



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER
TREATMENT FACILITIES

c/o RI DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908

**MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2021 at 9:30**

Members in Attendance: Brenda Cheaye, Paul Desrosiers, Julia Forgue, Frank McLynch, and Bill Patenaude

Others in Attendance: Ronald Perreault and Jeff Chapdelaine, West Warwick, WWTF
Scott Goodinson, Narragansett/RICWA
Christina Hoefsmid, Esq., and Traci Pena, RIDEM

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the meeting was held via Zoom.

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

A roll call of Board members and members of the wastewater industry/public that were participating was performed (see above).

The first order of business was to extend condolences to the family and Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) on the sudden passing of Stephen Kruwell. Mr. Kruwell was an operator and NBC's assistant asset manager. He was also a Boot Camp graduate and instructor.

The next order of business was the review of the draft February meeting minutes.

After discussion and review, Mr. Desrosiers motioned to accept the February draft meeting minutes as amended. Mrs. Forgue seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Ms. Cheaye, Mrs. Forgue and Mr. Desrosiers all voting in the affirmative. Messers McLynch and Patenaude abstained as they were not in attendance at the February meeting.

The next item on the agenda was exam question contestations. This matter was continued from the previous meeting as the Board wanted to have the exact questions before them prior to rendering decisions. As a matter of note, the questions being contested will not be on future exams. Mr. Patenaude also thanked the examinee for the time and effort he put into researching the questions. The Board then reviewed three questions on the Grade 2 exam that were contested.

After review, Mr. Patenaude motioned to accept the examinee's answer on question #31 and award the examinee the point, thereby awarding him a passing grade. Mrs. Forgue seconded the motion. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Next on the agenda was the review of the final submission of the draft Regulation before submitting to the Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR). Mr. Patenaude edited the document to address some grammatical changes and to reduce cumbersome language.

After discussion, Mr. Desrosiers motioned to reaffirm the newly proposed edits in the Regulations and to submit the draft Regulations to the Office of Regulatory Reform. Mrs. Forgue seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative and as such the motion passed.



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Next was a discussion on policy and procedures for maintaining/removing Letter or Reprimands and other actions from a licensee's file. Mrs. Hoefsmit stated that certification files were not a matter of public record. Mr. McLynch noted that such letters of reprimand are issued by the Board so infrequently and that even criminal records are expunged, therefore operators should be afforded the same courtesy. Mrs. Forgue agreed. After further discussion, it was decided that if an individual asked for the record to be removed it would be placed in another folder as the Board would have to consult the Records Retention policies.

Next to be discussed was an advisory update Mr. Dylan Chase, Superintendent of the New Shoreham WWTF. Upon review, the Board found no cause for Mr. Chase not being allowed to take the Grade 3 exam. Mr. Patenaude noted that at the February 2021 meeting, Mr. Schock said that he would like to see an organizational chart as part of the Board's review of direct responsible charge for the calculation of a likely Grade 3 OIT should Mr. Chase pass. Depending on Mr. Chase's experience and his history of direct responsible charge, the Board would calculate the required Grade 3 OIT expiration date if needed.

Next to be discussed was an advisory opinion for reciprocity for Michael Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell holds a Massachusetts Grade 5 license which is equivalent to the RI Grade 3. After review of the application and supplemental information it was determined that, should Mr. Mitchell receive employment in RI as an operator and should the submitted information be accurate, the Board would issue him a Grade 2 license through reciprocity. The Board will need additional information on any past positions of direct responsible charge to determine qualifications for Grade 3. Mr. Desrosiers did not think that it would be appropriate to include Mr. Mitchell's experience in industrial wastewater in order to be consistent with the Board's regulations.

Next, Mr. Patenaude updated the Board that he will be determining an administrative approval for an application for Mr. Brad Denault. Mr. Denault was a part-time operator at Zambarano and has recently gained full-time employment in Woonsocket. Mr. Patenaude will evaluate experience and education and determine how much time is needed for a full Grade 1, as Mr. Denault passed the Grade 1 exam in November 2018.

In new business, Mr. Patenaude briefed the Board on the RICWA's recent legislative event and awards, which, he said, went very well.

Mrs. Pena reminded all that deadlines for exam applications has been reduced so to get applications in early.

At 10:37 Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Forgue seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative as such the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th, 2021 at 9:30 and will be held via Zoom.