



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

**BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS  
OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Meeting Minutes: February 7, 2007

**Members in Attendance:** Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock, Tom White and Ray Wright

**Others in Attendance:** Traci Pena, RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude opened the meeting with news he had received the day before regarding his Principal Engineering position, which was included in the FY'08 budget as being terminated. Board members expressed concern on any impact this would have in Board activities. Mr. Patenaude noted that such final budget and staffing issues would not be available for some time.

The next order of business was the review of the draft December 2006 minutes.

**Mr. Schock motioned to approve the December minutes as amended. Mr. White seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor, the motion passed.**

The next item discussed was an oral exam request from an operator who has demonstrated difficulty with written versions of exams. Allowing oral exams in such instances is a practice that the Board has approved in the past. Mr. Schock questioned if the inability to read text would compromise his ability to do his job safely and the facility's procedures while performing his daily duties. Mr. Patenaude responded that he had spoken to the facility superintendent and has learned that the operator making this request has performed his duties well to date.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to issue an oral exam to an operator, saying that he would contact Mr. Dionne so they could administer the exam to the individual. Mr. White seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor the motion passed.**

Mr. Patenaude then asked if Board members would like to draft any proposals they may have with respect to Mandatory Training for Renewal.

The next agenda item discussed was Enforcement Activities. Mr. Patenaude briefed the Board regarding a report of an operator who failed to take a fecal coliform sample, which was part of his shift duties. This failure to take a permit-required sample was a violation of the facility permit. Mr. Patenaude reports that in his discussion with the facility superintendent the operator has not made this error before. Mr. Schock and Dr. Wright suggested that a letter be sent to make the individual aware of the Board's concerns, but that no action need be taken given the apparent innocence of the oversight. Mr. White stated that he did not think such a letter was necessary, but the matter should be tracked.

**After discussion Mr. Schock motioned to send a reminder letter regarding the importance of procedure to the operator. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor, the motion passed.**

The next order of business was a request for operator information. AWWA has made a request for mailing information for certified operators in the State of Rhode Island so that information regarding on-line training and other services could be sent to them. Mr. Schock stated that such information is public record and he did not see how the information could not be released. Mr. Patenaude will check with legal advisors to see if there is anything that may prohibit that such information could be shared.

The next item were the Fall 2006 exam results. The Board reviewed with no significant discussion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in room 280 of the DEM – Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.