

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS  
OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

**MINUTES FOR  
JUNE 5, 2002**

Members in attendance: Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock, Tom White  
Absent and excused: Rick Dionne, Ray Wright  
  
Others in attendance: None

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:35AM. Per § 42-46-5(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws as amended, Mr. Patenaude noted that two issues of new business would require discussion in a closed executive session. The nature involved preliminary information regarding possible criminal activities on the part of licensed Rhode Island operators.

**Mr. Schock motioned to adjourn into closed executive session.  
Seconded by Mr. White, all members voted in favor and the  
motion passed.**

The meeting then adjourned into executive session.

After completing the specific business in closed session, the meeting re-opened into open session with a motion by Mr. Schock, a second by Mr. White and all members voting in favor.

The first item to be discussed was the minutes of the March 2002 meeting. Messrs. White, Kurdziel and Schock and Ms. Forgue made a number of editorial comments.

**Mr. Schock motioned to accept the minutes as amended.  
Seconded by Ms. Forgue, Messrs. Kurdziel, Patenaude and White  
voted in favor and the motion passed.**

The next order of business on the agenda was the results of the May 22 exam, which were not yet available from the Department of Administration.

The next order of business was the results of the public comment period for the proposed draft changes to the Rules and Regulations for Wastewater Treatment Facility Operators. The Board received only two submissions for comment, one being from Mr. Jeffrey Ceasrine, P.E., Town Engineer of the Town of Narragansett and Mr. Christian Bratina, P.E., Superintendent of the Cranston WPCF.

The Board reviewed both sets of comments and will respond to the submitters as well as in the required comment-response document. Mr. Ceasrine's comments centered on involving community representatives in any enforcement proceedings. The Board felt that the proposed language and its consistency with state law was sufficient, and that community involvement would then already be a part of such a process. Mr. Ceasrine also suggested that supervisors/superintendents be required to sign off on applications for certification and examination. The Board concurred with that suggestion, and felt that such a policy was to be made administratively by changing the application and as such would not need a change to the regulations.

**Ms. Forgue motioned to not accept Mr. Ceasrine's first comment  
regarding a regulatory re-statement of community involvement of**

**in disciplinary hearings. Seconded by Mr. White, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**Mr. Schock motioned to accept Mr. Ceasrine's second comment regarding superintendent sign off of applications, but to do so administratively and not within the body of the regulations. Seconded by Ms. Forgue, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

The first comments by Mr. Bratina centered on revising the definitions "shift supervisor," "operations supervisor," and "wastewater treatment facility." The Board reviewed the proposed changes and determined that the model of varying supervisory roles in place in the current regulations was sufficient to implement the certification statute, and that the suggested change to the WWTF definition would be a violation of the enabling legislation, as well as make a redundant regulatory oversight with existing DEM programs. The next two comments regarded suggested changes to the OIT provisions. The Board discussed and concluded that the suggested revisions were not in the best interest of the WWTF industry and/or operators.

**Mr. Schock motioned to suspend further consideration of Mr. Bratina's first comment regarding the definitions of shift and operations supervisors. Seconded by Mr. White, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**Mr. Schock motioned to suspend further consideration of Mr. Bratina's first comment regarding the definition of wastewater treatment facility. Seconded by Ms. Forgue, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to suspend further consideration of Mr. Bratina's third comment regarding suggested changes to language regarding OIT provisions. Seconded by Mr. Schock, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

The next item on the agenda was the matter of the community Board-sponsored course, "Principals and Practices of Wastewater Treatment Facilities, Part 1", offered at the College of Rhode Island's Warwick Campus. Both Michael Roberts, superintendent of West Warwick's WWTF, and Paul Desrosiers, assistant superintendent of NBC's Fields Point WWTF, will be unable to continue to provide their time as instructor in the future. Mr. Patenaude explained that Mr. Roberts has been the instructor for many years and is eager to use his time for other uses, and Mr. Desrosiers is unable to make such a commitment on a regular basis. The Board agreed to notify the facilities of the matter requesting interested candidates to submit a resume of experience (wastewater and/or teaching) and education. The Board will review the resumes for further consideration at its July meeting.

**With no new business, Mr. Schock motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Forgue, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

The next meeting was scheduled for July 9, 2002, 9:30 AM at the DEM offices. (The first Wed of the month in July is July 3<sup>rd</sup>.)