



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
January 6, 2020 at 9:30

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

Others in Attendance: [OPERATOR}, Jim Lauzon, and Anthony Turchetta, Woonsocket
Eddie Davis, Quonset and RICWA
Scott Goodinson and Jeff Chapdelaine, Narragansett
Christina Hoefsmid, Esq and Traci Pena, RIDEM

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

Jon Schock called the meeting to order at 9:38 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 Brenda Cheaye, the DOH designee as the newest Board member.

After discussion, Mr. Schock motioned to table the minutes to the February meeting. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

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: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue, Mr. Schock and Mr. Patenaude all voting in the affirmative.

At this time all other attendees were placed in the “waiting room” of the Zoom call.

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 9:51 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. Desrosiers motioned to take no action against a RI WWTF operator regarding a pH permit violation as it related to an incident on

November 6, 2020. Ms. Cheaye seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue, Mr. Schock and all voting in the affirmative.

The next motion was to request RIDEM's O&M section to ask the Woonsocket superintendent to produce a written SOP as it pertains to pH Violations. Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative. Mrs. Forgue voted nay. With the majority voting in favor, the motion passed.

At 10:14 Mr. Patenaude and all others returned to the meeting.

Mr. Schock motioned to seal the January 6, 2021 executive session meeting minutes. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue, Mr. Schock and Mr. Patenaude all voting in the affirmative.

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

The next item discussed was an update on the November 17th and 18th exams. Two approved examinees were denied sitting for the exam due to COVID-19 screening requirements. Mr. Patenaude was seeking Board approval to allow those individuals a make-up exam should they submit a formal request.

After discussion, Mr. Patenaude motioned to allow the operators to sit for a one-on-one make-up exam at a mutually convenient time. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the vote. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Ms. Forgue, Mr. Schock and Mr. Patenaude all voting in the affirmative.

The next item discussed were the draft Regulations. Mr. Patenaude will reach out to the state's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) which houses the Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR) to seek guidance on next steps. There will still need to a public comment period and hearing. Mr. Patenaude stated he would develop a plain English guide. Mr. Patenaude asked for Board input of the final draft. In public comments, Mr. Chapdelaine asked for an explanation of terminology. No further comments came from the public.

After discussion, Mr. Patenaude motioned to move the 1/6/2021 draft Regulations forward to promulgation and work with OMB/ORR. Mrs. Forgue seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mrs. Forgue, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Desrosiers, Ms. Cheaye, and Mr. Patenaude all voted in approval. Mr. Schock voted nay.

The next item discussed was the discussion of a proposed new Board member to represent education, Charles Spellman. Mr. Spellman has worked at a treatment plant and is currently enrolled and employed by the University of Rhode Island as a PhD student. He has a bachelors and master's in environmental engineering and a license through Massachusetts. Mr. Desrosiers has spoken to Mr. Spellman and he is eager to participate.

After further discussion, Mrs. Forgue motioned to advance Mr. Spellman's information to the Governor's office for consideration of appointment to the Board. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue, Mr. Schock and Mr. Patenaude all voting in the affirmative.

At 10:36 Mr. Schock left the meeting.

The next item to be discussed was a proposal from RICWA to host the Board's basic wastewater course. Mr. Davies submitted a proposal to the Board. The course would be 40 hours exam course and cover a wide range of topics. Mr. Davies would be the instructor and fee per student would be \$280. The classes would be held at the Quonset Development Corporation. A minimum of 8 students would be required and the maximum is 16 because of COVID-19 restrictions. RICWA would administer of the Board course offering.

Mr. McLynch motioned to approve the proposal from RICWA and to begin working with RICWA to administer the course. Mrs. Forgue seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue, Mr. Schock, and Mr. Patenaude all voting in the affirmative.

Next, Mr. Patenaude asked the Board if they would give him the authority to send a letter on behalf of the operators to RIDOH asking that wastewater operators be a priority when receiving the vaccine.

Mrs. Forgue made a motion to direct Mr. Patenaude to send a letter on the Board's behalf requested that wastewater operators be on the priority list to receive a vaccine. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Forgue, and Mr. Patenaude all voting in the affirmative.

Next to be discussed was an advisory opinion from Dylan Chase to sit for the Grade 4 exam. The issue will be before the Board at the February meeting.

In new business, due to the state name change new stationary will need to be printed.

At 10:56 Mrs. Forgue and Ms. Hoefsmit left the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 at 9:30 and will be held via Zoom.