



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Members in Attendance: Dr. Janet Baldwin, Paul Desrosiers, Frank McLynch, Melissa Orpen-Tuz, Bill Patenaude, and Jon Schock

Others in Attendance: Christina Hoefsmit, Esq. and Traci Pena – RIDEM
Cody Katter, RIDEM-Legal Intern

DRAFT Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, July 3, 2019

At 9:40, the meeting was called to order.

The Board reviewed draft June 5, 2019 meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the June 5th minutes as amended. Dr. Baldwin seconded. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor.

The Board then reviewed the draft executive session meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Desrosiers motioned to approve the June 5th executive session meeting minutes. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz seconded the motion. Messers. Schock and Patenaude abstained as they were not present for the executive session meeting minutes.

There was not operator enforcement to be discussed.

A question was raised as a result from the previous meeting regarding procedure. Mr. Patenaude would like to discuss procedural methods in which to run the meeting while guest was present. There aren't state-wide guidelines. Ms. Hoefsmit stated that if a hearing is in progress both parties would stay. Mr. Schock thought that each party should be interviewed separately, however the accused has the right to defend themselves.

The next item was a request for an oral exam Nigel Yattaw, who is in maintenance, from the NBC – Bucklin Point facility. It is not the Board's policy to require individuals in maintenance to be license, it is NBC's policy. Mr. Yattaw had a few opportunities to take the exam, and unfortunately did not pass. Mr. Patenaude stated that during the exam review, he showed proficiency. If an oral exam is granted Mr. Patenaude requested that the representatives of education and labor be present. Dr. Baldwin also suggested having an unbiased person be present as well. Also, if granted, Mr. Schlock would like to have the oral exam during exam time. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz asked why this individual would be afforded the opportunity while many struggles with written exams. What kind of documentation would be required? In drinking water and higher education, the request would not be granted without documentation from a doctor. If approved, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz felt it created an unlevel playing field. Dr. Baldwin also stated that

an oral exam would also need more time to administer. The Grades 1 and 2 are allowed 2 hours. Mr. Patenaude also stated that the examinees also have the exam in front of them and can elaborate to see if they have the knowledge of the subject matter.

After discussion, Mr. Schock motioned to offer an opportunity to Mr. Yattaw to sit for the August exam however, to also submit documentation and supporting medical documentation identifying the accommodation. Dr. Baldwin seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next item reviewed was Jim Proulx's exam review. Mr. Proulx received at 69 on the Spring 2019 exam. After review of the exam, he showed evidence of knowledge on a question, thereby received at passing score of 70.

The next item was Mr. Patenaude wanted to review all exams with Dr. Baldwin before the August exam.

Mr. Patenaude provided the monthly update regarding the superintendent of the Quonset facility, which was satisfactory.

The next item was Regulation Revisions. The next scheduled meeting will be August 20 at 2:00.

Finally, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz shared that she is working with work force development through Department of Labor and Training. A program called Real Jobs RI, which partners with industry stakeholders. They also release grant money and need assessment. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz also stated the importance of the wastewater and drinking water professions work together and merge resources. She will send additional information.

At 10:30 a.m., Mr. Patenaude voted to adjourn. Mr. McLynch seconded. All members present voted in favor and as such the motion passed.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.

The next meeting regarding the Regulation Revisions will be scheduled for August 20, 2019, at 2:00 at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.