



## **BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

**Members in Attendance:** Paul Desrosiers, Julia Forgue, Frank McLynch, Melissa Orpen-Tuz, Bill Patenaude, and Jon Schock

**Others in Attendance:** Ryan Mulcahey, RIDEM Legislative Liaison  
Traci Pena, RIDEM

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

The Board reviewed the draft January 8, 2020 meeting minutes.

**After review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor.**

The next item discussed was the review of the Board's enabling legislation, 42-17.4. Ryan Mulcahey, DEM's Legislative Liaison, was present to assist with the discussion. The Board noted that titles used in the legislation ("New England Water Pollution Control Association" and "Narragansett Water Pollution Control Association") would require changing, as the organizations themselves have changed their names. Other discussions included §42-17.4-5(4) and the maximum length of a provisional certificate. With regards to §42-17.4-7 (Applications), the Board discussed the embedded fee structure for applications and renewal fees. Mr. Schock suggested a cost analysis to capture the true cost to RI DEM, which may then justify a suggested fee increase. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz and Mr. Patenaude responded that if the funds were not going to the program directly, there was no true impetus to make such changes. Mr. Mulcahey offered that the Board could propose having the money redirected back to the Board in a restricted receipt account (currently there is no funding for the Board), or to such an account that RI DEM could use for training. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Schock left the meeting at 10:30.

Mr. Mulcahey reviewed the process of filing any suggested amendments, which he suggested would be best scheduled for the 2021 legislative year. Mr. Patenaude suggested that Board members reach out to their representative organizations (such as labor, the operator association, the League of Cities and Towns, etc.) to canvas interest for potential sponsorship.

The next item was the scheduling of the Board's regulation meetings. To improve attendance, the time of the next Regulation meeting (Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>) will remain 2:00 p.m., but the following meeting (Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>) will be 9:30 a.m.

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

In new business, Mr. Desrosiers inquired about an update on the status of Michael Bedard, who is serving as an interim assistant superintendent of the West Warwick WWTF. Mr. Patenaude would invite the Town of West Warwick to the next meeting to update the Board, or to provide a written update. Mr. Desrosiers then asked about the status of an exam question contestation for Mr. Nick Zabbo. Mr. Patenaude noted that he was awaiting additional information from Mr. Zabbo.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.**

The meeting concluded at 11:00.

The next Regulation meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 2:00 at the RIDEM - Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4<sup>h</sup>, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM - Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.