



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: February 4, 2009

Members in Attendance: Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White

Others in Attendance: Traci Pena – RIDEM
Brent Herring and Tom Ciolfi – NBC – Bucklin Point

The February 2009 meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Patenaude informed those present that Mr. Schock and Ms. Forgue that their membership has been approved by the Governor's office and membership is current. Mr. Patenaude will be looking for a recommendation from Dr. Wright who was not able to attend several meetings due to scheduling conflicts.

The first order of business was the review of the draft January 2009 meeting minutes.

Mr. White motioned to approve the minutes with minor grammatical amendments. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor, and as such, the motion passed. Mr. Kurdziel abstained, as he was not at the previous meeting.

At present time, there were no operator enforcement issues.

The next item discussed was New Business. Messers Ciolfi and Herring were present at the meeting to contest two questions on the Grade 4 exam. Prior to this discussion, Mr. Patenaude noted that Mr. McLynch is a Grade 3 operator who could someday sit for the Grade 4 exam, and as such the questions to be contested would be removed from future exams. Mr. Patenaude noted that Mr. Ciolfi sat for the December 2008 Grade 4 exam and was an operator in direct responsible charge. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the first contested question, which was related to management.

Ms. Forgue then made a motion to accept as correct the answer provided by Mr. Ciolfi. Mr. White seconded the motion. Ms. Forge, Messrs. McLynch, Kurdziel and White approved the motion. Messrs. Patenaude and Schock opposed the motion. As such the motion passed.

Discussion followed regarded against the second contested question, related to control-system theory.

Mr. Patenaude then made a motion to accept only the answer noted as correct on the exam answer key. Mr. Shock seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude thanked Mr. Ciolfi for his enthusiasm for the wastewater profession.

Mr. Herring, President of NWPCA and Mr. Patenaude then spoke about a Channel 12 story regarding employees of the Providence Sewer Department. Mr. Herring and Mr. Patenaude wanted the Board's input whether a joint letter from the Board and the NWPCA should be sent to the Providence Journal in defense of those who work diligently and for the common good within the wastewater treatment profession. Mr. Schock stated that he did not think it should be the Board's position, especially since the Board does not certify wastewater collection systems; he felt the letter should come from NWPCA. Other Board members were willing to consider the matter. Mr. Herring stated that he would draft a letter and submit it for the Board to review.

The next item discussed was Regulation revisions. Mr. Schock provided members with an outline of suggested formatting, but sought more time to grapple with the eligibility and requirements section. He said he would like the regulations to be as clear as possible. Mr. Schock thought that Rules 8, 9, 10, and 12 should be re-written and restructured into the outline he provided. Mr. Patenaude once again asked members if they would like to start a working group for the re-drafting of the Regulations. Mr. Schock agreed to meet with Mr. Patenaude before the next meeting.

The next agenda item was Board membership updates. As Dr. Wright has been contacted, and his schedule does not allow time for the Board's Wednesday morning meetings, Mr. Patenaude has agreed to seek a replacement member representing educational professionals. Mr. Patenaude confirmed with the Governor's Office any steps he would need to take; according to the Governor's Office there is sufficient latitude to seek such a member from those higher educational institutions in Rhode Island that teach in the environmental or engineering fields.

The next agenda item was Boot Camp. Mr. Patenaude suggested that the discussion related to experiential and educational credit granted to members who successfully participate in Boot Camp be tabled until an academic professional is assigned to the Board and the regulations are updated accordingly.

With no further business Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjournment. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, and as such the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 4, 2009** at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Offices located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.