



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
SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 AT 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Brenda Cheaye, Paul Desrosiers, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude, and CJ Spellman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christina Hoefsmit, Esq, Traci Pena and Matt Puglia, RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

The first order of business was the review of the draft August 4, 2021 meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Spellman motioned to approve the August 4, 2021 meeting minutes as amended. Ms. Cheaye seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Spellman, Mr. Desrosiers, Ms. Cheaye, Mr. McLynch, and Mr. Patenaude voting in the affirmative.

The next item discussed was the draft Regulations update and response to public comment. The Board reviewed a response from Kathy Perez, Superintendent of the S. Kingstown Regional WWTF. Ms. Perez, an active participant in the early stages of the Regulation revision special meetings, noted concerns about the Board's proposed allowance of personnel in certain Laboratory to sit for the Grade 3 exam (in a parallel manner as the proposed language for Maintenance workers). Mr. Patenaude provided a response to the comment for review by the Board and Ms. Hoefsmit.

Mr. McLynch motioned to approve the draft response to comments and move forward with promulgation of the Regulations as drafted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spellman. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The Regulations will move through Office of Regulatory Reform and the Secretary of State and will be published within 20 days of submittal.

Next to be discussed were the suggested edits to the Application for Certification. Some edits were based on the revisions to the Regulations. Another edit included no longer accept cash payments for any certification services, i.e., examinations, renewals, etc. Credit card payments would be accepted when payments were made in person.

The next item was Training Course approvals. The two-day conference sponsored by NEWEA: Combined Sewer Overflow & Wet Weather Issues was approved for five hours each day.

Next was an update on the August 2021 exams. There will be 19 examinees to sit for the exam. Given the COVID guidelines, the exams will be given on one day at RIDEM Headquarters in Room 300. All examinees will have to wear a mask.

At 10:07 a.m. Mr. McLynch motioned to adjourn. Ms. Cheaye seconded the motion. With all members voting in approval, the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 6 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.