



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, August 3, 2016

Members in Attendance: Janet Baldwin, Paul Desrosiers, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, and Bill Patenaude

Others in Attendance: Brian Martin and José DaSilva, Bristol WWTF
Gregory Schultz, Esq. and Nevin Lally, Intern, Rhode Island Attorney General
Traci Pena, Alex Pinto, and Matt Puglia, RIDEM

The meeting came to order.

The first order of business was the review of the draft June 1, 2016 meeting minutes.

Mr. Kurdziel motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members present 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 operator related to possible civil or criminal misconduct. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers and Dr. Baldwin voting in the affirmative.

Mr. McLynch motioned to appoint Mr. Desrosiers as chair for purposes of deliberation on the matters of the Towns of Bristol and Westerly. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

After discussion it was decided that more information is needed. Mr. Desrosiers motioned to send an individual of the Westerly WWTF and an individual of the Bristol WWTF letters inviting them to attend the September 7, 2016 meeting and provide the Board with additional information regarding the facts and circumstances that resulted in the failure to report violations to DEM in a timely manner. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, as such 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 motioned to seal the August 3, 2016 executive session meeting minutes. Dr. Baldwin seconded the motion. The motion passed with all present voting in the affirmative.

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

At 10:35 Messrs. Martin and DaSilva entered the meeting to discuss a question on the Grade 3 exam to which he received a grade 69. Mr. Patenaude reminded the Board that the exam is designed to test an examinee's knowledge of the profession, so that the Board should weigh if a reasonable answer was provided and could be justified in a way that showed the examinee is proficient in the material. Mr. Martin reviewed and discussed his exam.

After discussion Mr. Patenaude motioned to remove the question from the Grade 3 exam and to award Mr. Martin the point thereby increasing his score to a passing mark. Mr. McLynch seconded. The motion passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Dr. Baldwin, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. McLynch, and Mr. Patenaude. Mr. Desrosiers voted nay. As such the motion passed.

Messers. Martin and DaSilva left the meeting.

Next to be discussed were Operator Licensure applications. The Board had before them an application for Mr. Jess Whitten. Mr. Whitten has a Grade 2 OIT from the State of New Hampshire and is seeking reciprocity.

After review of Mr. Whitten's application, Mr. McLynch motioned to issue Mr. Whitten a Grade 2 OIT through reciprocity. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. As such the motion passed with all members present voting in favor.

Next item discussed were the exam statistics. It was noted that many examinees failed the exam. Dr. Baldwin discussed trends related to previous exams. Mr. Desrosiers stated that he would like to get back to offering the exam 2 times a year, as the August exam was too close to the May exams. Mr. Patenaude stated that if the passing rate was higher he may be inclined but that the matter will continue for the next meeting.

Regulation updates were then discussed. Mr. Patenaude gave members an updated draft of the regulations. Revisions were reviewed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Licensure revocation for failure to renew was discussed. One individual had 30 days to contest a pending revocation of their license due to non-renewal and they had not done so.

Mr. Patenaude motion to revoke the license of Mr. Robert Paquette. Dr. Baldwin seconded the motion, as such the motion passed.

After review of the June 14th, 2016 meeting minutes Mr. McLynch voted to approved the minutes as drafted. Mr. Desrosiers seconded. All members voted in favor as such the motion passed.

In new business, Mr. Desrosiers invited all to attend the NWPCA Annual Clambake and Trade Show on September 9th.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn, Mr. McLynch seconded. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 9:30 at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.