



## BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, November 1, 2017

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

**Others in Attendance:** Peter Goneconte, Woonsocket WWTF  
Christina Hoefsmid, Esq. and Traci Pena, RIDEM

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

The Board reviewed the draft September 6, 2017 open meeting minutes.

**Mr. McLynch motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Dr. Baldwin and Mr. Schock abstained as they were not present at the September meeting.**

The next item discussed was a request from Mr. Peter Goneconte to adopt his late uncle's, Carmine Goneconte, certification number. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that a similar request was granted for the son of a late operator. Mr. Patenaude informed them that Peter Goneconte, now, is the only relative of Carmine in the profession. Mr. Patenaude suggested approving the request after contacting Carmine Goneconte's widow seeking her approval.

**After discussion Mr. Schock motioned to approve the request after contacting and receiving approval from Cheryl Goneconte, Carmine's Widow. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor.**

The next topic were two applicants from New Jersey requesting reciprocity as they are now employed at the Westerly WWTF. Mr. Patenaude confirmed that, according to the State of New Jersey, the applicants, Tyler Morrissey and Michell Velez were in good standing with and their respective licenses were active in New Jersey.

**After discussion Mr. Patenaude motioned to issue Mr. Morrissey a Grade 2 license through reciprocity and to issue Ms. Velez a Grade 1 license through reciprocity and to sign Ms. Velez for the November**

**2017 Grade 2 examination. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.**

The next item was a brief discussion on the November 2017 exam. This exam will be held over the course of 2 days. Grades 1, 3, and 4 will be held on November 28<sup>th</sup> and Grade 2 will be held on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Next, Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that the draft Rules and Regulations have been approved by the Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR). He is working with DEM's Emily Lynch to have the draft posted on the Secretary of State's (SOS) website per the processes of "Direct Final Rule." There is a 30-day notice period, and if no comments are received, the Regulations would become effective.

The following courses were then discussed for continuing education unit approval. The first, "Water Words that Work" and the other "Emergency Response: Responding to a Contamination Incident". After review, Mr. Schock and Dr. Baldwin did not think the courses related directly to the profession. Mr. Patenaude stated that they could enhance professional development.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the "Water Words that Work" for six hours. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Schock and Dr. Baldwin voted nay. As such the motion did not carry.**

Emergency Response: Information on the EPA course "Responding to a Contamination Incident" affirmed that the course was more about drinking water. No motion was made.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mr. Kurdziel seconded. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 9:30 at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.