



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

**BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS
OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Meeting Minutes: June 6, 2007

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

Others in Attendance: Dennis Kamfonik, Plant Manager - Synagro
Traci Pena, RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude opened the meeting at 9:30AM. The first item of business was a review of the draft April 2007 meeting minutes.

Mr. Dionne motioned to approve the draft April 2007 meeting minutes with minor grammatical amendments. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor, the motion passed.

The next item to be discussed was the executive session meeting minutes from the April 2007 meeting.

Mr. Dionne motioned to approve the Executive session meeting minutes. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. With all Board members present voting in favor, the motion passed.

The first item discussed was the Application for Licensure for Mr. Dennis Kamfonik, who was present at the meeting to introduce himself and brief the Board and discuss his past experience in the field. He will be replacing Mr. Michael Madden as the new Project Manager of the Synagro facility in Woonsocket. Mr. Kamfonik will be applying to take the Grade 2 exam in the Fall and will not be seeking reciprocity, but in the meantime, will apply for a Grade 2 Provisional license; this application will be forwarded to the Board for consideration at the next meeting.

The next item discussed was Board Responsibilities Regarding Operator Licensure Limitations, which was requested by Mr. Schock at the previous meeting. With Mr. Schock's excused absence at this meeting, the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Patenaude brought before the Board a concern discussed at the previous meeting regarding the issue of a US citizenship requirement for licensed operators. As background, Mr. Patenaude noted that the Dept of Labor and Training requested an update on Board information for their state license database, and in the data submitted by the DLT was a category for US citizenship.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to formally approve US Citizenship as a requirement of licensure. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

The next agenda item discussed was Mandatory Retraining for Renewal, for which Mr. Patenaude had sought a discussion with the League of Cities and Towns prior to further discussion by the Board. Ms. Forgue will aid Mr. Patenaude in scheduling a meeting with the League to discuss with the organization what concerns its members may have are regarding Mandatory Retraining for Renewal.

The next topic was Exam Results. Mr. Patenaude pointed out that the Operator 1 course mid-term results were lower than previous courses. Typically the mid term counts for 30% and the final exam counts for 70%. Given the lower results of the midterm, Mr. Patenaude questioned whether the students had covered all the necessary material prior to taking the exam. In his discussion with the course instructor, Mr. Douglas Nettleton, Mr. Patenaude sought a better understanding of why this group's midterms were noticeably less than usual; Mr. Patenaude noted that this was an important questions as the design of the course was such that that midterm was meant to help students better prepare for the final exam. As such, Mr. Patenaude sought permission from the Board to discount the midterm grades if the final grades showed great improvement, and so grant the chair discretion in this instance to allow the final to count for 100% of the final grade. After discussion, Ms. Forgue suggested that the Board monitor the matter to see if there is a pattern, but for now saw no reason for the Board to change the existing grading system. The Board requested that a discussion of the course syllabus be held at the next meeting.

There next matter on the agenda was enforcement actions, of which there were none to report.

In new business, Mr. Patenaude congratulated the Operator's Challenge Team for a job well done! The team placed second overall in the NEWEA Regional Operator Challenge held earlier in the month, with placements of first, second and thirds in various categories. Mr. Kurdziel suggested that full credit could be given to those who participated in the Operator's Challenge, should Mandatory Retraining for Renewal come to fruition.

Ms. Forgue announced that she is a part of Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN). The purpose of WARN is to recognize that emergencies may require assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, and supplies from outside the area of impact. Through the program, members would coordinate municipal response activities and share resources during emergencies. Mr. Patenaude requested that Ms. Forgue email him any information she had for use in the O&M program.

With no other new business, Mr. Patenaude moved to adjournment. With Mr. White seconded the motion, and all members present voting in favor, the motion passed.

The next meeting will be determined as the July meeting falls on the Fourth of July, a state holiday.