



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

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

Others in Attendance: Eddie Davies, Quonset Point WWTF
Meg Goulet, NBC
Ryan Patnode, NBC
Joe LoBianco, Esq., and Traci Pena, RIDEM

MEETING MINUTES - August 5, 2020

Due to the COVID restrictions, the Board held a teleconference meeting.

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Mr. Patenaude performed an audio roll call of Board members and members of the public/wastewater industry that were participating (see above).

The Board reviewed the draft July 1, 2020 meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Desrosiers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz, Mr. Patenaude and Mr. Schock voting in the affirmative. Mrs. Fogue and Dr. Baldwin abstained as they were not in the attendance at the July 1st meeting.

The next topic to be discussed was a request from Ryan Patnode (no relation to Bill Patenaude, Chair of the Board) to consider a request to sit for the Grade 4 exam with his current Grade 3 OIT status. As Mr. Patnode is an employee of NBC, Mr. Desrosiers recused himself from the conversation. Mr. Patnode explained his interpretation of the Rules and Regulations and, among other points, he proposed that the definitions regarding Direct Responsible Charge and operations were conflicting. Mr. Patenaude noted that while he felt Mr. Patnode had a valid point regarding time in employment in maintenance management, the current regulations preclude counting time in maintenance management for the requirements in Direct Responsible Charge. Mr. Patenaude noted that it was his hope that the Board's update to its regulations will address this matter and he thanked Mr. Patnode for his front-line comments, which will be helpful in ongoing work updating those regulations.

The next item on the agenda regarded a request to consider a makeup exam for Mr. Lionel Couturier from the Woonsocket WWTF. Mr. Couturier is on active duty with the National Guard and missed the last class/final exam.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to ask the Board to provide him administrative approval to allow Mr. Couturier to sit for a makeup Grade 1 exam based on his return from active duty. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude provided an update on the Basic WWTF course and then thanked Mr. Edward Davies for teaching the course under trying conditions. Mr. Davies was also willing to teach a Fall class and will work with NEIWPC.

Mr. Patenaude then reviewed a proposal for the August exams at the Goddard Park carousel building. Seating would be limited to 20 a day. He proposed Grades 1 and 4 would be on the same day at Goddard Park carousel and if Grades 2 and 3 were held on the same day, 5 applicants would need to be eliminated of the Grade 3 examinees could be hosted in Room 300 at DEM. Dr. Baldwin suggested holding the Grade 3 exams in Room 300 at DEM. All others agreed.

The protocol would be:

1. Examinees check-in while social distancing and masked and given hand sanitizer (compliments of the RI Clean Water Association)
2. Sign a COVID affidavit
3. Exams will be at the tables and the chairs would be numbered with instruction.

All protocols may be updated based on the any new Executive Orders and COVID restrictions.

Next, Mr. Patenaude stated he wanted reconvene meetings on updates to the Regulations. He will be sending assignments and would like to have drafts available at the next meeting.

At 10:32 Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Ms. Forgue seconded. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. McLynch, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz, Mr. Patenaude, Mrs. Forgue and Dr. Baldwin and Mr. Schock voting in the affirmative.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held by teleconference.