



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES-**  
235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 3, 2021 AT 9:30 A.M.**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Brenda Cheaye, Paul Desrosiers, Michael Gray, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock, and CJ Spellman

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Eddie Davies and Scott Goodinson, RICWA  
Ryan Mulcahey, Legislative Liaison  
Christina Hoefsmit, Esq, Traci Pena, Matt Puglia, and Jack Segal, RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

The first order of business was the introduction of the new hire for RIDEM O&M Inspector, Jack Segal.

Next was the review of the draft October 6, 2021 meeting minutes.

**After review, Mr. Desrosiers motioned to approve the October 6, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in the affirmative. Mr. Schock abstained as he was not at the October meeting.**

**Mr. Patenaude then motioned to convene into executive session per §42-46-4 and §42-46-5(a)(4) to discuss matters of potential criminal or civil misconduct. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. Gray, Mr. Patenaude, and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.**

Messrs. Davies, Goodinson and Mulcahey left the meeting.

After a return to open meeting at 10:25, Messrs. Davies and Goodinson returned to the meeting. Mr. Mulcahey was not able to return due to a prior engagement.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the November 3, 2021 executive session meeting minutes. Ms. Cheaye seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. Gray, Mr. Patenaude, and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.**

As required, executive session motions made and voted upon in the affirmative were repeated in open session:

**After review within Executive Session, Ms. Cheaye motioned to approve the executive session October 6, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in the affirmative. Mr. Schock abstained as he was not at the October meeting.**

**Mr. Schock motioned to write a letter to three operators to invite them to the next meeting to provide further information regarding a matter that may impact their status of In Good Standing. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor as such the motion passed.**



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**Mr. Patenaude motioned to reconvene into an open meeting. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. Gray, Mr. Patenaude, and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.**

Next to be discussed was Training Course approvals.

**Mr. Schock motioned to approve the 2021 Jacobs: Level 1 Wastewater Operator Course: for 17 hours of credits. Mr. Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**

The Board was given a November 2021 exam update. The exam will be held over 2 days.

The Board reviewed an exam application from Nicholas Cook to assess OIT time and eligibility to sit for the exam.

**After review of the application and supplemental information, Mr. Patenaude motioned to allow and individual to sit for the Grade 1 November 2021 exam and have an OIT indefinitely until full-time. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.**

As a follow up to earlier conversations about changes to the Board's enabling legislation to reflect new names of organizations, etc., Mr. Patenaude stated that he had been informed by DEM's legislative liaison, Ryan Mulcahey, that there were no sponsors willing to advance those changes, especially with COVID-19 resulting in lighter legislative dockets. Mr. Patenaude did welcome other Board members to reach out to their respective member organizations as possible sponsors.

Mr. Patenaude thanked RICWA for all their support for Boot Camp.

In new business, compliments were made to Mr. Davies on his success with the Grade 1 course and his style of teaching. The average score for finals was 79.

Also, the Board discussed facilities having difficulties recruiting higher grades. It was noted that the Regulation changes may be helpful at addressing the shortages. Others mentioned that it is also a nation-wide problem or simply a matter of salaries being offered.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Ms. Cheaye seconded the motion. With all members voting in approval, the motion passed.**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. and will be held in person at DEM 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908. All are invited to attend.