



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

DRAFT Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, November 7, 2018

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

Others in Attendance: Michael Spring, Maintenance Manager, NBC – Field's Pt.
Scott Goodinson, Narragansett Pollution Control Association
Melissa Orpen-Tuz, RI Department of Health
Christina Hoefsmitt, Esq and Traci Pena, RIDEM

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

The Board reviewed the draft open and closed October 3rd, 2018 meeting minutes.

Mr. Schock voted to approve the open meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Mr. Desrosiers abstained as he was not present at the October meeting.

Mr. Schock then voted to approve the closed meeting minutes as amended. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Mr. Desrosiers abstained as he was not present at the October meeting

Next to be discussed was the licensure status of Mr. Robert Sheridan. Mr. Patenaude advised the Board that a Grade 3 license had erroneously been issued to Mr. Sheridan in 2011 during a renewal reissuance, apparently because of a database issue in which a Grade 3 If and When was read as a full Grade 3. Mr. Sheridan submitted an email to the Board for their consideration noting his desire to maintain his Grade 3 If and When. Mr. Patenaude advised the Board that because the error originated with a DEM processing error, he recommended granting Mr. Sheridan a Grade 3 If and When which would expire in December 2019 (the end of the current renewal period). Mr. Patenaude said this was a fair resolution as it would restart the clock of Mr. Sheridan's licensure to the time the error was made.

After discussion, Mr. Patenaude motioned to issue Mr. Sheridan a Grade 3 If and When license which would be retroactive for the current renewal period. To maintain this 3 If and When status, Mr. Sheridan would be required to obtain 10 CEUs for this current renewal cycle (as this cycle was halfway through). After that time, he would be required to maintain the normal 20 CEUs. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor, the motion passed.

For the next order of business, Mr. Patenaude presented a revised conceptual draft Rules and Regulations of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Facilities. (This was in response to some in the regulated community seeking updated regulations to reflect the contemporary involvement of maintenance professionals in the operations of wastewater treatment facilities.) Mr. Patenaude noted that Mr. Michael Spring had canvassed wastewater superintendents throughout the state and that many were in favor of offering some maintenance positions to a higher-level license, as it would give some individuals the opportunity to advance. In response to both support and concerns within the profession for such a proposal, Mr. Patenaude suggested the development of draft regulatory language that allows the Board to grant examination to some classes of maintenance staff but hold actual licensure until the individual meet specific experiential and educational criteria. With the Board expressing a willingness to explore such conceptual options, Mr. Patenaude requested assistance from Board members to draft language for the next meeting. Mrs. Hoefsmit also stated that the Board could hold an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) as a preliminary notice, announcing that the Board is considering a regulatory action. An ANPRM is issued only when an agency believes it needs to gather more information before proceeding to a notice of proposed rulemaking. The matter remained tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Goodinson left the meeting.

The next item discussed was a request from Mr. Jeffrey Chapdelaine to consider his prior education and experience for credit toward approval to sit for the Grade 4 examination. After a review of Mr. Chapdelaine's transcript, the Board determined that additional information is needed based on Rule 5.6(c)(4). As such, the matter was tabled pending additional course information. While reviewing this matter, Mr. Schock noted that the word regulatory language of "science" should refer to "natural" sciences—a matter that can be examined at future discussions of regulation updates.

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

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