



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, APRIL 6, 2016

Members in Attendance: Paul Desrosiers, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude, and Jon Schock

Others in Attendance: Christina Hoefsmit, Esq. and Traci Pena, DEM
Scott Goodinson & Charles Labbé (Warwick)
David Gaipo (Westerly)

The meeting came to order at 9:35 a.m.

The first order of business was the review of the draft March 2, 2016 meeting minutes.

Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

The next item to be discussed was Operator Licensure Application Reviews. Messers. Goodinson and Labbé were before the Board to provide additional information related to the licensure request of Mr. Labbé, such as additional information on Mr. Labbé's current position, a WSA organization chart and an updated application. Mr. Labbé is a Grade 2 Rhode Island operator and a Grade 6C in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He was hired by the WSA in 2007. In 2008 his application for Grade 3 examination was denied as he lacked direct responsible charge. The Warwick Sewer Authority is seeking guidance on a plan agreeable to both the Board and the City to have Mr. Labbé obtain a Grade 4 license so he may be offered a promotional opportunity as the Assistant Superintendent at the Warwick WWTF. After a review of the material, Mr. Schock thought the organization chart and letter from Mrs. Janine Burke-Wells dated March 31 2016 were in conflict. He also was trying to relate the terminology in the chart to the Regulations. Mr. Desrosiers saw Mr. Labbé's role as providing guidance, not supervision. Mr. Goodinson informed the Board that according to their union contract, supervisors cannot discipline, but they do supervise. Messers Patenaude and McLynch would be comfortable with following the E. Providence model from the board meeting of December 4, 2013.

After discussions, Mr. Schock motioned to offer Messers Goodinson and Labbé to wait until absent board members were at the meeting. After conferring, Messers Goodinson and Labbé said they would wait for the next meeting in hopes that all Board members would be present. As such the matter was tabled pending a full board. Mr. Desrosiers seconded, all members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

Messers. Goodinson and Labbé left the meeting.

Per §42-46-4 and §42-46-5(a)(4), Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session to discuss issues regarding Rhode Island wastewater treatment operator related to possible civil or criminal misconduct. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers, and Mr. Schock voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Schock motioned to approve the Executive Session minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting, as amended. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Mr. Patenaude abstained from the vote as he was not present during executive session.

Note that Mr. Patenaude recused himself from the meeting during deliberations and voting on the matter of the Town of Westerly. Mr. Patenaude left the meeting at 10:43.

Mr. Schock motioned to send an area manager a letter requesting two SOPs: 1) For reporting exceedances and 2) procedures for staffing absences for all plants operated by Suez in Rhode Island. The letter would also state that the letter would remain in file for 5 years. After the five year period the area manager may request its removal from his file. Also, to inform the operator that subsequent violations of the WWTF Operators Regulations may result in progressive disciplinary actions. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. As all members voted in favor, the motion passed. Mr. Patenaude did not vote on the matter as he had recused himself and was not present during deliberations and vote.

Mr. Patenaude returned to the meeting.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to send Mr. Earle Gardner and Mr. Robert Paquette a letter requesting a hearing as it related to their wastewater license renewal. Mr. Desrosiers seconded. All members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the March 2, 2016 executive session meeting minutes. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with all present voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to resume the meeting into open session. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all present voting in the affirmative.

The Board then discussed how the Board's Regulations and DEM's work together, and which one provides what authority to which body regarding staffing. Ms. Hoefsmit will look into the matter and provide guidance.

The matters of Evaluation of Points for biological removal/advanced treatment in the Rules and Regulation Plan Classification worksheet and draft Regulations were tabled.

The next item discussed were course approvals.

Mr. Shock motion to approve Free Preparedness Tools & Resource for Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities, EPA – Water Utility and Emergency Services Coordination Workshop, Laboratory Information Management Systems & Emerging Technologies and to deny Poo & Brew #3. Mr. Desrosiers seconded. All members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.