



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: January 4, 2012

Members in Attendance: Julia Forgue, Frank McLynch, Gene Park, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White

Others in Attendance: Traci Pena, RIDEM
Paul Desrosiers, NWPCA
Akshay Talwar, Kyle Naylor: Briarcliffe Nursing Home
Robert Silva and Lewis Reed: Septic Services

Mr. Patenaude called the January 2012 meeting to order at 9:35. The first order of business was the review of the draft December 7, 2011 meeting minutes.

Mr. Schock motioned to approve the December 2011 meeting minutes with minor typographical amendments. Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members present voting in favor. Ms. Forgue and Dr. Park abstained as they were not present at the December meeting.

Mr. Patenaude then provided the Board an update on the two letters of deficiency sent out as a result of decisions made at the December meeting. He stated that Bradford is currently working with a consultant and working on getting into compliance; the company has been in contact with Mr. Patenaude to find an operator who will apply for a Grade 2 provisional license and apply to take the Spring 2012 operator exam. This matter was now tabled until the February 2012 meeting.

The next item was Briarcliffe Manor's operator certification deficiencies. Mr. Patenaude offered a history of events and licensure activities associated with Briarcliffe: Mr. Robert Silva a grade 1 license through reciprocity from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who was also issued a Grade 2 Provision license with the understanding that he would sit for the November 22nd exam. Mr. Silva did not take the exam offered on the 22nd of November. Mr. Patenaude noted that Mr. Silva's provisional license is valid only through February 7, 2012. After this time, Briarcliffe will be in non-compliance. An employee of Mr. Silva, Mr. Lewis Reed, submitted to the Board an application for certification which was reviewed by Mr. Patenaude. Mr. Patenaude determined that, based on his level of licensure with Massachusetts, the applicant clearly did not meet the necessary qualifications for reciprocity. Mr. Patenaude expressed profound concern and frustration at Briarcliffe's inability to retain an adequately qualified operator, and stressed that the facility must submit a serious applicant – one that meets the Board's regulations – so that the facility is in compliance after the February 7th loss of licensure of Mr. Silva.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to deny Mr. Lewis Reed's application and to send a letter to Briarcliffe. Mr. White seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed. →

The representative from Briarcliffe assured the Board that they would meet their obligations and then left the meeting.

Mr. White then introduced Mr. Paul Desrosiers, who will be the new representative for the Narragansett Water Pollution Control Association. After welcoming Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. Patenaude asked him to return to the meeting after a period in executive session.

Per §42-46-4 and §42-46-5(a)(4), Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session in order to discuss an issue regarding Rhode Island wastewater treatment operators related to possible civil or criminal misconduct. Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. White, Dr. Park, Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to send letters to three operators associated with the Woonsocket WWTF regarding an incident that occurred on June 30, 2011 and the possible implications on the status of their operator license; the correspondence would explain that this matter will be discussed at the February 2012 meeting. Dr. Park seconded the motion. Dr. Park, Messrs. McLynch, Patenaude, and Schock voted in the affirmative. Ms. Forgue and Mr. White voted in the negative. With the majority voting in the affirmative the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the January 4, 2012 Executive Session meeting minutes. Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. White, Dr. Park, Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to resume the meeting into open session. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. White, Dr. Park, Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

The next agenda item, Draft Regulation Revisions/Mandatory Training Proposals was tabled.

In New Business, Mr. Patenaude stated that renewal notices were out and second notices would be going out soon.

Mr. Patenaude then read a letter of thanks to Mr. White for his fifteen years of service and dedication to the Board.

With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Dr. Park, the motion passed with all members voting in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 1, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Office located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.