



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
MAY 5, 2021 AT 9:30**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Brenda Cheaye, Paul Desrosiers, Julia Forgue, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude and Jon Schock

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Eddie Davies, Quonset WWTF
Christina Hoefsmit, Esq, and Traci Pena, RIDEM

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

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

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

The first order of business was the review of the draft April meeting minutes.

After discussion and review, Mr. Schock motioned to accept the draft April 7, 2021 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Schock, and Mr. Patenaude voting in the affirmative.

The next item to be discuss was the draft executive session April. 7, 2021 meeting minutes.

After discussion and review, Mr. Schock motioned to accept the draft executive session April 7, 2021 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Schock, and Mr. Patenaude voting in the affirmative.

Ms. Forgue then was admitted into the meeting.

The next item was a Regulation update. The draft Regulations were posted to the SOS website and will be available for public comment until May 23, 2021. There will not be a hearing unless one is requested by 25 individuals or an organization that represents 25 or more.

The next item was to offer an advisory opinion to Nicole Brastos. Ms. Brastos holds the highest-grade license in Colorado and worked at a 0.25 MGD facility which would be considered a small facility in Rhode Island. After review of her application, she has an associates in water quality management and DRC. Mr. Schock was concerned with the size of the plant that she worked at in Colorado.

After further discussion and based on the information provided, Mr. Patenaude motioned to offer Ms. Brastos an advisory opinion pending confirmation of the submitted information in her application, it would grant a Grade 4 license under the following stipulations 1. that she attains a wastewater operator position at a wastewater treatment facility in Rhode Island that requires a Grade 4 license and 2. that all information submitted is confirmed as accurate and up to date. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following

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

The next item to rescind the COVID-19 policy will be tabled pending further announcements from the Governor's office.

The next item was an update on the Basic Course/May 2021 exams. The Board received about 45 applications. Date assignments have not been made pending the results from the Basic Course. There were 21 students in Mr. Davies class. Mr. Patenaude complimented Mr. Davies on a job well done teaching.

Regarding Board membership updates, Mr. Pateande submitted Mr. Spellman's name to the Governor's office. There may be an issue that Mr. Spellman lives in Connecticut.

In new business, RICWA is looking to hold the golf tournament on June 21st at Pottowamutt Golf course. Details are still be worked on.

At 10:14 Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. With all members voting in approval, the motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Ms. Forgue, Mr. Schock, and Mr. Patenaude voting in the affirmative.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 9:30 and will be held via Zoom.