton has a wealth of knowledge and experience from, years in the public and private sectors working to advance clean energy projects. And during her tenure in New York state, she has been an instrumental member of our administration's energy and environment leadership team, helping to shape and implement the state's nation leading climate and clean energy agenda; and

Whereas, Ms. Barton has led and I started with the highest level of integrity skill and acumen, and has exemplified and nurtured an environment of respect among the entire staff and was encouraging them to develop new concepts and ideas with the ultimate objective to uphold



the Authority's mission, to advance innovative energy solutions in ways that improves New York's economy and environment, And Whereas, Ms. Barton's sound guidance and advice to our administration and the board of directors of NYSERDA regarding the Authority's operations activities and vision to serve as a catalyst for advancing energy, innovation, technology, and investment transforming New York's economy and empowering people to choose clean and efficient energy as part of their everyday lives; and

Whereas, Ms. Barton's leadership and drive helped bring about many significant achievements at NYSERDA including her InterQual role and successfully ushering through passage of the climate leadership and community protection act and execution of the nation's largest governments for real energy and offshore wind; and

Whereas, with a spirit of warm comradery and good nature, Ms. Barton has worked collaboratively across New York state government with fellow cabinet members, commissioners, members of the legislature and other state officials to achieve historic progress and our efforts to develop a less polluting and more reliable energy system for all New Yorkers; and

Whereas, Ms. Barton has also developed and maintained effective relationships with key stakeholders and constituents across the state. And these efforts on behalf of the Authority further reflect her unwavering dedication, dependability, and willingness to serve; and

Whereas Ms. Barton has recognized her vital role in addressing the energy concerns and needs of New York state, as well as its millions of residents today and in the future and for her work to shape and promote many initiatives and projects that have enhanced our quality of life. And she tenured at NYSERDA, we offer Ms. Barton our gratitude for her tireless efforts, professionalism, and vigilance to creating a safer, healthier, more energy efficient New York state. And now therefore I, Andrew Cuomo, governor of the state of New York do hereby confer this special citation upon Alicia Barton in recognition for your exemplary service to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and with gratitude and commendation for your hard work and dedication to the greater New York public.

**Alicia Barton:**

Thank you, Richard. I genuinely don't know what to say after all of that. So I'm not, I'm not going to say much, but thank you and I'm really touched by everything everyone said, it means a lot to me. It is, with mixed emotions to move on from something that I love so much. but I really appreciate the kind words and more importantly, the well wishes and most importantly, your ongoing support of NYSERDA which has such important work to do. and I just, as I've said before, I'm imparting with the staff, when I made my announcement and I just, I will be, continuing, to loudly cheer New York success to even greater heights in the future. I know that's where all of you are going and I can't wait to watch with pride.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you, Alicia, for everything.

Right. Well, we have one other item under other business regarding meeting dates in 2021, staff will be a contact contacting each of your offices in this regard and will then provide dates to be

marked on your calendars. I know you'll do your best to keep those dates reserves so that we could obtain the corner. The quorums, quorums is that the right plural, we do need to do business and also have the benefit of the participation and expertise of as many Members as possible.

Does anyone have any other matters they wish to discuss? [Pause].

In that case, may I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

**Jay Koh:**

So moved.

**Kate Fish:**

Second.

**Richard Kauffman:**

All in favor.

**Board:**

Aye.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Meeting's adjourned.