



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: May 6, 2009

Members in Attendance: Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Dr. Gene Park, Bill Patenaude and Jon Schock (arrival at 10:05)

Others in Attendance: David Barlow, Peter Eldridge, W. Warwick WWTF
Marisa Desautel Esq., Matt Puglia, DEM

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

Per §42-46-5(a)(4) Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session in order to discuss an issue involving potential criminal or civil misconduct at a Rhode Island wastewater treatment facility. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Patenaude and Dr. Park all voting in the affirmative.

Based on information gathered during executive session, Mr. Patenaude motioned to send a letter of reprimand to the operator under review with a provision that the operator undergo and provide proof of training in appropriate state regulations. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all members present voted in the affirmative, and as such the motion passed.

Mr. Schock motioned to seal the May 6, 2009 Executive Session meeting minutes. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion; all members present voted in favor and as such the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to resume the meeting into open session. Dr. Park seconded the motion. All members voted in favor to seal the minutes, and as such the motion passed.

With the meeting resumed in open session, Mr. Patenaude formally welcomed Dr. Gene Park to the Board. Dr. Park, a URI engineering professor who works with the RI DEM Office of Technical and Customer Assistance in the area of pollution-prevention assistance, will be the representative of educational professionals.

The next order of business was an exam review question by Mr. David Barlow. The Board had reviewed this question on the Grade 2 exam with Mr. Barlow at the March meeting, but Mr. Barlow's superintendent, Mr. Peter Eldridge, was not present at that meeting to provide additional information related to Mr. Barlow's work experience that was related to the answering of the question. Mr. Patenaude invited Mr. Barlow and Mr. Eldridge back to provide additional information.

After discussion on the matter, Mr. Patenaude motioned to grant the exam point to Mr. Barlow. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. With no discussion, Messrs. Patenaude, McLynch and Dr. Park voted in favor of the motion. Messrs. Kurdziel and Schock voted against the motion. As such the motion passed.

The next order of business was the applications of Mr. Gordon Reid and Ms. Sonia Jacquart of the Zambarano Hospital maintenance section. Mr. Patenaude reviewed applicant qualifications and additional information provided by their supervisors. Mr. Schock noted concern regarding the "full-time" requirement of the regulation's Rule 8D. Mr. Patenaude noted there is precedent for allowing part-time staff to be licensed, but with an increase amount of time to gain full licensure. Mr. Kurdziel and Mr. Schock noted growing concerns about the need for experience in operations to better equip a license holder with the necessary skills and knowledge to use a license in other capacities (such as solely in operations) in other facilities.

Mr. Schock motioned to table discussion on the applications as submitted, seeking additional information from the applicants, and/or supervisors, at the June meeting. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. With no discussion all members voted in favor of the motion and as such the motion passed.

The next order of business was a similar request for examination from Mr. David Ramos of the Town of Bristol. Mr. Ramos had been working fulltime as a compost equipment operator, a position which the Board had not allowed licensure due to its remote location and separate operations from the wastewater treatment facility. Recently, WWTF superintendent Matt Calderiso wrote of his need of compost technicians, especially those related to maintenance, to work at the wastewater treatment facility, but not on a full-time basis. Dr. Park noted that this situation seemed similar to the individuals from the Zambarano facility. Mr. Schock stated agreement.

Mr. Schock motioned to table discussion on the applications as submitted, seeking additional information from the applicants, and/or supervisors, at the June meeting. Dr. Park seconded the motion. With no discussion all members voted in favor of the motion and as such the motion passed.

The next order of business was the review of the draft March 2009 meeting minutes.

Mr. Schock motioned to approve the open-meeting portion of the minutes as drafted. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

Mr. Schock motioned to approve the closed-meeting portion of the minutes as drafted. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

With no further business, Mr. Schock motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3rd, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Offices located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.