

P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Okay. Let the record show
3 this is the Agenda Conference. It is Thursday, June the
4 5th. And we have a couple of things on the move staff
5 list, so we'll be taking up Items 2, 3, 4, 6, and
6 8 first, and then we'll circle back around to take up
7 Items 1, 5, 9 through 15.

8 All right. That being said, let's start with
9 Item Number 2.

10 **MS. GERVASI:** Good morning, Commissioners.
11 Rosanne Gervasi with the Office of General Counsel.

12 Item 2 is staff's recommendation for the
13 Commission to propose to amend Rules 25-30.455, 456, and
14 457, F.A.C., providing for staff assistance in rate
15 setting for small water and wastewater utilities.

16 Section 367.0814, *Florida Statutes*, requires
17 the Commission to adjust the gross annual revenue level
18 for requesting and obtaining staff assistance on
19 July 1 of 2013 and then every five years thereafter
20 based on the most recent cumulative five years of the
21 price index established by the Commission. This
22 recommendation incorporates that adjustment into the
23 rules, raising the gross annual revenue level from
24 \$250,000 to \$275,000 for water or wastewater utilities,
25 and then from 500,000 to 550,000 for water and

1 wastewater utilities on a combined basis.

2 We're also recommending the removal of certain
3 language from the rules requiring what the Commission
4 will consider in determining whether to grant or deny a
5 request for staff assistance in order to afford the
6 small water and wastewater utilities greater flexibility
7 to receive staff assistance in rate proceedings.

8 Staff is available to answer questions.

9 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Thank you, staff.

10 Commissioners. Commissioner Balbis.

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

12 I just have a quick question for staff. In
13 the recommendation you mentioned the statute that
14 requires looking at the five-year, the five-year
15 average, and that's what allowed us to raise the, the
16 threshold level. And you mentioned in Attachment B that
17 this results in three additional utilities being, being
18 able to qualify for this.

19 Is there a way we can raise that amount so
20 that perhaps other utilities can qualify and take
21 advantage of that process, or is the statute that
22 specific where our hands are tied?

23 **MS. GERVASI:** Commissioner, the statute is
24 very specific about that, and it actually says that the
25 gross annual revenue level shall be adjusted on July 1,

1 2013, and every five years thereafter based on the most
2 recent cumulative five years of the price index
3 established by the Commission. So I believe it would
4 take a legislative change in order to raise that
5 threshold to a higher level.

6 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Okay. Thank you.

7 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Commissioner Brown.

8 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Also I understand that no rule development
10 workshop was held, but have you heard from any of the
11 stakeholders about this particular rule change?

12 **MS. GERVASI:** No, Commissioner, we have not.
13 We didn't receive any requests for a workshop or any
14 comments from any interested person.

15 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** Okay. Thank you.

16 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Seeing no other questions or
17 comments, Commissioner Edgar.

18 **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** Move staff, Mr. Chairman.

19 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** It's been moved and
20 seconded, staff recommendation on Item Number 2. Any
21 further discussion?

22 Seeing none, all in favor, say aye.

23 (Vote taken.)

24 Any opposed? By your action, you approved
25 staff recommendation on Item Number 2.

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Thank you, staff.
(Agenda item concluded.)

1 STATE OF FLORIDA)
2 COUNTY OF LEON) : CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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4 I, LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR, Official Commission
5 Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing
6 proceeding was heard at the time and place herein
7 stated.

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

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

18 DATED THIS 10th day of June, 2014.

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