

RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Board of Certification of Operators
Of Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2001

In Attendance: Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White

Also in Attendance: Al Waitt, Cranston WPCF & President, NWPCA; Traci Lima, DEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. The first order of business was the review of the March 2001 meeting minutes. Mr. Kurdziel requested editorial amendments to the minutes.

Mr. White motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Kurdziel, Mssrs. Patenaude and White voted in favor. Mr. Schock abstained, as he was not present at the last meeting. As such, the motion passed.

The next order of business was the matter of David Gaipo. Mr. Gaipo's OIT experience at Yarmouth is being examined so that the Board may grant sufficient time towards a possible Grade 3 OIT should he pass the May 17th exam. The percentage of his time at the Yarmouth treatment facility was unclear; Mr. Patenaude contacted Mr. Gaipo's supervisor and ascertained that 20% of Mr. Gaipo's employment at Yarmouth (October 1996 – August 1999) was in operations. Mr. Kurdziel calculated Mr. Gaipo's time and figured his time to be a little less than 6 months in operations. He also has 1 year experience in operations in Westerly. In order to be considered for 3OIT, an operator needs a total of 5 years of experience, 3 of which need to be in direct responsible charge.

As the matter was continued, Mr. Patenaude suggested the Board continue with the meeting and take a recess and revisit the matter of Mr. Gaipo so that the visiting guest, Al Waitt, may more quickly present his purpose at the meeting. All members present agreed to revisit the conversation after a short recess.

The next item on the agenda, for which Mr. Waitt was present, was Program Development. Mr. Patenaude updated the Board on the items placed on DEM's website. He had a question about Social Security numbers. Mr. Patenaude suggested using individual's last 4 digits of the SSN for exam results.

Mr. White wanted to know if the problem was addressed with regard to certain downloads; some of the information, when printed does not fit on the paper. Mr. Patenaude informed him that the problem is currently being fixed by use of the Adobe format.

Al Waitt informed the Board that a formal request to revisit the topic of mandatory retraining would be forthcoming.

The next order of business was exam applications. Mr. Patenaude had an application from Gary Ruggiero, from NBC, who was applying for Grade 3 examination. One of the requirements for Grade 3 examination is 3 years in direct responsible charge. Mr. Ruggiero has a bachelor's degree and is about 1 month shy of having 2 years in direct responsible charge, as he will have a full 2 years in June, 2001.

Mr. Schock motioned to deny Mr. Ruggiero from taking the spring 2001 exam without the full 2 years of experience. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. All voted in favor of denying Mr. Ruggiero Grade 3 examination and the motion passed.

The next order of business was Board membership status. Mr. Patenaude contacted Dan Beardsley, the Executive Director of the RI League of Cities and Towns. Mr. Beardsley informed Mr. Patenaude that he wanted to appoint someone he was confident would well represent the League. Mr. Patenaude suggested to the members that they might want to forward names of people who would be good candidates to sit on the Board. Another reappointment issue was Dr. Ray Wright. His term expired in January 2001. Mr. Patenaude will send a letter to Dr. Wright asking about his reappointment. Mr. Schock commented that the Board needs a commitment from people who will attend the monthly meetings.

After a brief recess, the meeting reconvened and the subject of 3 If and When status was discussed. Mr. Schock thought the regulations needed to be amended to be more specific. There was question about the length of time for direct responsible charge and its relation to the 2-year limit on OIT's in the regulations. Mr. Patenaude checked the statues (42-17.4-5(d) to find out information on OITs. The current 2-year time limit placed on OIT status was placed by the Board not Statutes.

Mr. Patenaude suggested that Board members review the regulations and come up with any amendments that may need to be made to the regulations.

The topic of Mr. Gaipo was also revisited after his employment record was verified.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to grant Mr. Gaipo 4 months of Direct Responsible Charge and 2 years and 2 months of experience, thereby requiring only a 2 year and 10 month OIT. Mr. White seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

With no further business, Messers Patenaude and White motioned to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next meeting was scheduled for 9:30 on Wednesday, June 6, 2001, in conference room 280 C in the Office of Water Resources on the 2nd floor of the Department of Environmental management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence.