

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS
OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Minutes from the June 25, 2003 Meeting

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rick Dionne, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Traci Lima, DEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

The first order of business was the review of the draft May 7, 2003 meeting minutes.

After Board review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. All other members voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next item discussed was the update by Mr. Patenaude of 2003 H5848, A Bill Relating to Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that this legislation did not receive a committee hearing or vote and will likely not get out of committee this year. Mr. Patenaude thought it might be a good idea for the Board members to review the statute to see if there is anything the Board would want to revise.

The next item discussed was the Spring 2003 Exam Results. The Board reviewed the Exam Statistics chart prepared by Traci Lima. The Board noted that there were no significant changes. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board of potential cheating at the Spring 2003 Exam. Mr. Patenaude distributed the possible "cheat sheet" that was discovered at the exam, apparently handed in by an examinee with their exam paperwork. Mr. Patenaude also provided the members with a letter he thought should be sent to all Spring 2003 Grade 2 examinees. He also noted that the Grade 2 exam would have to be completely rewritten.

After Board discussion Mr. Patenaude motioned to send the letter to all Spring 2003 Grade 2 examinees. Mr. White seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was new business. Mr. Patenaude shared comments that he had received from Mr. Joel Burke, Superintendent from the Warwick Sewer Authority, on the "Guidelines for Licensure Enforcement". Mr. Burke thought that the guidelines could be a potential source of problems. He also asked to appear before the Board with several other Superintendents to address the matrix. Mr. Burke could not be present at this meeting so a time will be scheduled to discuss the guidelines. Mr. Schock also suggested that the "Guidelines for Licensure Enforcement" should be put on the next agenda so the Board could motion to accept the guidelines.

The next new business to be discussed was the review of a question on the Grade 2 exam. An individual who had received a 69 on his exam made an appointment to review his exam. During the review, the reviewer contested question #4, suggesting that the wording made it difficult for the examinee to provide an accurate answer. Mr. Dionne and Ms. Forgue felt because the question was not worded correctly the examinee should be awarded the point. Mr. Patenaude believed that the true technical matter of the question was clear, and that at the very least an examinee should have asked for clarification during the taking of the exam.

Ms. Forgue motioned to award the point to the examinee based on the incorrect wording of the question and to correct the wording of the question on future exams. Mr. White seconded the motion. Ms. Forgue, Messrs. Schock, Dionne, Kurdziel and White voted in favor of the motion, with Mr. Patenaude voting against. As such the motion passed.

The next new business discussed was Clariant Corporation, formerly known as Hoechst Celanese. Mr. Patenaude briefed the Board that a review of their records had indicated that the facility had never been graded. When an analysis was completed, the facility was graded as a Grade 3 facility. Currently, an individual is grandfathered in to run the facility, but future operators will be required to be licensed accordingly.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to send Clariant Corporation a letter formerly notifying them that they are a Grade 3 facility and they must follow the Rules and Regulations for Wastewater Treatment Facility Operators. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor, the motion passed.

Other new business discussed was an update on the matter of Francis M. Hartley of Brown & Sharpe. Mr. Patenaude was to be sending a letter stating that Brown & Sharpe was not in compliance and denying an application for Grade 1 license as the supervisor for the facility had not come forward providing additional information. Mr. Patenaude again noted that he would be sending the letter to the facility.

With no further business, Mr. Schock motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Forgue. All members present voted in favor of adjournment and the motion passed.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2003 at 9:30 am in conference room 280C in the Office of Water Resources on the 2nd floor of the Department of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence.