



Board Of Certification of Operators OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: February 6, 2008

Members in Attendance: Richard Dionne, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White

Others in Attendance: Traci Pena – RIDEM and Marisa Desautel, RIDEM – Legal Counsel

The first agenda item to be addressed was the review of the draft open October 2007 meeting minutes.

Mr. White motioned to approve the minutes with one minor amendment. Mr. Shock seconded the motion. Ms. Forgue abstained, as she was not present at the October 2007 meeting. All other members present voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed.

The next item on the agenda to be discussed was an update on the Operator Challenge. Due to scheduling, representatives of the Narragansett Water Pollution Control Association could not attend the board meeting; as such this item was postponed pending a presentation by members from the team.

The next item was an update on proposed legislative changes. Mr. Patenaude reported that due to the relatively minor changes of the proposed changes there was likely little chance of being considered. The suggested change would conform the statute to administrative processes of renewal periods lasting two years (which was more convenient for DEM and the regulated community) as well as raise the cost of exam applications to a non-refundable \$25.00 fee regardless of denial of examination or the applicant failing to meet examination requirements. As part of the discussion, Mr. Patenaude noted that the Department of Administration provides a service for exam Quality Assurance/Quality Control. Mr. Patenaude will meet with DOA to find out more information about this service they provide. Mr. Patenaude would also check with NEIWPCC to see what services they offer. Mr. Schock thought it would be worthy to take a poll to get a sense of who pays for the cost of the operators' exam to ascertain what kind of fiscal burden this poses on the communities and individual.

The next item discussed was an Application for Reciprocity from a Mr. Charles B Labbé, an employee of the City of Warwick's Sewer Authority as a laboratory technician assisting with process control. Mr. Labbé applied for reciprocity Grade 3 in Rhode Island from the State of Massachusetts. His application noted, and had been confirmed, that Mr. Labbé has a Bachelor of Science degree but that his experience in wastewater may not meet the requirements for Grade 3 reciprocity, even with his Massachusetts Grade 6c-Full license, which is the highest license available in the Commonwealth. After review and discussion, Mr. Patenaude felt as though a Grade 2 license would be more appropriate. However, Ms. Forgue argued that Mr. Labbé may be eligible for a Grade 3 license given his education and thought the individual should present himself at the next Board meeting with his Superintendent to be available for questions and answers.

Mr. Schock motioned to continue the matter of Mr. Labbé's request for Reciprocity pending an appearance by the applicant and superintendent at the next Board meeting. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude reminded members who need to submit their renewals to do so.

With no further business Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjournment, seconded by Mr. Schock. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in room 280 of the DEM – Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.