



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Members in Attendance: Paul Desrosiers, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude, and Jon Schock

Others in Attendance: Kathy Perez, Superintendent/ South Kingstown WWTF
Christina Hoefsmit, Esq. and Traci Pena, RIDEM

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

The Board reviewed the draft January 3, 2018 open meeting minutes. Mr. Schock inquired if it was necessary to include specific names in the minutes of those coming before the Board, especially when regarding sensitive matters. Ms. Hoefsmit advised that she could research the matter, but suggested that the Board should in fact state actual names as they must be stated anyway in the Board's meeting notice/agenda, and that any subsequent records request might ask for specific information regarding particular individuals. Mr. Desrosiers provided several grammatical corrections.

Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

The next agenda item to be discussed was the assistant superintendent position at the South Kingstown WWTF. Mr. Shock recused himself because the anticipated candidate is an employee of the Town of South Kingstown and Mr. Schock is a member of the Board. Mr. Schock left the meeting.

Mr. Patenaude noted that normally, a matter such as the South Kingstown request would be handled administratively by himself, but since a member of the Board oversaw the wastewater facility in question, then the matter should be presented to the Board as a courtesy and to request any advisory input. Mr. Patenaude continued with the details of the matter: The applicant for the assistant superintendent position at South Kingstown, Mr. Richard Emery, holds a 3 OIT license. The position requires a Grade 3 license. Mr. Patenaude noted that the purpose of an OIT license is exactly this: to allow an individual to hold a position as they gain the required experience. No concerns were raised by the Board members in attendance, as such Mr. Patenaude noted he would move forward administratively with the approval of Mr. Emery as assistant superintendent. Ms. Perez stated that the candidate is an excellent operator and happy to promote from within. Ms. Perez then thanked the Board and left the meeting.

Mr. Schock returned to the meeting.

Next agenda item discussed was Training Course approval. Before the Board, was the Environmental Leverage, Inc. – Elearning courses. After review, Mr. Schock noted that the online courses seemed relevant to what the Tier II level was intended. Mr. Desrosiers thought that the basic offerings of the wastewater courses too basic, and as such did not think it should be included for Tier II status.

After discussion, the Mr. Desrosiers agreed to approve the class pending review by the Chair, excluding the basic wastewater courses. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next item to be discussed was an update on 2017 renewals. Ms. Pena noted that the updated renewal process based on the newly promulgated regulations went smoothly.

In new business, Mr. Patenaude would like to consider revising the Regulations to include assistance to veterans seeking to enter the wastewater industry as a possible new career, and if appropriate to allow military experience for certification. Mr. Patenaude noted that such veteran-assistance efforts are underway in New Hampshire and is being discussed regionally. Further discussion and details would be brought to future meetings.

Mr. Desrosiers noted that he would like the Board's thoughts on future Operator 1 courses being sponsored by the Narraganset Water Pollution Control Association (NWPCA) rather than the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC). If sponsored by NWPCA, Mr. Desrosiers felt that the course could be more affordable, there could be a library of book lending, and that the course could be offered with fewer participants, as NEIWPC has a minimum number of enrollees to hold the course. The matter will be placed on the April agenda for further discussion.

At 10:05, Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mr. Schock seconded. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 9:30 at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.