



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

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, August 8, 2018

**Members in Attendance:** Paul Desrosiers, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch and Bill Patenaude

**Others in Attendance:** Christina Hoefsmit, Esq and Traci Pena, RIDEM

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

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the July 19, 2018 meeting minutes.

**After review Mr. McLynch voted to approve the July 19, 2018 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. All eligible members voted in favor, as such the motion passed. Mr. Kurdziel abstained as he was not present at the July meeting.**

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session per 42-46-4 and 42-45-5(a)(4). Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude Mr. Desrosiers, Ms. Forgue, Mr. Kurdziel and Mr. McLynch voting in the affirmative.**

In executive session, draft executive session minutes were reviewed.

**After review Mr. McLynch voted to approve the draft executive session June 6, 2018 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. Mr. Desrosiers and Ms. Forgue abstained, as they were not present at the meeting. All eligible members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.**

**After review, Mr. McLynch voted to approve the draft executive session July 19, 2018 meeting minutes with edits. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. Mr. Kurdziel abstained as he was not present at said meeting. All members eligible voted in favor, as such the motion passed.**

**Ms. Forgue motioned to send a letter to a Rhode Island wastewater superintendent requesting additional information regarding a letter received by the Board. It would be the superintendent's choice to send written documentation or come to the September Board meeting. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. As such the motion passed.**

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the August 8, 2018 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. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. The motioned passed with all present voting in the affirmative.**

Next to be discussed was the Open Meeting Summit held yearly by the state. Ms. Hoefsmit offered a summary. The Board cannot vote in closed session on an agenda item if the statutory reason for closure notes the purpose is for "discussion" only. Also, agenda items could be added at any time, however if it is in the 48-hour window of the meeting, votes cannot be taken on that matter.

Fred Kurdziel will soon be retiring. Melissa Orpen-Tuz is the suggested Department of Health designee. The DOH Director will submit paperwork to the State House to confirm the appointment.

The next item was Training Course Approval. Environmental Business Specialists, LLC course for Activated Sludge was discussed. The approval was tabled pending additional information such as the location and description of the course.

The next item discussed was the Licensure Levels of Maintenance and Laboratory levels. Mr. Desrosiers feels as though superintendents know when an individual is ready to advance and they should have the opportunity to advance to a higher-Grade level. Board members were in general agreement. Mr. Patenaude suggested making a revision to the Regulations to that end and welcomed the Board's input. Ms. Forgue suggested including language that the individual must work full time at a POTW. In the case of laboratory staff, there was discussion of discretion for review on a case-by-case basis, especially if the lab staff member is not employed on site of a wastewater treatment facility.

The next item was a follow up on the request from RIRRC to certify their employees. Mr. Patenaude offered that the Board's ultimate mission was to protect the waters of the State. As the RIRRC facility does not discharge into State water, it does not meet the definition of a wastewater treatment facility according to the Regulations. While there was general agreement to deny the request made by RIRRC, Mr. Patenaude suggested tabling the matter so that RIRRC members are offered the opportunity to attend a Board meeting and discuss the matter if they so choose.

In new business, the NWPCA will be hosting the Annual Chowder Cook-off on August 14th on Scarborough beach. On September 7th the NWPCA annual Trade Show and Clambake will take place at Twelve Acres, it will also be the Boot Camp graduation.

**Mr. Patenaude voted to adjourn. Mr. McLynch seconded. All member voted in favor, as such the motion passed.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM - Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.