



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

DRAFT Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 - Regulations

Members in Attendance: Dr. Janet Baldwin, Julia Fogue, Frank McLynch, Melissa Orpen-Tuz, Bill Patenaude and Jon Schock

Others in Attendance: Traci Pena and Matt Puglia, RIDEM

At 2:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

Note: This was a special meeting to discuss proposed amendments to the Regulations. The Board did not have quorum at the September 4, 2019 meeting so other business was discussed.

The Board reviewed draft August 7, 2019 meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the August 7th minutes. Mr. McLynch seconded. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Mrs. Fogue, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz and Dr. Baldwin abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

The Board reviewed draft August 7, 2019 executive session meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the August 7th minutes. Mr. McLynch seconded. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Mrs. Fogue, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz and Dr. Baldwin abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

The Board then reviewed the draft August 20th Regulations meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the August 20th meeting minutes. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Mrs. Fogue, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz, Dr. Baldwin and Mr. Schock abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

The Board then reviewed the draft September 4, 2019 meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. McLynch motioned to approve the September 4th meeting minutes as amended. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz seconded. Mr. Schock, Dr. Baldwin, Mr. Patenaude and Mrs. Fogue abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

The next discussion regarded a request for an oral exam. It was agreed that Dr. Baldwin and Mr. McLynch would proctor the oral exam. Discussion ensued as to the oral exam process and time and location.

Next discussed was the Basic Course instructor. Three individuals expressed interest, but only one followed the process, Edward Davies. Mr. Patenaude felt Mr. Davies had the skill set in which to teach the course. Dr. Baldwin thought his resume showed little direct operational experience. Mr. Patenaude offered an overview of Mr. Davies' role in the operator challenge team.

After discussion, Mr. Schock motioned to approve Mr. Davies as the new instructor for the NEIWPC basic course. Ms. Forgue seconded. All members present voted in favor, as such, the motion passed. Mr. Patenaude will contact NEIWPC to introduce Mr. Davies to set the schedule and location. He will also meet with Mr. Davies to discuss his roles and responsibilities.

Next the Board talked about the Regulation revisions. The Board reviewed the guidelines for Grade 3 examination for certain maintenance positions that were developed from the August 20th meeting. Board members generally liked the guideline but would also like to add that individuals who pass the Grade 3 would need to work in operations and be in direct responsible charge to actually attain licensure.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to draft language as it relates to examinee qualification for Grade 3 exams and to use the guidelines presented in the August 20th meeting and updates from this meeting. The language would include specific details of time in operations, etc. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. Mr. Shock voted nay. All other eligible members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

Next to be discussed was the Grade level of laboratory and pretreatment individuals. Mr. Patenaude said he was not an advocate for licensing said positions above Grade 2. Ms. Forgue thought the Board was focusing too much on the Narragansett Bay Commission. Their needs are not representative of all RI treatment plants.

The next item was defining "sciences" in for the upper grades. Mr. Schock and Mrs. Forgue thought it should include biology, chemistry, and engineering courses, environmental and physical sciences, not to include business sciences. Other factors would include trade schools, number of classes and degree. Dr. Baldwin will explore this piece of the Regulations.

Mr. Patenaude stated that once the Board came up with guidance, each would be responsible for developing draft language for the Regulations.

At 3:00 p.m., Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz seconded. All members present voted in favor and as such the motion passed.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.

The next meeting regarding the Regulation Revisions will be scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at 2:00 at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.