



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: January 7, 2009

Members in Attendance: Julia Forgue, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White
Others in Attendance: Traci Pena – RIDEM

The January 2009 meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

The first order of business was the introduction of Mr. Frank McLynch, a Grade 3 Operator from the Cranston WWTF. Mr. McLynch is the Board's new representative of Organized Labor. Previously the position was held by Mr. Richard Dionne of the Burrillville WWTF who resigned last year.

Mr. Patenaude informed those present that Mr. Schock and Ms. Forgue that their membership has been approved by the Governor's office and membership is current. Mr. Patenaude will be looking for a recommendation from Dr. Wright who was not able to attend several meetings due to scheduling conflicts.

The next order of business was the review of the draft December 2008 meeting minutes.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the minutes with one minor grammatical amendment. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed. Mr. Schock abstained, as he was not at the previous meeting.

At present time, there were no operator enforcement issues.

The next item discussed were Exam Updates. Unfortunately no operators passed the Fall 2008 Grade 2 exam. Mr. Patenaude attributed this shortfall to many of the examinees who took the Grade 2 exam had only recently passed the Grade 1 course and wanted to see how they would do on the Grade 2 exam. Ms. Forgue noted that recently the number of examinees seems to be fewer than in previous years. Mr. White and Mr. McLynch offered that there does not seem to be much turnover in the field and it may be stabilizing for the moment.

The next item discussed was Regulation revisions. Mr. Patenaude presented the Board with a draft outline of amendments of the Regulations. He informed the Board that he had specified certain items that have been taken for granted. For instance, that there would be 100 multiple choice questions per exam. He also wanted to have a statement clarifying conditions by which the Board would approve any request for an oral exam. He sought legal counsel's opinion, and the Board's as well. Mr. Schock stated that he would like to take until the next Board meeting to review the changes; in general he suggested that the regulations stay away from too much specificity when unnecessary. He felt the current Regulations were difficult to follow; education and experience guidelines need to be outlined specifically because they currently invited too many gray areas. Ms. Forgue suggested that each grade should be built upon the previous.

In new business, Mr. Patenaude revisited the Boot Camp syllabus and suggested to the Board that the matter be continued until after the Regulations are amended and re-adopted.

With no further business Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjournment. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, and as such the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **February 4, 2009** at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Offices located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.