



## **BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

**Members in Attendance:** Janet Baldwin, Paul Desrosiers, Frank McLynch and Bill Patenaude

**Others in Attendance:** Christina Hoefsmit, Esq. and Traci Pena, RIDEM  
Dennis Colberg and William Young, Quonset Development Corporation  
Harrison Songolo and Mike Bedard, West Warwick WWTF  
Peter Eldridge, Scott Goodinson and Eddie Davis

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

The Board reviewed the draft January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

**After review, Mr. McLynch motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. Baldwin seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor.**

The next item discussed was an inquiry from the Quonset Development Corporation (QDC) to hire a Grade 3OIT for the superintendent position, which is ranked as a Grade 3 facility. The candidate, Mr. Edward Davies, is an operator in Direct Responsible Charge at the NBC Fields Point facility and holds a 3OIT license which will become a full Grade 3 in April 2020 should he remain in DRC. Mr. Young provided an overview of the operations of the facility. He also stated that QDC considers Mr. Davies to possess the best qualifications for the position. Mr. Patenaude asked if Mr. Colberg, the current superintendent, who will be retiring at the end of February 2019, would be available for consultation. Mr. Young informed the Board that Mr. Colberg and QDC could come to some agreement and that there are other employees at the facility and at QDC that could support Mr. Davies' training. It was also stated that the Assistant Superintendent of the facility, Mr. Ed Hoyle, was not interested in the position. Mr. Davies then spoke about his experience. During general discussion, Mr. Patenaude stated that communities have been hiring individuals before consulting the Board during the hiring process—which is problematic. The Board considered Rule 5.7C, which allows the Board discretion in such instances. Mr. McLynch felt inclined to approve the request as he felt the Board must work with communities to attain the right staffing for their operations; he also noted that there are two employees at the facility with more than 40 years of experience and that it would be advantageous to hire an individual now rather than wait. Dr. Baldwin was not comfortable relying on other employees as they may be out to illness, vacation, or retirement. Mr. Desrosiers discussed previous Board actions that may provide context to this request. Ms. Hoefsmit cautioned the Board with how it may set precedent. The Board has made accommodations for an Assistant Superintendent, but not a Superintendent. Mr. Young assured the Board that the process "of putting the cart before the horse" in making an offer to Mr. Davies was not intentional. The matter was continued to the next meeting so that QDC could provide more detailed information in light of the Board's concerns.

Messrs. Young, Davies, and Colberg then left the meeting.

Next to be discussed was the matter of the Town of West Warwick.

The Board reviewed a letter dated January 8, 2019 submitted by Michael Bedard. The letter provided a synopsis of the function and oversight of his duties throughout his employment which may offer additional time in DRC that could be credited to Mr. Bedard. After review, Mr. Desrosiers asked for documentation that provided start and end dates for each entry to assist with a timeline of Mr. Bedard's roles in DRC and to also note any training that may be helpful information. Mr. Songolo agreed and also offered that Mr. Bedard is very instrumental in running the plant on a day-to-day basis. Mr. Eldridge and Mr. Goodinson, who both worked as superintendents of the West Warwick WWTF, agreed with that assessment.

Messrs. Songolo, Bedard, Goodinson, and Eldridge left the meeting.

Mrs. Hoefsmit stated that the Board needs to look at the Regulations to better address such situations. She felt that a perception is evolving that the Board will give licenses if a community comes before the Board. Board members agreed. Mr. Patenaude noted the need to hold special and regular meetings to address regulations updates.

After additional discussion, Mr. Patenaude noted that he will contact QDC to be certain the Board's concerns were known.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session per §42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) to discuss matters of potential criminal or civil misconduct. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Dr. Baldwin, Mr. McLynch and Mr. Desrosiers voting in the affirmative.**

In executive session, the Board reviewed January 6th draft executive session meeting minutes.

**Mr. McLynch voted to approve the minutes. Dr Baldwin seconded the motion, all eligible members voted in favor or such the motion passed. Messrs. Desrosiers and Patenaude abstained from the vote as they did not participate in the January executive session.**

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the February 6th, 2019 executive session meeting minutes. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all present voting in the affirmative.**

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to resume the meeting into open session. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motioned passed with all present voting in the affirmative.**

Next to be discussed was a training course entitled Wastewater Treatment Fundamentals I. The discussion will be continued.

Also, in new business, Mr. Patenaude informed the Board of an individual who had been terminated by their facility as he had not attained Grade 1 licensure in one year.

**At 11:25 Mr. Patenaude voted to adjourn. Dr. Baldwin seconded. All members present voted in favor and as such the motion passed.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.