



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

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

Others in Attendance: Christina Hoefsmit, Esq., Traci Pena and Matthew Puglia - RI
Department of Environmental Management

The meeting came to order at 9:30 a.m.

The first order of business was the review of the draft February 2015 meeting minutes.

After review of the draft February 4, 2015 meeting minutes, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes with minor grammatical and other corrections. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Mr. McLynch abstained as he was not at the February meeting.

The next order was the review of the draft executive session meeting minutes from the February 4, 2015 meeting.

After review of the draft executive session meeting minutes Mr. Schock voted approval with minor grammatical corrections. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Mr. McLynch abstained as he was not at the February meeting.

Per §42-46-4 and §42-46-5(a)(4), Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session to discuss issues regarding Rhode Island wastewater treatment operators related to possible civil or criminal misconduct. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers, and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the March 4, 2015 Executive session meeting minutes. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers, and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

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

While in executive session Mr. Schock motioned to send a letter to the facility in question stating that the Board is aware of the event and that it is being addressed by DEM's O&M section. Therefore, no action is being taken at this time. In addition, Mr. Schock would like to rescind the motion regarding this event from the February 4, 2015 executive session meeting. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next item discussed were Training Course Approvals. The first group of courses was being offered by Beacon Mutual. Many of the courses were related to safety. Based on the last meeting some Board members raised concerns about the applicability of safety courses being credited for training. The Board discussed limiting the number of safety hours per renewal period. Mr. Schock thought safety training is good, but the credits should be in trainings related to operations. Mr. Desrosiers did not feel as a cap on hours was needed. Messers. Kurdziel and McLynch thought it was a good idea.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the January to June 2015 Beacon Mutual Seminar Schedule and to allow training credits of no more than four (4) hours for safety of the required 20 credits for Tier Two licensure. Mr. McLynch seconded. Mr. Kurdziel voted in the affirmative. Messers. Desrosiers and Schock voted nay. As such the motion passed.

The next course, "VSAT and WHEAT", was offered by EPA. After review, Mr. Desrosiers did not think it would be beneficial for a Grades 1 and 2. Mr. Patenaude suggested only offering credits to Grades 3 and 4. Mr. Shock said that if the course was approved an operator could receive 14 hours. Mr. Patenaude suggested putting a limit on the allowed credit due to the material offered noted in the course agenda.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the "VSAT and WHEAT" training for Grade 3 and 4 operators only and to offer no more than 7 hours of credits. Mr. Kurdziel seconded. Mr. McLynch voted in the affirmative. Messers. Desrosiers and Schock voted nay. As such the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude then offered the board an update on the Basic Wastewater course. He informed the Board that it will approve an instructor but that the logistics will be worked out between New England Interstate. Mr. Patenaude noted that in response to his query to the state's wastewater superintendents, he received a joint response only from Mr. Desrosiers and Mr. Goneconte. They proposed shared training and requested it be moved to the Narragansett Bay Commission's training center in Providence.

The only concern Mr. Patenaude had was if a member of the board could financially benefit from this opportunity. Attorney Hoefsmid would get back to Mr. Patenaude with an ethics determination.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve Mr. Desrosiers and Mr. Goneconte for the Basic Wastewater course and proposal pending an ethics decisions or Mr. Desrosiers if a board member can financially

benefit from a third party. Mr. McLynch seconded. Mr. Schock would like to wait for the legal opinion. As such, Mr. Patenaude withdrew the motion pending legal review.

In new business, Mr. Desrosiers invited the board to the fourth annual Narragansett Water Pollution Control Association/New England Water Environment Association Clean Water Legislative Event. This year is a luncheon Wednesday, March 25th from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at Renaissance Providence Downtown Hotel 5 Avenue of the Arts, Providence RI.

Also the annual award banquet will be held in May at the Potowomut Country Club, more details will follow.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn at 10:12. Mr. Kurdziel seconded, all members voted in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI.