



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES
c/o RI DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908

MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2020 at 9:30

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

Pending Board Member: Brenda Cheaye, RI DOH

Others in Attendance: Raul Matta, Newport WWTF
Christina Hoefsmit, Esq and Traci Pena, RIDEM

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the meeting was held via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

A roll call of Board member and member of the wastewater industry/public that were participating was performed (see above).

The first order of business was to welcome and introduce Brenda Cheaye, the newest Board member representing the Department of Health. Her appointment still needs to be confirmed with a formal letter from the director of RI DOH and as such, while she is able to join Board deliberations, she cannot vote.

Mr. Patenaude then 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. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue, Mr. Schock and Mr. Patenaude all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude presented information to the Board from DEM's O&M section regarding a matter of potential criminal or civil misconduct at a RI WWTF.

(At 9:49 a.m. Mr. Patenaude recused himself and left the zoom call for executive session discussion).

Motions in Executive Session are repeated in Open Session.

After discussion, Mr. Schock motioned to table the matter to the January meeting and invite an RI operator to the next meeting to share additional information. A letter will be sent to the individual. Mrs. Forgue seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Schock motioned to seal the December 2, 2020 executive session meeting minutes. Mrs. Forgue seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Schock motioned to resume the meeting into open session. Mrs. Forgue seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude then returned to the meeting.

The next item discussed was an update on the November 17th and 18th exams. The exams were held successfully over the course of two days in three different rooms at RIDEM in Providence. All proper COVID protocols were followed. Two approved examinees were denied to sit for the exam due to COVID restrictions. Mr. Patenaude was seeking Board approval to allow those individuals a make-up exam should they submit a formal request. Mrs. Hoefsmit stated that as the item was not on the agenda for a vote a decision could not be rendered, and a vote should be taken at the next meeting. The matter will be tabled until the next meeting. Mrs. Hoefsmit also recommended that a statement in the motion should include wording for future extenuating circumstances.

The next item discussed were the draft November 4, meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the draft minutes as amended. Mrs. Forgue seconded. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue, Mr. Schock and Mr. Patenaude all voting in the affirmative. Mr. Desrosiers abstained as he was not present at the November meeting.

The next item discussed were the Regulation revisions. The Board discussed additional language and made additional edits. The Board will then present a clean copy and vote on the revisions at the January meeting.

The next agenda item was the Basic course. Mr. Desrosiers didn't have an update from the Rhode Island Clean Water Association, but they will be discussing such a proposal at the next RICWA meeting on December 15th.

Next to be discussed were Training course approvals. Some courses will be administratively approved, and others will be tabled pending further information.

In new business, Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that the Town of West Warwick is actively seeking to fill the Assistant Superintendent position.

Also, there is a vacancy on the Board for education. Mr. Desrosiers asked if the spot needed to be a PhD as he had someone in mind who is a graduate assistant teacher at URI and working toward his PhD. He will be in contact with him and submit additional information to the Board. Mr. Pateande will also reach out to Ray Wright to see if he can recommend a candidate.

Exam reviews will be held after the 1st of the year.

RICWA is also looking for nominations for their annual performance awards for 2019. A ceremony will be held remotely.

At 10:47 a.m. Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Ms. Forgue seconded. All members voted in favor and as such the motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue, Mr. Schock and Mr. Patenaude all voting in the affirmative.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 6th, 2021 at 9:30 and will be held via Zoom.