



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: August 3, 2011

Members in Attendance: Julia Fogue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude, and Tom White
Others in Attendance: Marisa Desautel, Esq. and Traci Pena, RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude called the August 3, 2011 meeting to order. The first order of business was the review of the draft June 1 meeting minutes.

Mr. White motioned to approve the June 2011 meeting minutes. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. With all eligible members present voting in favor the motion passed.

The next item discussed were the draft June 1, 2011 executive session meeting minutes.

Mr. White motioned to approve the executive session June 2011 meeting minutes with minor grammatical edits. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. With all eligible members present voting in favor the motion passed.

The next order of business was Application Reviews. A request was received from the West Warwick WWTF regarding James DiCaprio to take the Grade 4 exam under Rule 10 of the Rules and Regulations, which relates to the issuance of a Provisional License for a Superintendent or an Assistant Superintendent. Due to possible inconsistencies with the application related to the date that Mr. DiCaprio began his duties in Direct Responsible Charge, Mr. Patenaude asked the he be allowed to grant the Town's request and issue Mr. DiCaprio a six-month provisional license pending review of additional information and the passing of the August examination.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to give the Chair the authority to issue a Grade 4 Provisional license to Mr. DiCaprio pending verification of his start date of Direct Responsible Charge and the passing of the August Grade 4 Examination. If his start date in Direct Responsible Charge is January 2009 the request would be granted; if it is March 2009, the request would be denied. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next application to be reviewed was from Ryan Starkey of the City of Warwick. The Board received an email from Superintendent Joel Burke endorsing Mr. Starkey's application to allow him to sit for the Grade 1 exam. Mr. Starkey currently works as a full-time laborer who has expressed an interest in a profession as a wastewater operator; upon his return to school he would like to continue his employment at the facility on a part-time basis. It is unclear as to how many hours Mr. Starkey is and will be working at the facility. Once this is confirmed the board could extend Mr. Starkey's OIT time. Mr. Patenaude noted that such requests should be supported by the Board to encourage new operators into the profession, and thus help communities develop a potential pool of licensed applicants for future openings.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to give the chair the authority to allow Mr. Starkey to take the Grade 1 exam pending confirmation of the hours he will be working at the facility and, if needed, to extend the

amount of time of any possible OIT license. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next application was from Kyle Phillips of the Smithfield WWTF. Mr. Phillips spends about half of the year performing half his duties in collections and half in operations.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the request to take the Grade 2 exam, but should he pass the Grade 2 exam, the resulting OIT would be extended by an additional 3 months. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next item to be discussed was package plants. Mr. Patenaude noted that the Town of Tiverton's School Department is now in compliance as they currently have a certified Grade 2 operator on site. However, Briarcliffe's operator did not pass the Grade 2 exam during the last exam cycle. Presently the facility is in non compliance.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to send a Notice of Deficiency to Briarcliffe Manor stating that they are not in compliance and to provide to the Board for its review and approval a plan to come in to compliance with the Regulations. The plan is to be submitted by September 7th to be discussed at the September Board meeting. Mr. White seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next item was Regulations Revisions/Mandatory Training Proposals. A new proposal developed by Mr. Patenaude with regard to Mandatory Training would link the need for training assessments with enforcement actions. An operator may be required to take a grade-specific assessment should an enforcement action be imposed. Mr. Patenaude still needs to seek the DEM Director's approval on such an initiative. Mr. McLynch noted conceptual approval of the proposal. Ms. Forgue noted that she was comfortable that a request for using such an enforcement tool would come from the Board, as well as the overall proposed language. Mr. White thought that the Association would not have a problem with the suggested language. Attorney Desautel provided comments to improve the proposed language.

Other proposals Mr. Patenaude suggested in the revisions of the Regulations were to: add definitions for full-time, which would be defined as at least 35 hours or more a week; update the definition of Assistant Superintendent (which currently states that there can only be one Superintendent); lastly, the addition of a licensure methodology to allow an Apprenticeship career track (similar to the matter of Mr. Starkey, above). Mr. Patenaude strongly encourages the Board to review the draft regulations for final.

In new business, Bernard Bishop has retired from the South Kingstown WWTF and the new superintendent is Kathy Perez. Also, Peter Eldridge has retired from the West Warwick WWTF and the Interim Superintendent is Scott Goodinson.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bill Patenaude for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. White, the motion passed with all members voting in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Office located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.