

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

MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2002

In Attendance: Rick Dionne, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock, Tom White and Ray Wright

Also in Attendance: Mike Roberts, West Warwick WWTF, CCRI Course Instructor

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

The first order of business was the review of the February 2002 meeting minutes. A review of the minutes prompted the following amendments: Mr. Schock noted that on the first page, the last motion should reflect that ALL members present at that meeting had voted in favor of that motion; Mr. Schock also noted that the first motion on the second page should also state his name in the list of all those members voting in favor of the motion; in the discussion preceding and prompting that motion, Mr. Schock proposed adding the phrase "... in accordance with the Board's regulations allowing Grade 4 reciprocity only to assistant superintendents and superintendents so employed at a Rhode Island grade 4 wastewater treatment facility" at the end of the last sentence in the discussion. Mr. Kurdziel noted that the second to the last motion on the last page should strike a redundant "voted in" term (used twice in the draft). It was also noted that Mr. Forgue's, Mr. Patenaude's and Mr. Kurdziel's name did not appear in the list of voting in favor of the motion, and that the minutes should be changed to "All members voted in favor of the motion."

Mr. Schock motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. White, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude asked the Board to take the "New Business" agenda item next, so that Mr. Michael Roberts could discuss an issue relating to the CCRI Board-sponsored Grade 1 course. Mr. Roberts, speaking as the course instructor, notified the Board that due to administrative "glitches" at the Community College of Rhode Island, the course text book was still not in stock, and may not be so for another week or so. He noted his concern that this may result in poor grades if the course timeline was presented as initially advertised. The Board discussed a number of options, including postponing the final exam a few weeks, just prior to the Board WWTF operator exams. Dr. Wright asked Mr. Robert's opinion on the benefit of the book to the students, to which Mr. Roberts stated that the reading in the book was critical and could result in a 10-point difference in the final exam without it. After a brief discussion, the Board advised Mr. Roberts that because of this inconvenience, all members of his class would be allowed to take the Grade 1 exam offered by the Board, in addition to his final exam, which he would reschedule for a week (or so) after the current April 11 date.

Mr. Roberts thanked the Board for the consideration and left the meeting.

The next item discussed was the regulation update. Mr. Patenaude notified the Board that a final draft of the regulations had been cleared with DEM Legal, and that he had drafted the public notice and a "Plain-English" guide to the regulation changes. The Board took a moment to review the Plain-English guide. Mr. Shock noted the reference to a proposed full-time requirement for superintendents, which while discussed at previous Board minutes had not been resolved. A review of the November 2001 through January 2002 minutes indicated the discussion on that matter had not come to a vote. A general discussion on the need for a full-time superintendent followed. Mr. Schock felt such a mandate would be unfair to smaller communities who split wastewater duties with drinking water duties. Mr. Patenaude stated his concerns of larger (Grade 4) contract-operated plants having in the past wanted to split the duties of a superintendent between two such plants, sometimes in two separate states. Mr. Shock noted that such a matter would be better dealt with in DEM's approved Operations and Maintenance Regulations. Mr. Patenaude was unsure of the wording and consistency in such O&M manuals, and while wishing to have a firm rule to require such a full-time status, agreed that (given that the issue at this time was not pressing) the matter could be re-evaluated at a later date if the need arose.

Mr. Schock motioned to strike the proposed "full-time" language from the draft regulations. Seconded by Mr. White, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next item discussed was the public notice of the regulations. Mr. Patenaude presented the Board with the two options available, which were to notice the regulations for written comment only, or to notice them for both a written comment period and public hearing. Given the minor nature of the changes, and the educational efforts being made about the changes, Mr. Patenaude suggested that the notice be for a written notice period only. To that end,

Mr. Patenaude motioned to public notice the regulations as soon as printing was completed of educational materials. Seconded by Mr. White, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was the matter of Mr. Matthew Coviello, for whom the Board reviewed his OIT status at the last meeting. A vote at that meeting to upgrade his OIT status to a full license based on work experience had been done without a formal public notice of the matter. As the matter was public noticed in the agenda for this meeting,

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the decision and vote, which had allowed full licensure for Mr. Coviello. Seconded by Ms. Forgue, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

The last item of was a letter sent to the Board via the DEM Director by a Mr. Claus H. Lang, Director of Business Development for Professional Credential Services Inc., of Nashville, TN. The letter brought to the Board's attention the certification services offered by that company. Agreeing that the Board and DEM administrative functions were adequate to function in these services,

Mr. Schock motioned to keep the letter on file with no further exploration in the services of Professional Credential Services, Inc. Seconded by Ms. Forgue, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Forgue, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next meeting was scheduled for 9:30 on Wednesday, April 3, 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.