

STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND CABINET

IN RE: CABINET MEETING

CABINET: GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT
ATTORNEY GENERAL PAM BONDI
COMMISSIONER ADAM PUTNAM
CFO JEFF ATWATER

DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2016

TIME: 4:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

LOCATION: CABINET MEETING ROOM
LOWER LEVEL, THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY: YVONNE LAFLAMME, FPR
COURT REPORTER and
NOTARY PUBLIC

C & N REPORTERS
CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL REPORTERS
P.O. BOX 3093
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32315
(850) 697-8314

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5 GOVERNOR SCOTT: So good afternoon, everyone.
6 In previous meetings and in accordance with our
7 Cabinet and Governor's Guidelines, our meeting is
8 to appointment the Interim Secretary of the
9 Department of Environmental Protection.

10 Last week, I nominated Ryan Matthews to serve
11 as the Interim Secretary.

12 First, I hope each of you have had the
13 opportunity to meet with him.

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Governor, I did. I
15 met with him at length and I was extremely
16 impressed. I think a lot of him.

17 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Did Commissioner, CFO, did
18 y'all have an opportunity to talk?

19 CFO ATWATER: Governor, Jeff Atwater here. I
20 did. He was very gracious with his time, and
21 again, as the Attorney General said, I was very
22 impressed with his readiness to serve and his
23 eagerness to serve in the State. I am very
24 impressed.

25 GOVERNOR SCOTT: And how about Commissioner,

1 did you have an opportunity?

2 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: I did. Thank you,
3 Governor. We spent a lot of time and covered a
4 pretty wide range of issues, and he's got a grasp
5 on the hot topics facing Florida and a healthy
6 respect for the Cabinet process that we've laid out
7 over the last seven years. And I was also very,
8 very impressed.

9 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Good. That's the goal. I
10 think that's what we all hope for.

11 So Ryan, as well, knows as the Deputy
12 Secretary of Regulatory Programs at the Department,
13 and I'm confident he's going to continue to fight
14 to protect our environment.

15 So in accordance with Florida Statutes, I move
16 to appoint Ryan Matthews to serve as Interim
17 Secretary of the Department of Environmental
18 Protection at the same salary as John Steverson
19 had, which is 150, and they would be effective
20 February 4, 2017.

21 So I think, Ryan, are you on the phone?

22 MR. MATTHEWS: Yes, sir, I am, Governor.

23 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hi, Ryan.

24 First off, I just want to make sure, Ryan,
25 you're available for any questions, so let's go

1 through each of us just make sure.

2 Attorney General Bondi, did you have any
3 questions or comments other than what you just said
4 a second ago?

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Governor, I do not.
6 I spoke with him at length, and again, I am very
7 impressed. I think he cares deeply about our
8 environment.

9 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Yeah, that's what's key. We
10 look at ground level. We have a robust economy.
11 We continue to have more revenues in the every
12 year, so we'll work to get it right and all of us
13 do our job, and I think Ryan clearly understands
14 that.

15 CFO Atwater, did you have any questions or
16 comments?

17 CFO ATWATER: Governor, no further questions.
18 He and I had a good time together, and he was very
19 forthcoming on his responses to questions.

20 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Great.

21 And Commissioner Putnam?

22 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Governor, he answered a
23 lot of my questions already, and I'm very
24 comfortable with us proceeding with him in the
25 interim role.

1 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. Good. So I've made a
2 motion. Is there a second on the motion?

3 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: I'll second it. This is
4 Adam Putnam.

5 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Are there any objections?

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: No.

7 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. So we're unanimous,
8 right? Is everybody okay with it?

9 CFO ATWATER: We are.

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Yes.

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Yes, Governor. I
13 think he's officially appointed as Interim
14 Secretary of DEP at the same salary as Secretary
15 Steverson was.

16 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Perfect.

17 Okay. So what I can do is, if it's okay with
18 everybody, we'll follow the appointment process for
19 permanent. We'll work with the departments to
20 advertise the Secretary position with the
21 associations across the country, and we'll publish
22 applications on the Cabinet website. If this works
23 for everybody, we can open the position again this
24 Monday, February 6, and close it on April 28th, so
25 we have plenty of time for people to apply. That

1 will give us plenty of time to review the
2 application, schedule public interviews and such,
3 but the goal is that we would appoint if we can --
4 can't guarantee we can -- but it's the goal we make
5 the appointment on May 23rd Cabinet meeting.

6 So I hope everybody feels comfortable bringing
7 forth anybody they would like to schedule
8 interviews, and I think the goal would be that we
9 would read -- if anybody that anybody would like
10 for all of us to interview at the Cabinet meeting
11 or before, you would bring that to Cabinet Aides
12 meeting. The last day for this my guess would be
13 May 17.

14 Does that process work for everybody?

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: It works for me,
16 Governor.

17 CFO ATWATER: Governor, Jeff Atwater here. It
18 works for me.

19 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: I agree. That sounds
21 like a thorough timeline that would allow anyone to
22 hear of this opportunity and go through the
23 process.

24 GOVERNOR SCOTT: And I think I'll say that and
25 I think everybody would say the same thing. Our

1 expectation is that Ryan, even at this juncture, is
2 the Interim Secretary. And we're going to do a
3 thorough process to find a permanent, but the
4 expectation is that he'll work with all four of us
5 to do the job now. He's not expected to say he
6 can't do things because "I'm not a permanent." The
7 goal is for him to do his job as if he were
8 permanent, and we would go through the process in
9 the next two months and find the permanent.

10 Does that make sense for everybody?

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: It does. And
12 Governor, I would love for him to meet with Carlton
13 Ward. Commissioner Putnam and I know Carlton very
14 well.

15 And Ryan, he does the wildlife expedition
16 corridor and he's really amazing. If you haven't
17 met with him already, he's a great person regarding
18 Florida Everglades.

19 MR. MATTHEWS: General Bondi, I would be happy
20 to, absolutely.

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Thank you.

22 GOVERNOR SCOTT: He did the book, right?

23 (Inaudible.)

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Yes, he did.

25 GOVERNOR SCOTT: And he comes to -- doesn't he

1 usually come to the Cabinet meeting we do around
2 the fair?

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: He does, Governor.
4 That's right. That's Carlton Ward. And I just
5 spoke with him last week, and he's the one that's
6 going to get us passes for our wildlife in South
7 Florida, and of course, he's protecting Florida
8 Forever as well.

9 GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. And then I think
10 all of us are going to do our best to make sure we
11 have a good working relationship with DEP.

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Yes.

13 GOVERNOR SCOTT: When (inaudible) gets
14 confirmed.

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Yes.

16 GOVERNOR SCOTT: So is there anything else
17 anybody would like to bring up right now;
18 otherwise, we'll adjourn the meeting?

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Not on my end,
20 Governor.

21 GOVERNOR SCOTT: I want to thank everybody.
22 And Ryan, I wish you -- I know you're going to do a
23 good job, and I think for all of us, we're here to
24 do everything we can to make sure of your success,
25 because one of the reasons why our tourists and

1 people want to live here is because of our
2 beautiful environment.

3 All right. Have a great day everybody.

4 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you very much, Governor.
5 I appreciate it.

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Thanks, Governor.
7 Bye-bye.

8 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Thank you.

9 CFO ATWATER: Thanks.

10 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Bye-bye.

11 (Cabinet meeting concluded at 4:09 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, YVONNE LaFLAMME, FPR, certify that I was
authorized to and did stenographically report the
foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true
and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this 18th day of FEBRUARY, 2017.

YVONNE LaFLAMME, FPR
Court Reporter

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