



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Members in Attendance: Janet Baldwin, Paul Desrosiers, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude, and Jon Schock

Others in Attendance: Joseph Duarte, Shawn O'Neill and Sharon Kitchin, Town of East Greenwich
Scott Goodinson and Michael Spring
Christina Hoefsmit, Esq. and Traci Pena, RIDEM

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Introductions were made.

The Board reviewed the draft February 1, 2017 meeting minutes.

Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor.

The next matter discussed was a request for guidance from a municipality regarding Americas with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation for an employee. As the matter involved Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) and other sensitive matters, representatives requested that the matter be discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Desrosiers recused himself from discussion.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session per §42-46-4 and §42-46-5(a)(4). Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, Dr. Baldwin and Mr. Schock voting in the affirmative.

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

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the April 5, 2017 executive session meeting minutes. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with all present voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Schock motioned to approve the February 1, 2017 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Mr. Patenaude abstained as he was not present during executive session deliberations.

The next topic discussed was the new instructor for the Board sponsored Basic WWTF course. While Mr. Desrosiers had expressed interest in teaching the course early on, he was advised by the Ethics Commission that he would have to both remove himself from the Board and wait one year before he was able to teach the class. Mr. Desrosiers decided to remove himself from the recruiting procedure.

After the last Board meeting, Mr. Patenaude solicited the wastewater profession to determine if there was any interest in teaching the course. There was one applicant, Mr. Michael Spring, Maintenance Manager of the NBC-Fields Point wastewater treatment facility. The Board reviewed Mr. Spring's resume. Mr. Patenaude noted Mr. Spring's qualifications and his assistance with DEM training programs in the past, most especially operator Boot Camp.

After additional discussion, Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the recommendation of Mr. Spring for the new instructor of the Basic WWTF course. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Desrosiers who abstained from the vote.

Mr. Patenaude congratulated Mr. Spring and noted that he would inform the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, which administers the course, so that they and Mr. Spring could begin to discuss logistics and work with the Board regarding syllabus approval and exams. Mr. Patenaude noted that as there were at least nine individuals interested in taking the course, he hoped that a spring session could be held.

Mr. Goodinson was present to offer support of the nomination as he saw the class as integral to the advancement of the profession.

Next to be discussed was a request for Grade 3 reciprocity from Ms. Mary Peck of the Woonsocket WWTF. Though she is not in direct responsible charge in her current duties, Ms. Peck meets the educational and experiential requirements of a Grade 3. Ms. Peck also passed the equivalent of Rhode Island's Grade 4 exam when working in Maine.

After additional discussion, Mr. Schock motioned to approve Ms. Peck's request for Grade 3 licensure through reciprocity. Mr. McLynch seconded. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

Next was the review of a letter drafted to Synagro Technologies, Inc. regarding licensure requirements per the Board's enabling legislation and regulations, the history of licensure issues, and a request for procedures to improve the company's license procedures.

Next to be discussed were three courses for training hour approvals.

After brief discussion, Mr. Patenaude voted to approve the *Know H₂O* course for the Trace 2 only for 4.5 hours. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. All other members voted in favor, as such the motion passed. Mr. Schock voted against.

After brief discussion, Mr. Patenaude voted to deny the *IECA Northeast Chapter 2017 Annual* conference. Should an individual want to received credit for any portion of the conference, the attendee can make that request to the Board directly. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All eligible members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The final class discussed was “*A Math Refresher Class for Wastewater Operations*”. Mr. Schock motioned to approve the class for 4 Hours. Dr. Baldwin seconded the motion. All eligible members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude referred to the Board’s course approval guidance and asked to be able to approve courses from NEWEA, NEIWPC, EPA, NWPCA and DEM if they fell under those guidelines. Board members did not express concerns with such administrative approvals.

Mr. Patenaude also suggested that the Board refer all requests to DEM to his supervisor, Angel Liberti, to add a more transparent chain of communication between the Board and DEM.

Mr. Patenaude then shared a draft of the WWTF 2010 Flood History authored by intern Nick Holbrook.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members present voting in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5., 2017 at 9:30 at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.