

**RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**  
**Board of Certification of Operators**  
**of Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

*Meeting Minutes*  
*February 6, 2002*  
*Open Meeting*

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Richard Dionne, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock, and Tom White

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Michael Emond and Joel Herman, Woonsocket WWTF  
Traci Lima, DEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:36. The first order of business was the request from Mr. Patenaude to convene a portion of the meeting in Executive Session. Mr. Patenaude informed the board that the issue for executive session, pursuant RI General Laws §46-46-5(a)(4), regarded the review of a portion of the January 2002 Executive meeting minutes, as well as provide an update on the matter discussed.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to go into Executive Session. Mr. White seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the closed session and the motion passed.**

Mr. Patenaude opened up the open meeting after being in Executive Session.

**In accordance with § 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.**

The first order of business for the open meeting were the January 2001 meeting minutes. Mr. Schock noted that in the fifth paragraph, first and third lines, the word "has" should be changed to "had". Also in the seventh paragraph, second line, Mr. Schock proposed using "adhere" instead of "stick". Also in the same paragraph, eleventh line, the word "held" should be replaced with "adequate". The motion following this paragraph needed to be altered to "Five voted in favor of the motion and 1 opposed." Also in the third paragraph the term "re-use operators" should be clarified as "water re-use operators". Also the motion that followed this paragraph should read " Mr. White mentioned that operators ... the motion was seconded by Mr. Schock." The following paragraph, second line should read "Mr. Patenaude will get a telephone vote for publication of the minutes."

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Dionne, all members present voted in favor of the changes to the draft and the motion passed.**

The next order of business were the approved December 5, 2001 meeting minutes. The motion at the top of the third page was incorrectly recorded. It should read "Mr. Schock motioned to allow Mr. Emond to receive grade 3 licensure based on his Massachusetts's license. Mr. White seconded the motion for discussion, asking if Mr. Emond could sit for the Grade 4 exam in the Spring 2002. Mr. Patenaude said he would still be short 6 months experience and would not be able to sit for the grade 4 exam. With this information Mr. White seconded the motion. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed." Members reviewed the new suggested motion.

**Mr. Schock moved to accept the amended December 2002 minutes seconded by Mr. White Messers. Dionne and Kurdziel approved the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.**

Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that he is getting the Regulations ready for public notice.

The next item on the agenda was the matter of a Mr. Steve Lambalot who had worked at a New Bedford treatment facility and is currently employed at the Newport wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Lambalot has over 10 years of experience in operations and over 8 years in direct responsible charge and has a Grade 7 Massachusetts license. Mr. Lambalot has applied Rhode Island Grade 4 license through reciprocity. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that Mr. Lambalot meets all the requirements for Rhode Island Grade 4 through reciprocity in accordance with the Board's regulations allowing Grade 4 reciprocity only to assistant superintendents and superintendents so employed at a Rhode Island grade 4 wastewater treatment facility.

**Mr. Schock motioned to approve the Grade 4 license via equivalency for Mr. Lambalot. Mr. White seconded the motion. Messrs. White, Dionne, Schock and Kurdziel voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Forgue abstained As such, the motion passed.**

The next item was that of a Mr. Joel Herman who was present at the meeting. Mr. Herman has a Grade 2 license in Massachusetts, which is equivalent to the Rhode Island Grade 1. He works as an operator at the Woonsocket WWTF and meets the requirements for a Rhode Island Grade 1 license. Mr. Herman is seeking the board's approval to grant a Grade 2 through reciprocity. Mr. Patenaude distributed a letter from the Plant Manager of the Woonsocket wastewater treatment facility, Roger Boltrushek endorsing him to be a certified operator in Rhode Island. Also Michael Emond, his supervisor spoke on his behalf stating that Mr. Herman was exemplary in his duties. The prior experience that Mr. Herman has in Achushnet, Massachusetts was not at a wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Patenaude suggested issuing Mr. Herman a Grade 1 OIT to be effective December 26, 2001 which will become a full license on December 26, 2002 (should he maintain employment as an operator for the full year). Mr. Emond inquired if there are limitations to being an OIT. The Board informed him that there were not limitations and OITs should get as much experience as they could. Members encourage him to do as much as possible to meet the requirements of the Grade, as an OIT does not affect his duties and is not a lesser grade. Mr. Shock wanted to know if Mr. Herman could take the grade 2 exam while in the regulation it states in order to take the grade 2 exam you need to be a holder of a grade 1 license? As such Mr. Herman was informed that he would be allowed to sit for the Grade 2 exam only after his Grade 1 license became a full Grade 1 in December 2002.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to issue Mr. Herman a Grade 1 OIT license through reciprocity to expire December 26, 2002; Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. All members approved and the motion passed.**

The next item was new business. The first matter of new business was a Mr. Matthew Coviello of the New Shoreham wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Coviello passed the Fall 2001 exam and was issued a Grade 1 OIT license. The OIT license was issued for 2 years. Mr. Coviello works  $\frac{3}{4}$  of his time at the wastewater treatment facility Monday – Thursday in New Shoreham. If this is the case he should have experience of 1 year now making him a full Grade 1.

**Mr. Patenaude asked the Board to favorably consider the upgrade to a full Grade 1 license. Mr. White seconded the motion for discussion, he inquired about the Grade of the New Shoreham plant, which is a Grade 2. All members voted in favor of Mr. Coviello receiving a Full grade 1 license.**

Also in new business was an update of Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock's appointment. Both have been extended to January 30, 2006.

**With no further business, Mr. White motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.**

The next meeting was scheduled for 9:30 on Wednesday, March 6, 2002 in conference room 280C in the Office of Water Resources on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Department of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence.