



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

Meeting Minutes: September 5, 2007

Members in Attendance: Richard Dionne, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude and Tom White
Others in Attendance: Dennis Kamfonik – Synagro
Greg Schultz and Traci Pena – RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude opened the meeting with a request to convene the September 2007 Board meeting in Executive session, at which point Mr. Kamfonik left the room during the closed session.

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. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call voting in the affirmative: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Dionne, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. White, and Ms. Forgue.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to send a letter to the operator in question stating that the Board would take no further action, but will be monitoring the situation. Mr. White seconded the motion, all members present voted in favor and the motion passed, with the following roll call voting in the affirmative: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Dionne, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. White, and Ms. Forgue.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the September 5, 2007 Executive Session meeting minutes. Mr. White seconded the motion; all members present voted in favor to seal the minutes with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Dionne, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. White and Ms. Forgue voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to resume the meeting into open session. Mr. White seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor to seal the minutes with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Dionne, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. White, and Ms. Forgue voting in the affirmative.

With the meeting re-opened, one guest, Mr. Kamfonik, re-entered the room. The next agenda item to be addressed was the review of the draft August 2007 meeting minutes.

Mr. Kurdziel motioned to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

The next item was the draft Executive Session August 2007 meeting minutes.

Mr. White motioned to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, and as such the motion passed.

The next item discussed was the Basic WWTF Course grading, as it relates to a request by NBC-FP Assistant Superintendent Paul Desrosiers to allow an NBC employee to receive a passing course grade of the Spring 2007 Basic Wastewater Operator Course. Mr. Desrosiers had argued that in reviewing the midterm with the individual, there was a level of difficulty found that seemed inappropriate for the midterm. Mr. Patenaude passed out an outline for the Grade I Operator course taught by Doug Nettleton. Mr. Patenaude noted that he had spoken with Mr. Nettleton about the matter, who thought that some of the students did not study appropriately for the midterm exam, which prompted them to study harder for the final. Mr. Patenaude noted that his review of the midterm did seem to support Mr. Desrosiers' claim, in that some of the mid-term questions may have been weighted for more "end-of-course" material. Further, Mr. Patenaude noted that the final exam, in which the individual scored a 70, is indeed the same exam as given by the Board. As such, a 70% passing rate should prove that the individual understood the material of the exam. Mr. Dionne stated that given the midterm's possible over-complexity, it would be appropriate to set aside in this instance only the mid-term grades. Mr. Dionne also suggested that quizzes could be incorporated to help students along the way. Mr. Kurdziel stated that the mid-term should be an education as to what the final exam will be like, and a wake-up call to work harder for the final, which in this case it seemed it was. Mr. Patenaude agreed, and noted that there needs to be better coordination between the Board (who writes the exams) and the instructor, so that the instructor can better plan for the material to be tested on.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to allow the subject individual successful completion of the course, with a follow-up between himself as Board chair and the instructor to review the course material and make any appropriate revisions to future midterm exams. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor, the motion passed.

The agenda item Mandatory Retraining for Renewal was continued.

The next item on the agenda was WWTF Manager Training "Boot Camp," which commences on September 27, 2007. Mr. Patenaude noted that to date there were some nine individuals nominated to date, and that they appeared to be excited to attend.

The item Operator Definition/Levels of Certification will be continued pending Mr. Schock's attendance.

With no new business, Mr. Patenaude moved to adjournment. Mr. White seconded the motion. With all members voted in favor, the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in room 280 of the DEM - Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.