



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Draft Meeting Minutes: June 3, 2009

Members in Attendance: Julia Fogue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Dr. Gene Park, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White
Others in Attendance: Marisa Desautel Esq., Christina Hoefsmit (intern); DEM Joseph Gonyea, Gordon Reid; Zambarano Hospital Edward Rudigeair, Susan Ferreira; RI DOA/Facilities Karen Goffe, Smithfield WWTF/Veolia Water Matthew Calderiso, David Ramos; Town of Bristol

The June 3, 2009 meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The first order of business was the review of the draft May 2009 meeting minutes.

Mr. Schock motioned to approve the open-meeting portion of the minutes as drafted. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. Messrs. Kurdziel, McLynch, Patenaude and Dr. Park approved the motion. Mr. White and Ms. Fogue abstained as they were not present at the last meeting. As such, the motion passed.

The second order of business was applications by part-time employees of wastewater treatment facilities. The first facility discussed was the Zambarano WWTF. Mr. Edward Rudigeair, a manager of state facilities, briefed the board on the overall managerial structure of the Zambarano WWTF as it relates to state facility management, as well as potential future operational changes at the facility.

The first application to be reviewed was Mr. Joseph Gonyea, a Grade 1 operator who had applied for the Grade 2 exam. While Mr. Gonyea has had extensive experience at the wastewater facility, he explained that he is no longer employed at the facility, focusing mainly on the drinking water system. Mr. Rudigeair expressed the DOA's interest in having another Grade 2 operator at the facility. Mr. Patenaude explained that the board's statutes and regulations require that an individual be working at a WWTF to be considered for licensure examination; Mr. Patenaude explained that if Mr. Gonyea was working at the facility as a regular part of his duties, and such information was sent in writing, the board could then entertain the Grade 2 examination request. Mr. Schock added that such written notification state specifically how many hours per week were involved in operations at the wastewater facility.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to continue Mr. Gonyea's request for Grade 2 licensure until such information could be submitted in writing. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

The next application was from Mr. Gordon Reid, a mechanic with the Zambarano Hospital facilities. Mr. Reid noted that as part of his duties he performs various maintenance functions at the facility, as well as prior and some occasional experience as needed at the wastewater treatment facility. There were no set hours or schedule for working at the facility, Mr. Reid said, but his time at the facility could range from a few hours to a full 40 hours per week. Mr. Schock stated his discomfort with licensing an individual who was not gaining consistent experience in operations. Mr. White noted that he would be uncomfortable if such employees were not licensed. Mr. Patenaude noted that such licensure allows enforcement capacity to the board should such action be needed. Mr. Reid noted that he had passed the Grade 1 operator course with the highest grade in the class.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to grant Mr. Reid Grade 1 licensure and to restrict higher grade licensure at this time. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. Ms. Forgue, Messrs. Kurdziel, McLynch, Patenaude, White and Dr. Park voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Schock voted against the motion. As such, the motion passed.

The next application from the Zambarano facility was Ms. Sonia Jacquart. Ms. Jacquart had similar experience as Mr. Reid, although she was less active in the operations since the hiring of full-time operators. She was, however, still filling in on weekends as needed in sampling, lab set ups and some basic operations. Ms. Jacquart also passed the Grade 1 course.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to grant Ms. Jacquart Grade 1 licensure and to restrict higher grade licensure at this time. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. Ms. Forgue, Messrs. Kurdziel, McLynch, Patenaude, White and Dr. Park voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Schock voted against the motion. As such, the motion passed.

Messrs. Rudigeair, Gonyea, Reid and Ms. Ferreira left the meeting.

The next order of business was an application for Grade 1 examination from Mr. David Ramos of the Town of Bristol. Mr. Ramos was employed at the compost facility, but is increasingly involved with maintenance at the wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Calderiso noted that while in the past the composting operators did not have any involvement with the treatment facility (hence the board's denial of licensure for Bristol compost operators) recent events and town-wide staffing issues have required Mr. Calderiso to use Mr. Ramos at the wastewater treatment facility.

Ms. Forgue motioned to grant Mr. Ramos Grade 1 examination. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. Ms. Forgue, Messrs. Kurdziel, McLynch, Patenaude, White and Dr. Park voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Schock voted against the motion. As such, the motion passed.

Messrs. Calderiso and Ramos left the meeting.

The next order of business were applications from the Town of Smithfield, the first being that of Mr. Donald Deshaies, who noted on his application for Grade 2 licensure that he works half his time in collections. Plant superintendent Karen Goffe explained that Mr. Deshaies in fact works half time in collections for half the year, and works full time in the plant the other half. Mr. Patenaude asked Ms. Goffe to amend the application accordingly.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve Mr. Deshaies' Grade 2 application for examination. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

The next application was for Ms. Loni A. Decelles, a lab employee who also assists with the town's pretreatment program. Ms. Goffe enumerated Ms. Decelles' duties, and the interrelatedness of both the process control duties of a lab technician and that of pretreatment.

Ms. Forgue motioned to approve Ms. Decelles' Grade 2 application for examination. Mr. White seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

Ms. Goffe then left the meeting.

The next order of business was enforcement activity, of which there was none under consideration.

The next order of business was a regulations revision. Mr. Patenaude noted that the matters discussed at this meeting highlight the need for such revision. Mr. Schock noted that such revisions must be specific and clear to prevent confusion on the part of applicants. Mr. Schock asked Mr. Patenaude to provide a draft revision to discuss at the next meeting.

The next order of business was exam results. Mr. Patenaude noted that passing rates were higher this year, especially in the Grade's 2 and 3 exams. Based on exit interviews with examinees, Mr. Patenaude attributed this to better prepared applicants.

With no further business, Ms. Forgue motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1st 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Offices located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.