

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

July 13, 2005 Meeting Minutes

**MEMBER in ATTENDANCE:** Rick Dionne, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude and Tom White

**OTHERS in ATTENDANCE:** Traci Pena, DEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. The first item on the agenda was the review of the June 1, 2005.

With a minor change to the attendance, Mr. Dionne motioned to approve the June 1 OPEN meeting minutes. Mr. White seconded the motion. Messrs. Kurdziel and Patenaude voted in favor and Ms. Forgue abstained, as she was not present at the June meeting.

With a minor change to the attendance, Mr. White motioned to approve the June 1 CLOSED meeting minutes. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. Messrs. Kurdziel and Dionne voted in favor and Ms. Forgue abstained, as she was not present at the June meeting.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to convene into executive section, per § 42-46-5(a)(4) in order to discuss settlement issues for a former employee at the NBC-Fields Point WWTF, whose license had been suspended by the Board for reported misconduct. Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call voting in the affirmative. Messrs. White, Kurdziel, Dionne, Patenaude and Mrs. Forgue.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to open the executive section back into open session. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call voting in the affirmative, Messrs. White, Kurdziel, Dionne, Patenaude and Mrs. Forgue.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to seal the minutes of the executive section. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call voting in the affirmative, Messrs. White, Kurdziel, Dionne, Patenaude and Mrs. Forgue.

The next item on the agenda were the exam results. Mr. Patenaude presented the Board with the exam results for the Spring 2005 exam. The results for Grade 2 were less than impressive. Mr. Patenaude also gave the Board exam statistics from the State of Maine, which seemed to be comparable to Rhode Island's exam results. Mr. Patenaude proposed to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) a Grade 2 preparatory course. He also hoped superintendents would be involved in the process. Mr. Patenaude solicited the Board for input. Mr. White felt the course might not go over well, as time would be needed away from the plants. Mr. White also felt that the course should focus on areas where the examinees are having the most problems, such as math, laboratory and processing. He also suggested offering evening classes. Mr. Patenaude would be in contact with NEIWPCC and discussing logistics for the course.

The next item was new business. Mr. Patenaude initiated a discussion about sending a letter to the Public Works directors of the cities and towns stating that they had an obligation to report erroneous actions on the part of Rhode Island certified operators. Ms. Forgue felt as though it was not necessary to send such a letter, and that the Board should not be opening a can of worms. Mr. White agreed, and that perhaps a general letter could be sent to the superintendents as a general advisory. Mr. Patenaude also stated that the superintendents were also certified operators.

**Mr. White motioned that Mr. Patenaude draft a letter for the Board's review for the next meeting. The letter should be addressed to the superintendent's as a general advisory that any erroneous actions of an operator not in good standing should be reported to the Board. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. Messrs. Dionne, Kurdziel and Ms. Forgue voted in favor and the motion passed.**

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 280 of the DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.