

**RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS
OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 1, 2002

In Attendance: Rick Dionne, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude and Tom White
Also in Attendance: Edward Robbins, Operations Manager, Synagro
John Taylor Ellis, Environmental Scientist, NBC
Traci Lima, RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

The first order of business was the review of the draft March 2002 meeting minutes. Members reviewed the draft minutes. Mr. White suggested clarification for the second full paragraph, last sentence.

Mr. White voted to except the minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Dionne, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

Next, Mr. Patenaude handed the members closed meeting minutes from the February 6, 2002 meeting for review.

In accordance with §42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the minutes of the Executive Session February 6, 2002 meeting. Mr. Dionne motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Kurdziel, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next item discussed was the regulation update. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that the regulations had been advertised in the Providence Journal. He has received 1 set of written comments so far and they were from the City of Cranston's WWTF superintendent, Christian Bratina. Individuals still have until May 15 to offer comment on the proposed regulations. At this time there has been no requests to hold a public hearing.

The next item on the agenda was the review of examination applications. Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that (because of the proximity of the deadline for submission and this meeting) he still needed to make some calls on some of the applications and if need be get opinion/approval by telephone vote or an emergency meeting. He stated he did not think it would be necessary.

The first application to be reviewed was that of a Mr. Robert Evans. Mr. Evans submitted an application for the Spring 2002 exam on April 2, 2002, stating he worked at the Synagro facility. Mr. Robbins, who was present at the meeting, stated that Mr. Evans had been laid off about 6-7 months ago. Mr. Evans had signed the application stated that all the information was true and that he was presently employed at Synagro. Mr. Dionne wanted to know if he was terminated or laid off, as he would not like for Mr. Evans to miss a chance because he was laid off. Mr. Robbins states Mr. Evans was laid off but eligible for rehire.

A motion was made by Mr. Patenaude denying Mr. Evans' application for examination (as he is not currently an operator) with a statement in the denial of the severity of the matter of misrepresenting his employment status. With Mr. Kurdziel and Mr. White seconding the motion, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Robbins was also present speaking on behalf of a Mr. Willie Quarterman. Mr. Quarterman applied for the grade 1 Spring 2002 exam. He has taken the exam before and failed. Mr. Robbins believes that Mr. Quarterman knows more information than how he responds to a multiple-choice examination. Mr. Robbins is requesting that Mr. Quarterman take an oral exam. Mr. Robbins stated that Mr. Quarterman is a good employee and he would hate to see him let go. His duties involve cleaning, painting, and maintenance. Presently, Synagro has an opening that they would like to be filled by Mr. Quarterman and would like to "give him a chance." Mr. Robbins presented a letter dated May 1, 2002 on behalf of Mr. Quarterman. Mr. Dionne offered to assist Mr. Patenaude with the oral exam if the Board decided to administer an oral exam to Mr. Quarterman. Mr. Patenaude wanted to be sure that Mr. Quarterman's duties were that of a maintenance technician in order to qualify him to be eligible for the Grade 1 exam.

Mr. White motioned to allow Mr. Quarterman to take an oral Grade 1 exam for a time that is convenient for Messers. Patenaude, Dionne, and Quarterman. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. With all members voted in favor, the motion passed.

Mr. Robbins left the meeting.

The next application to be reviewed was Rebecca Songolo, of NBC's environmental monitoring section, which according to NBC representatives, involves process control, permit required sampling, pH and TRC testing, maintaining sampling equipment, reviewing daily data in order to ascertain if re-sampling is necessary. Mr. John Taylor Ellis was present representing Ms. Songolo. Ms. Songolo is 1 of 6 individuals with this duty. This position also works in collection and pretreatment systems. Mr. Ellis informed the Board that about 40% to 50% of Ms. Songolo's time is spent at the facility itself. Mr. Dionne wanted to know if Ms. Songolo was taking the exam in order to have a license or was it a requirement of the job. Mr. White thought it was a good idea for such individuals to be certified and would like them to be certified. Mr. Dionne wanted to verify the amount of time spent in the position and wanted to know if the operator in training period could be extended. Mr. Patenaude said it could be extended as has done in the past, and the time that Ms. Songolo has already served would be counted toward her OIT experience.

Mr. White motioned to allow Ms. Songolo to take the Spring 2002 exam and others in her position to be allowed to take the examination should they apply. Seconded by Mr. Kurdziel, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Ellis left the meeting.

The next order on the agenda was new business. Mr. Patenaude distributed an article from a NY State publication, entitled "Operators Certificates Revoked for Life" for member review. Then spoke of the conference he attended whereupon he gave a brief overview of the meeting. Mr. Patenaude then reminded the Board that the Spring 2002 exam will be may 22, 2002 at the CCRI campus in Warwick. Mr. White also informed the Board that the annual NWPCA brunch was being held on May 19, 2002 at the Whaft Tavern in Bristol at 11:00. The cost is \$25.00.

With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Kurdziel and Mr. Dionne, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next meeting was scheduled for 9:30, Wednesday, June 5, 2002, in conference room 280C in the Office of Water Resources on the 2nd floor of the Department of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence.