

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Board of Certification of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Members in Attendance: Bill Patenaude, Melissa Orpen-Tuz, Paul Desrosiers, Frank McLynch and Jon Schock

Others in Attendance: Jen Lichtensteiger, NEIW PCC
Eddie Davies, Basic Course Instructor
Scott Goodinson, Narragansett WWTf
Joe LoBianco, Esq and Traci Pena, RIDEM

MEETING MINUTES – JULY 1, 2020

Due to the COVID restriction, the Board held a teleconference meeting.

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:30 p.m.

Mr. Patenaude performed an audio roll call of Board members and members of the public/wastewater industry that were participating. (See above).

The Board reviewed the draft May 6, 2020 meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Schock motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. McLynch, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. Schock and Mr. Patenaude voting in favor. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz abstained as she was not in attendance at the May 6th meeting.

The Board then reviewed the draft May 18, 2020 meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Schock motion to approve the minutes. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. McLynch, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. Schock and Mr. Patenaude voting in favor. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz and Mr. Desrosiers abstained as they were not in attendance at the May 18th meeting.

The next item discussed was the status and protocols for the August 18 and 19th exams.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Mr. Patenaude stated that the Board had to consider the implications of meeting restrictions on the upcoming examinations, as well as the matter of previous applicant for the April exams. After discussion, the Board directed DEM staff to attempt to maximize the numbers of those who could take an exam, especially in light of April's exams having been canceled. As such, Mr. Patenaude and Mrs. Pena will work to identify venues to supplement DEM Room 300. (Exams must be given on those dates and times as noticed, but we can add locations if possible.) Mr. Patenaude asked if anyone had suggestions. The following was also discussed:

- If sufficient space is not found, the Board would prioritize examinees by (i) those who had signed up for the April exams, then (ii) those who have a specific need to take an exam (such as Grade 1s or higher grades needed for a particular position), and then if needed (iii), in the order of application receipt date.

- Should conditions in August require statewide reductions in sizes of gatherings, etc., the Board may further limit examinees or cancel the exams at the last minute.
- Special rules will be in place for examinees regarding COVID19 screenings, masks, social distancing, etc
- Details will be in examinees' approval letters.

It was also noted that the application period for the August exams began on June 29. Those who had applied for the April exams will be receiving correspondence regarding the August exams.

Next to be discussed was an update from Eddie Davies, the WWTF Basic Course instructor, and Len Lichtensteiger of NEIWPC. Mr. Davies noted that he was unable to finish the course prior to COVID19 meeting restrictions. His goal now is to complete the course with three in-person meetings later this month, which will be held in a large meeting area in Quonset, with the final exam at the last meeting on Thursday, July 30. The completion of this course and those who pass could also add to the August exams.

Mr. Davies and Ms. Lichtensteiger left the call at 10:05.

Next to be discussed was a brief discussion on the March 2020 Board COVID-19 guidance. The Board did not think updates were necessary at this time.

Mr. LoBianco left the call at 10:15.

Regulation updates were tabled.

In new business, due to the Governor's executive order to remove "Providence Plantations" from executive function documents, the Board will be creating new documents to be used for the time being. This will include a printable version of the application which should be used from now and until further notice. A printable application will be sent, and other Board stationary will be revised.

At 10:23 Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mr. McLynch seconded. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Desrosiers, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz, Mr. Schock, Mr. McLynch and Mr. Patenaude voting in the affirmative.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held by teleconference or via a video platform.