

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

MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2001

In Attendance: Rick Dionne, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, and Tom White
Also in Attendance: Paul Desrosiers, NBC-Fields Point
Traci Lima, RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

The first order of business was the review of the February 2001 meeting minutes.

**Mr. White motioned to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Dionne, all members
voted in favor and the motion passed.**

The next order of business was the matter of David Gaipo. At the last meeting Mr. Gaipo was approved for a Grade 3 Provisional license because of his request for reciprocity. The board has the ability to issue a Grade 2 license to Mr. Gaipo as he does meet the qualifications for Grade 2. This matter was not discussed at the February meeting.

**As such, Mr. Patenaude motioned to issue Mr. Gaipo a Grade 2
license via equivalency. Seconded by Mr. White, all members
voted in favor and the motion passed.**

The next issue regarding Mr. Gaipo was the length of his OIT, should he pass the exam in May 2001. This matter was tabled pending further information from Mr. Gaipo's experience at Yarmouth.

Mr. Patenaude presented the Board with a chart of the *Summary of Grade 3 Examination through Section 12(f)*. Mr. Schock raised discussion at the last meeting, as to examples where a 3-year OIT has been given to an individual. This discussion was tabled due to Mr. Schock's absence.

The next order on the agenda was the matter of the CCRI course and exam; concern was raised about the number of people passing the course. At the last meeting, Messers. Dionne, Patenaude and White agreed to review the grade 1 exam. Changes were made to the grade 1 exam, making questions clearer, removing answers with the phrase "none of the above" or "all of the above" and questions with the word "NOT". Mr. Desrosiers handed out a copy of the CCRI course syllabus and mentioned that the course was once 20 classes but because CCRI is under construction the location of the course has moved to Tolgate High School and it is now less expensive to have 16 classes.

The next order of business was an update from the League of Cities and Towns for the replacement of Adel Banoub. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that Dan Beardsley would submit a name for appointment in "a couple of weeks."

The next order of business was an update on the website. Mr. Patenaude distributed hard copies of the site and informed the board that the next step would be to announce upcoming meeting, post agendas, meeting minutes, exam announcements and exam results. He asked for the ongoing input of the Board.

Discussion was raised about the posting and confidentiality of operator's social security number on the web. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that the certification numbers could be used but the applicants taking the Grade 1 exam do not yet have certification numbers.

The next item on the agenda was new business.

Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that the Spring 2001 exam will be on May 17, 2001 at the Community College of Rhode Island – Warwick Campus. In new Business, Mr. Patenaude inquired about the fee the operator applicants

must pay. He posed the question, if one submits a \$10.00 fee for the exam, then fails the exam and passes the CCRI course, should the operator pay \$5.00 or \$10.00? It was the understanding of present Board members that the \$10 fee applies until an applicant achieves his/her initial certification level.

Other new business was an update on NWPCA. Mr. White informed the Board that NWPCA met the previous evening and a new President and Treasurer was named. Also NWPCA was requesting names and addresses of RI certified operators for membership and training newsletters. A previous legal opinion regarding providing this information to individuals and communities seemed to indicate that granting this request may not be possible. Mr. Patenaude would like to speak with DEM's Legal office to see if it was indeed allowable to provide names from our database to NWPCA for training and membership purposes.

Mr. Kurdziel mentioned if the meeting announcement needed to be posed at the state house. Mr. Patenaude said it need only be posed in two public places; presently it is posted at DEM, DOH and mailed to all Superintendents.

With no further business, Messers White and Kurdziel motioned to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next meeting was scheduled for 9:30 on Wednesday, April 4, 2001, in conference room 280C in the Office of Water Resources on the 2nd floor of the Department of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence.