



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Members in Attendance: Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude and Jon Schock
Others in Attendance: Christina Hoefsmit, Esq. and Traci Pena

The meeting came to order at 9:30 a.m.

The first order of business was the review of the draft October 7, 2015 meeting minutes.

After review of the draft October 7, 2015 meeting minutes, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes with a minor edit. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

The next order were the review of the draft executive session meeting minutes.

After review of the draft October 7, 2015 executive session meeting minutes, Mr. Kurdziel motioned to approve the minutes with a minor edit. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

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 operators 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 and Mr. Schock voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Schock made a motion to send letters to two operators inviting them to the next Board meeting. The letter would also state that the as the Board is contemplating an enforcement action as it relates to specific events, they would also be advised that they are allowed legal counsel if they feel it is necessary. Mr. McLynch seconded, as such the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to send a letter to an operator in responsible charge requesting additional information regarding individual licensure statuses at the facility he manages. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All members voted in favor and as such the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the November 4, 2015 executive session meeting minutes. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to resume the meeting into open session. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel and Mr. Schock voting in the affirmative.

Next item discussed were application reviews. The Board reviewed an application from Peter Hassel, who had obtained a Massachusetts 3M license through examination, equivalent to the Rhode Island Grade 2, which has since expired. Mr. Patenaude inquired if the Board would issue Mr. Hassel a Grade 2 license through reciprocity (since he has passed a Grade 2 equivalent exam) even though his Massachusetts license is expired. Mr. Schock stated that Mr. Hassel does not have a valid license, as it is expired. Regulations state that you must have a license. As Board members expressed agreement with Mr. Schock, Mr. Patenaude said that we will sign up Mr. Hassel for the November exam.

Next were course reviews. The Board reviewed and approved 2 courses: NEWEA: Nutrient Removal Compliance Strategies for Small Communities" (November 18th, 2015), approved for 3 hours and EPA All-Hazards Boot Camp Training: Emergency Planning, Response, and Recovery (November 10th, 2015), approved for 2 hours.

Mr. Patenaude provided an update on the Grade 1 course: he noted that from what he has heard, the decision regarding the final exam was met positively within the profession. In addition, the course instructor, Mr. Carmine Goneconte, would like to allow Grade 2 operators to attend the course (at a reduced price) if they would like to audit it as a refresher. The Board had no objections, but cautioned that the course must be focused on the participants who require the Grade 1 license.

Mr. Patenaude noted that the DEM Operator Management Boot Camp began last month and is going well.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn at 10:25. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and as such the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.