



**BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS  
OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

**MEETING MINUTES: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014**

**Members in Attendance:** Paul Desrosiers, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude, and Jon Schock

**Others in Attendance:** Traci Pena, RIDEM  
Janet Butler and Thomas Weaver, William M. Davies, Jr. Career & Technical High School

The first order of business was the review of the draft January 8, 2014 meeting minutes.

**After review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes as amended with one grammatical change. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor.**

Mr. Patenaude then introduced Janet Butler and Thomas Weaver from the William M. Davies, Jr. Career & Technical High School. Ms. Butler and Mr. Weaver would like to offer students a course similar to the Board's Basic Operator 1 course. Davies students have been on tours of facilities and they seem to have a strong interest in plant operations, as well as laboratory. Butler and Weaver are interested in offering students a pathway to the wastewater treatment profession once they graduate. Mr. Desrosiers noted that there will be a high turnover of operators due to retirement and sees a program such as this as being useful. Mr. Schock stated that there is no guarantee that there will be a job opportunity and does not want to give false aspirations, but does like the idea. Mr. Patenaude offered from a Regulatory standpoint that to attain licensure, students would have to take an appropriate level of training hours, including training from a qualified certified operator, as well as pass the equivalent to the Board's Grade 1 exam and be employed at a Rhode Island wastewater treatment facility. However the Board could issue a "notice of passing" good for a period of time to be determined for those student who meet all qualifications except employment—which is how the Board operates the Basic WWTF course. Mr. Patenaude noted that the Board could work with Davies to create a syllabus. Mr. Patenaude also recommended talking with DEM's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) program as another avenue.

Ms. Butler and Mr. Weaver left the meeting.

The next item discussed was a request from an operator who would like to be assigned the operator number of his deceased father. The Board agreed if doing so would not cause an undue burden on the Board administrative processes. Mr. Patenaude said that there would be no burden.

The next item discussed was the Training Course Guidance plan. The general idea from the last meeting was to be more prescriptive. Mr. Patenaude provided additional concepts. With the Board's general appreciation of the concepts, Mr. Patenaude would formalize the document for further review.

Next item to review were Regulatory Revisions. Minor revisions were discussed and Mr. Patenaude agreed to draft the changes for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Desrosiers also stated that he would like to add language to allow maintenance supervisor to be allowed to take a Grade 3 and 4 exams.

In new business, Mr. Patenaude announced that DEM's director, Janet Coit, had sent letters to operators who received NEWEA awards.

**With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schock. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM office located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI.