

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

Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2006

MEMBERS in ATTENDANCE: Richard Dionne, Fred Kurdziel, Tom White and Bill Patenaude

OTHERS in ATTENDANCE: Peter Vetter and Mike Roberts, West Warwick WWTF
Traci Pena and Liz Stone, RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order.

The first item discussed was the application for reciprocity from Mr. Peter Vetter, who has been accepted by the Town of West Warwick to become the plant superintendent once Mr. Mike Roberts retires. Mr. Patenaude briefed the board regarding Mr. Vetter's experience and license history in other states. Mr. Patenaude discussed that, based on past practice, the Board could consider waiving Rule F(2)(b), which requires operations experience to have taken place within one year of filing an application. After reviewing the applicant's qualifications, Mr. White stated that he was glad that the Town has chosen someone of Mr. Vetter's caliber.

Mr. White then motioned to approve Mr. Vetter's application through reciprocity. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude then thanked Mr. Roberts for the number of years of dedicated service provided to the wastewater community. Messers Roberts and Vetter then left the meeting.

The next item on the agenda to be discussed was Mandatory Retraining Legislation – H-7754. Mr. Patenaude penned a letter to Chairman Brian Kennedy supporting the bill, but did not endorse the letter of support on behalf on the Board. He also put together a "wish list" to be included in the pending legislation. Mr. Patenaude also reported that representatives of organized labor and the League of Cities and Towns spoke against the bill. The bill has not been voted on as of this time and has been continued for another hearing. Mr. Patenaude also suggested penning a letter discussing the will of the Board members. Mr. White is in full support and stated that mandatory retraining is long coming and long wanted. He also thought that if mandatory retraining was instituted it would bring about more training to the community. He also added that the best operators are well-training operators. Mr. Kurdziel also stated that as the DOH representative, he was in support of the legislation. Mr. Dionne stated that he was in support of training, but not mandatory training. Mr. Dionne also had concerns about the substantial cost to the operator. He also had concern for the second and third shift operators being able to take courses. He also thought it might be difficult for the Board to approve certain courses offered. DEM's Ms. Stone offered that if there was not full endorsement, the Senate might take that into consideration. Mr. Patenaude would be drafting a letter stating the Board members who were present at today's meeting will give it to them for their review. It was discussed that Ms. Fergie, Mr. Schock and Dr. Wright's comments should not be included as they were not present at the meeting.

The next item discussed was the draft February 1, 2006 minutes. Mr. White motioned to accept the minutes as given. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was an enforcement matter.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to convene into executive session per §42-46-5(a)(4) in order to discuss enforcement actions. Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call voting in the affirmative: Mr. White, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Dionne and Mr. Patenaude.

Another motion was made by Mr. Patenaude to send a letter to an operator stating that a potential enforcement action has been brought to the Board's attention could be settled per a mutually agreed mediated settlement. Mr. Patenaude would draft the letter for the Board's review. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to resume the meeting into open session. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to seal the Executive session April 5, 2006 meeting minutes. Mr. White seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the motion passed.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in room 280 of the DEM – Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade St., Providence, Rhode Island.