

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

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

**Others in Attendance:** Christina Hoefsmit, Esq., Traci Pena - RIDEM  
Rick Emery and Kathy Perez - S. Kingstown WWTF  
Harrison Songolo - W. Warwick WWTF and Meg Goulet - NBC

Meeting Minutes - May 6, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Board held a teleconference meeting.

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:30 p.m.

Mr. Patenaude performed an audio rollcall of Board members and those members of the public/wastewater industry that were also participating. (See above.)

The Board reviewed the draft April 21, 2020 draft meeting minutes.

**After review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes. Mrs. Forgue seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Forgue, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Schock, and Mr. Desrosiers all voting in favor.**

The first item discussed was an update from the Town of West Warwick and Mike Bedard. Harrison Songolo was on the call to request a one on one Grade 4 examination for Mr. Bedard.

Mrs. Hoefsmit stated the Board could not vote on the matter as the item wasn't posted on the agenda, however, the Board could have an emergency meeting and vote at that time. Mr. Desrosiers asked Mr. Songolo about Mr. Bernard Bishop's duties at the plant. Mr. Songolo stated he is present weekly and is an advisor on conference calls. Mr. Bishop is still employed with the Town pending Mr. Bedard's examination results. A meeting will be scheduled after the request is submitted. Mr. Patenaude will contact DOA to see if they can correct the test. If not, Mrs. Hoefsmit offered that the exam could be hand corrected then submitted to DOA at a later date. Mr. Songolo stated it would be helpful if the exam was hand corrected.

After discussion, Mr. Songolo stated he will submit a letter seeking the Board's approval.

Mr. Songolo left the call at 9:47.

The Board then discussed the Basic Wastewater course. Mr. Patenaude spoke with Jen Lichtensteiger from NEIWPC, who is sponsoring the course. She is working with Eddie Davies, the instructor, to complete the course. They are waiting for

guidance and pending social distancing rules. Once it is clear, Mr. Davies will complete the course remotely prior to the Board's August exam.

Meg Goulet of the NBC asked if those enrolled in the course may be able to sit for the August exam, if one is held. The Board was unable to respond to that inquiry as the status of the August exams was undetermined. The Board wanted to also thank Mr. Davies and NEIWPC for their efforts.

In new business, Mr. Patenaude, EPA and the American Water Works Association had reached out to FEMA for PPE to be provided to drinking water and wastewater employees. Working through the RIWARN, three distribution sites had been selected: both NBCs and Narragansett. Mr. Patenaude noted that he had not yet been told of the timing.

Mr. Desrosiers said that all RICWA activities are postponed at this time.

**At 10:05 Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mr. Schock seconded. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Forgue, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Schock, and Mr. Desrosiers all voting in favor.**

The next Regulation meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held by teleconference or via a video platform.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held by teleconference or via a video platform.