



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: November 4, 2009

Members in Attendance: Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Dr. Gene Park, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White
Others in Attendance: Traci Pena and Marissa Desautel - DEM
Peter Eldridge, West Warwick WWTF

The November 4, 2009 meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The first order of business was the review of the draft October 2009 meeting minutes.

Mr. Schock motioned to approve the October 2009 meeting minutes with an editorial change. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor, with the exception of Mr. White who abstained as he was not present at the October meeting.

Mr. Schock motioned to approve the closed meeting portion of the minutes as amended. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor, with the exception of Mr. White who abstained as he was not present at the October meeting.

The next order of business was Operator Enforcement. The only open case involved a letter that was sent to an individual per previous Board discussions; said individual had 30 days to reply to the Board.

The next discussion was Mandatory Retraining. Previous discussions indicate that the Board is deadlocked on this issue because of the cost potentially associated with the program as it relates to the operators, trainers, and community. Mr. Patenaude suggested a compromise that would both encourage training of the state's wastewater treatment facility operators while allowing for municipal flexibility. This compromise plan would link the certification training requirement with existing regulatory language within the Operations and Maintenance Regulations, which requires a training plan as part of a wastewater treatment facility O&M plan. An example of such linkage could require that a community's O&M plan require the plant superintendent to submit a training plan approved by the Board, which would outline how plant operators would be trained over the course of a renewal period. Mr. Schock offered that this approach might be better served if a template was provided for which communities could base plans. Mr. Kurdziel wondered how the Board would check compliance for such a program, if approved. Mr. Patenaude suggested for consideration having the superintendent sign off on the training. Some members also were concerned about individuals not employed at a Rhode Island wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Patenaude stated, if these individuals wanted to re-enter the program, they must show some kind of evidence of training. Mr. Patenaude

stated this was a conceptual plan and many details still needed to be worked out; he noted he'd like superintendent feedback before moving too far ahead. Mr. Schock stated he needed to see a template before he was to vote.

The next item discussed were the draft Regulation revisions. In particular extensive draft changes were made to Rule 8. After further discussion the Board agreed to review the edits, and forward any comments to Mr. Patenaude. Mr. Patenaude would review with Attorney Desautel.

There were no exam applications to be reviewed.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Office located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.