



**P R O C E E D I N G S**

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2           **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** All right. So now we move on  
3 to our last item of the day, which is Item 1A, okay,  
4 which is the election of chairman or chairperson for a  
5 term beginning January 2, 2014.

6           Commissioner Edgar.

7           **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
8 And thank you for recognizing me. I'm going to be  
9 hitting that button really fast, I told you.

10           It is hard for me to believe that these past  
11 two years with you sitting there to my left and in our  
12 center chair are about to end. They have gone by so, so  
13 quickly in many ways. At least they have for me, I  
14 don't know about you. (Laughter.)

15           And, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for all  
16 that you have done. However, we are going to talk about  
17 you and the many things that you have done in service as  
18 our presiding officer at the next meeting, so we're  
19 going to hold that and maybe even have a little  
20 roasting. I don't know, we'll see --

21           **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** Uh-oh.

22           **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** -- but that will be later  
23 this month. But recognizing that the holidays are upon  
24 us, and that by the calendar and per the statute we are  
25 required to come together as a body and elect from

1 amongst ourselves the one of us to take on the added  
2 duties, responsibilities, and the burdens, and the blame  
3 that goes with it to serve in the administrative role of  
4 chairman and as chief presiding officer for a term that  
5 begins next month.

6 I have said this many times, and I'm going say  
7 it again, that each commissioner and each chairman bring  
8 to our work and to our deliberations their own unique  
9 background, strengths, expertise and personality. And  
10 while the five of us have had the privilege to serve  
11 together, we have had stability, collegiality,  
12 professional give and take, a welcoming of different  
13 views, and that has all brought a stronger result to our  
14 decisions on behalf of the State of Florida and in the  
15 public interest, and I know that this will continue and  
16 I am very, very proud to be a part of it and to work  
17 with each of you.

18 A couple of weeks ago, I was having a  
19 conversation with a commissioner from another state who  
20 recently has left that role and has gone into private  
21 practice, and he mentioned to me, he said, "You know,  
22 Lisa, institutions and organizations have a way of  
23 choosing the leaders that are right for organization,  
24 that are right for the organization, and for the mission  
25 at that necessary point in time." Choosing the right

1 leader at the right time, sometimes knowingly, sometimes  
2 by luck, but it is one of those kind of things that in  
3 the way of the world tends to work out.

4 In this instance, as a collegial body  
5 independently appointed to staggered terms and devoted  
6 to the public interest and to public service, we have an  
7 abundance of riches; varied experience, varied  
8 backgrounds, strong enthusiasm, and we cannot go wrong.  
9 All five of us have strong leadership abilities and the  
10 desire to serve. Chairman Brisé, as we will discuss  
11 again later, as I mentioned, you have served us well.  
12 But, unfortunately, by statute your time is up --  
13 (laughter) -- and that leads us to make a decision.

14 A few years ago when the five of us kind of  
15 joined together within about the same period of time,  
16 over just a couple of months, we selected Commissioner  
17 Graham to serve as our chair at a time of transition for  
18 this agency, and at a time where many, many issues were  
19 coming at us fast and furious. He said he would hit the  
20 ground running, and he did hit the ground running. But  
21 as the circumstances and the calendar dictated, his  
22 service as our presiding officer was for an abbreviated  
23 period of time.

24 However, during that time, he took on a number  
25 of initiatives, he addressed the water policy issue,

1 kind of kicked that initiative off, which was then  
2 picked up with the work we had done and the work of our  
3 staff. And the legislature, I think, following up on  
4 that created the study commission that Commissioner  
5 Brown chaired for us. And as we have heard by  
6 legislators here in this room and elsewhere, the  
7 legislature will be taking that work and continuing to  
8 look at those important issues over the next while. And  
9 he has continued his leadership on the water issue  
10 specifically with work with NARUC and other national  
11 opportunities.

12 He also helped us to realign our agency  
13 somewhat for function and for the future, and has worked  
14 closely with our executive director and our general  
15 counsel as we tried to wisely use our limited resources  
16 and prepare for the issues ahead. And oversaw a time of  
17 budget cuts and reduced revenues, and we all know that  
18 that is a continuing issue for us to address.

19 And, of course, there is my personal favorite,  
20 the button system up here at the bench that Commissioner  
21 Graham put in place, and some of you may know I hated,  
22 and told him at every opportunity I hate that darn  
23 button. But even I came to be a believer and have  
24 adapted to the button system that we use up here for  
25 each of us to indicate when we would like to speak and

1 to be called upon. And it is an addition to our process  
2 that has worked well, even though it was over my initial  
3 objection.

4 Commissioner Graham has demonstrated by both  
5 word and deed his emphasis on our decisions and their  
6 results, that they be based on law and fact and not on  
7 sensationalism, headline, or the latest political winds.  
8 And so, Commissioners, I would ask for your support as I  
9 nominate Commissioner Art Graham to serve as our next  
10 Chairman beginning immediately at the end of  
11 Commissioner Brisé's statutory term.

12 **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** All right. There's a motion.

13 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** Is that a motion?

14 **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** That was a motion.

15 **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** All right. Commissioner  
16 Brown.

17 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** I will second the motion,  
18 but I'd like to have some discussion here.

19 This is a very difficult decision. Not only  
20 are each of you colleagues, but we have developed an  
21 actual friendship among us. We came at a time -- four  
22 of us came at a time of transition, of change, and we  
23 have worked together. We have disagreed professionally,  
24 but we have a group that is very unique here. And each  
25 of us, I think, in my opinion, are considered friends,

1 but colleagues, and I respect each of you.

2 I also think that each one of us could serve  
3 zealously and effectively as Chairman, any one of us  
4 here. So I have given it a great deal of thought, and  
5 the thought comes down to what is right for the agency  
6 right now at this juncture. We have got -- you know, we  
7 have a lot of things coming on our plate. We have got  
8 an election year. We have got an active legislative  
9 session that is going to come before us. Commissioner  
10 Graham brings a lot of attributes that all of us could  
11 benefit from.

12 With the acknowledgment that he has already  
13 served as chair, we do understand his leadership style  
14 and his honey badger nature, which I truly respect and  
15 admire, and sometimes gets the job done when it needs to  
16 be done, and for that -- I appreciate that.

17 But something that I respect -- and, again, I  
18 have grappled with the idea of chairman here because,  
19 you know, each one of us can serve very effectively. So  
20 I think Commissioner Graham, though, is in a prime spot  
21 right now. He is a very -- he is a consummate leader.  
22 He embodies what leadership is, in my opinion.

23 I wrote some notes, but I'm not reading them.  
24 But something that I like, and I relate a lot to  
25 Commissioner Graham, he takes a task and runs with it.

1 He is an innovator. As Commissioner Edgar said, you  
2 know, she talked about the water study committee. Yep,  
3 that was your brainchild, but also the NRRI  
4 telecommunications audit, which was, you know, I think  
5 at the time very essential.

6 You take an idea; you run with it. I respect  
7 that. I think the Commission needs that. Again, the  
8 initiatives that you take are right. We've got a new  
9 executive director that I'm excited about, and so I  
10 appreciate that, that initiative, as well.

11 So as I said, I respect each of you. It  
12 doesn't mean by supporting Commissioner Graham that any  
13 one of you should take it personally, but I think  
14 Commissioner Graham is in a posture, and we're in a  
15 posture to support him at this juncture, and I'm happy  
16 to do it.

17 **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** All right. There has been a  
18 motion and a second. Further comments?

19 Commissioner Balbis.

20 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 I, for one, like the button system. It is  
22 almost enough to support him for that point.

23 (Laughter.)

24 One of the things that I have realized in the  
25 past three years is that the investment community, the



1 companies, and eventually the customers benefit from a  
2 stable regulatory environment, and that is what is the  
3 most important thing. So with that, I fully support the  
4 motion.

5 **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** All right. Good deal. So I  
6 think we are ready for a vote. All in favor say aye.

7 (Vote taken.)

8 **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** All right. With that, I'm  
9 going to pass it on to you in a second, Chairman-elect  
10 Graham. And I certainly hope that your leadership will  
11 continue to move this agency forward. We have seen  
12 great stability over the last three years, and that is,  
13 in essence, the hallmark of this Commission with these  
14 Commissioners. And we certainly hope that as time  
15 progresses and we continue to work with each other and  
16 work in the public interest of our state, that that will  
17 continue to be the hallmark of this set of Commissioners  
18 as we move forward.

19 Commissioner Graham.

20 **COMMISSIONER GRAHAM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 So many people to thank. First of all, I want  
22 to thank God; all things are possible through him. I  
23 realize this is a huge privilege that you have put upon  
24 me. I do appreciate it. I do appreciate the support of  
25 the entire board. I do appreciate the nomination,

1 Commissioner Edgar. You have been a great mentor to me  
2 for quite awhile, and continue to be so, and I look  
3 forward to the things that you're going to do and you  
4 continue to accomplish, not just here on the state  
5 level, but also it has started to be on the national  
6 level. And it is good to actually have somebody from  
7 the State of Florida to actually ascend to that  
8 position. And speaking for myself, I'm quite proud of  
9 you. I'm sure we're all very quite proud of you doing  
10 that.

11 Commissioner Brown, I've enjoyed sitting next  
12 to you for the last two years. It's amazing how much  
13 you get to know about somebody sitting this closely to  
14 them and observing day in and day out. Your work ethic  
15 is second to none. Your tenacity is second to none.  
16 When there is something that you are fixed and locked in  
17 on, I think you go over and above board to make sure  
18 that your point is heard. And I think we all hear that  
19 point, and I believe every single time you have been  
20 successful with that. So, you know, my hat is off to  
21 you, and I thank you for that second.

22 Commissioner Balbis, I thank you for the  
23 third. It's good to have a fellow engineer up here, you  
24 know, so we don't have to slow down and explain to  
25 everybody. I'm kidding. (Laughter.)

1           No, I think this board has got a phenomenal  
2 balance. As that motion that I had earlier today that  
3 quickly got dismissed, you know, there are some things  
4 that are more legal matters that we tend to lean to our  
5 legal minds up here on the board, our two attorneys; and  
6 there are some things that may swing more towards the  
7 engineering side of the world; there are some things  
8 that lean more towards the financial side of the world,  
9 which is our Chairman. And so I think we do have a  
10 great balance up here. And I appreciate that you are  
11 going to let me lead again. And I understand that it is  
12 a huge privilege, and I thank you for it.

13           Staff, I can't say enough. The Chairman  
14 already spoke about it earlier. I don't know if you  
15 heard, but Major Thomas said earlier that you guys are  
16 above professional, and I think that says a lot. And we  
17 say it from time to time up here, but it's always good  
18 to hear somebody from back here on this bench say it.  
19 And I think he hit it right on the head that you guys  
20 are above professional. You know, you make our jobs  
21 that much easier. And even when we don't agree with  
22 you, and it's a rarity, but when we don't agree with  
23 you, you take that with the same amount of  
24 professionalism and you understand that we all have a  
25 task to do and a job to do and you do it very well.

1           OPC, we have gone around and around in  
2 circles, and I appreciate everything that you bring to  
3 the table. And I look forward to, in the next two  
4 years, working closely with you and the other  
5 intervenors. I don't know if they are here, but it's  
6 always good to see -- and I'll go ahead and use my  
7 phrase again -- see you guys all come together and sing  
8 kumbaya. I think it does come out with a better deal  
9 for the ratepayers for the State of Florida and for the  
10 State of Florida as a whole.

11           I think, as the Governor says all the time, he  
12 wants to make for this to be a place where people want  
13 to come and grow, economic development, and I think  
14 having this kind of a relationship that we all share  
15 here helps that move forward. And with all of that  
16 being said, Mr. Chairman, your time is going to be in  
17 two weeks. I have another page or two to say about  
18 you --

19           (Audience laughter.)

20           **COMMISSIONER GRAHAM:** But I do thank you all.  
21 And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22           **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** All right. With that, I want  
23 to thank you all for your participation.

24           Thank you, colleagues, for your hard work  
25 today. Staff, thank you, once again, for your hard

1 work, particularly with that settlement with the time  
2 crunch that we were in.

3 With that, we stand adjourned.

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STATE OF FLORIDA )

: CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

COUNTY OF LEON )

I, JANE FAUROT, RPR, Chief, Hearing Reporter Services Section, FPSC Division of Commission Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the same has been transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this transcript constitutes a true transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED THIS 17th day of December, 2013.

  
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