



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

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

Others in Attendance: John Dulmaine and Tom Ciolfi, Newport WWTF
Christina Hoefsmit, Esq., Traci Pena and Matt Puglia - RIDEM

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:35.

The Board reviewed the draft September 17, 2019 meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the draft September 17, 2019 as amended. Dr. Baldwin seconded. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session per §42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) to discuss matters of potential criminal or civil misconduct. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Schock, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz, Dr. Baldwin and Mr. McLynch voting in the affirmative.

(Mr. Patenaude recused himself and left the executive session's opening matter related to a matter at the Newport WWTF. Mr. Schock was designated as the vice chair for the purposes of Executive Session.)

Motions in Executive Session are repeated in Open Session.

After discussion, Dr. Baldwin motioned to table the matter pending additional information. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members in favor. As the representative from DEM, Mr. Patenaude did not participate as he recused himself from executive session.

After discussion, Mr. McLynch motioned to send an operator at the Newport WWTF a letter inviting him to the next meeting to gain more insight on the matter under discussion. Dr. Baldwin seconded. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed. As the representative from DEM, Mr. Patenaude did not participate as he recused himself from executive session.

(Messrs. Patenaude and Puglia returned to the meeting to provide initial information related to a matter at the Zambarano Hospital WWTF.)

Mr. Schock motioned to amend his original motion and to send an operator at the Zambarano facility a letter stating that no action would be taken regarding the event at this time and to remind the operator in question of the importance of proper operations and maintenance at the facility. The superintendent will also be copied on the letter. Dr. Baldwin seconded the motion. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz voted nay. Mr. Patenaude abstained. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the October 2, 2019 executive session meeting minutes. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Schock, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz, Dr. Baldwin and Mr. McLynch voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to resume the meeting into open session. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Schock, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz, Dr. Baldwin and Mr. McLynch voting in the affirmative.

Per the April 2019 Board meeting, Mr. Puglia provided the monthly update from the Quonset WWTF. He reported that while there was a BOD violation during the month of September, Mr. Puglia noted that he was impressed with Mr. Davies' investigation to determine the cause and the eventual tracking of the industrial user that had likely caused the violation.

On the matter of the Basic Wastewater Course, Mr. Patenaude met with Mr. Davies, the new instructor, to discuss the Fall course.

On the matter of a request for an oral exam by the NBC for one its mechanics, an oral exam has been set for Friday, October 11, 2019 at 10:00 at DEM Headquarters.

The Board continues to make good progress during their Regulations Revision meetings. Key points are winding down and Mr. Patenaude hopes to start assigning sections for potential drafting.

In new business, the Operations Challenge Team finished second in laboratory and 21st out of 40 teams overall at the WEFTEC in Chicago.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mr. McLynch seconded. All members voted in favor and as such the motioned passed.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM - Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.

The next Regulation meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM - Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.