

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Board of Certification of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Meeting Minutes February 1, 2006

MEMBERS in ATTENDANCE: Rick Dionne, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Tom White and Ray Wright

OTHERS in ATTENDANCE: Traci Pena

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

The first item was the draft December 7, 2005 minutes.

Mr. Dionne motioned to approve the minutes as given. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. With all members present, except Mr. White, voting in favor, the motion passed. Mr. White abstained, as he was not present at the meeting.

The next item on the agenda to be discussed was a review of the draft closed December 7, 2005 minutes.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the minutes as amended for two grammatical errors. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. With all members present, except Mr. White, voting in favor, the motion passed. Mr. White abstained, as he was not present at the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was an update of an enforcement action.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to convene into executive session per section §42-46-5(a)(4) in order to discuss a settlement issue for a former Rhode Island operator. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call voting in the affirmative: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Dionne, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. White, Dr. Wright and Ms. Forgue.

A motion was made by Mr. Patenaude in executive session that the Board accepts the term of the Consent Agreement offered to a former operator as referred from a mediated settlement process. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion, all Board members present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to resume the meeting into open session. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to seal the February 1, 2006 meeting minutes. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

The next item to be discussed was the Fall 2005 exams. The results were not available from the Department of Administration (DOA). Mr. Patenaude noted that operators are increasingly anxious, as they have been waiting for the exam results since December. DOA has recently had a retirement and another vacancy, as well as equipment failure. In the meantime Mr. Patenaude has sought other alternatives. If the results are not received in a week, the DEM will hand correct the exams. The results will not be official until they are computer-corrected, however. At this point, Mr. Patenaude is also seeking suggestions such as the use of the Association of Boards of Certification. The extra cost would have to come from the operators and there would also need to be regulatory changes. Mr. Dionne wondered whom the operators would go to if there were a question or dispute on the exam. Mr. Patenaude agreed that such issues needed examination before such a step was taken.

The next item on the agenda was Mandatory Retraining. Mr. Patenaude believed that previous bill sponsors would submit the same proposed statutory language. Mr. Patenaude noted that DEM's Director, W. Michael Sullivan, might be providing Mr. Patenaude with a different directive than previous directors, as he may be in favor of such mandatory retraining once he reviews that matter. Mr. Patenaude provided the bill sponsors with suggested language to streamline the program.

In new business, Mr. Patenaude is talking to DEM's Information Technology staff to upgrade the database to expand its use and reliability.

With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 280 of the DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI