

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

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2004 MEETING MINUTES**

**MEMBERS in ATTENDANCE:** Julia Forge, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock, Tom White, Rick Dionne and Ray Wright

**OTHERS in ATTENDANCE:** Ronald R. Coia, Esq. – Local Union 1033  
Greg Schultz and Traci Lima, RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Pursuant to Rhode Island General laws §42-46-5(a), Mr. Patenaude requested that the Board convene into executive session to discuss an enforcement matter at a wastewater treatment facility in Rhode Island.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into Executive Session. Mr. White seconded the motion. Mr. Kurdziel, Ms. Forgue, Mr. Schock, Mr. Dionne, Dr. Wright, Mr. Patenaude and Mr. White all voted in favor of convening into executive session and the motion passed.**

During the executive sessions, the Board took the following votes:

**Based on evidence provided by the Narragansett Bay Commission regarding allegations against Mr. John Iozzi (License #840) and having heard from legal counsel representing Mr. Iozzi, Mr. Schock motioned to suspend Mr. Iozzi's license for a period of 6 months, effective immediately. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. Mr. Schock, Ms. Forgue, Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. White and Dr. Wright voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Dionne voted nay. As such, the motion passed.**

**Based on evidence provided by the Narragansett Bay Commission regarding allegations against Mr. George Mantaian (License #685) and having heard from legal counsel representing Mr. Mantaian, Mr. Schock motioned to suspend Mr. Mantaian's license for a period of 6 months, effective immediately. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. Mr. Schock, Ms. Forgue, Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. White and Dr. Wright voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Dionne voted nay. As such, the motion passed.**

**Based on evidence provided by the Narragansett Bay Commission regarding allegations against Mr. Daniel Crowley (License #128) and having heard from legal counsel representing Mr. Crowley, Mr. Patenaude motioned to suspend Mr. Crowley's license for a period of 9 months, effective immediately. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. Mr. Schock, Ms. Forgue, Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. White and Dr. Wright voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Dionne voted nay. As such, the motion passed.**

**In a related matter, Mr. Patenaude motioned to send a letter to two individuals at the Narragansett Bay Commission's Fields Point facility regarding possible misconduct while performing supervisory operational duties at a Rhode Island wastewater treatment facility and to invite said individuals to an informal "show-cause hearing" on October 6, 2004. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor, the motion passed.**

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to exit executive session. Mr. White seconded the motion. Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Dionne, Mr. Schock, Ms. Forgue and Mr. White all voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the September 1, 2004 executive session meeting minutes. Mr. Schock seconded the vote, all members voted in favor and the motion passed.**

The next item discussed in open session was to approve the July 14, 2004 meeting minutes.

**Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes as given. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion, Messers Wright and Dionne abstained, as they were not present at the meeting, but all other members present voted in favor.**

The next item discussed were the July 14, 2004 closed executive session meeting minutes.

**Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes as given. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion, Messers Wright and Dionne abstained, as they were not present at the meeting, but all other members present voted in favor.**

Item 5, The Matter of Issuance of a 6-Month Provisional License for the Assistant Superintendent of the City of Cranston, was tabled by the request of the City of Cranston.

The next item on the agenda discussed was the Exam Question Inquiry by Ed Soltys. As a result of a review on his exam, Mr. Soltys contested one question regarding sludge digestion, which if he had been awarded the point his score would have become a passing grade of 70. Mr. Patenaude briefed the Board on the questions, and reviewed a letter of explanation supporting Mr. Soltys from the superintendent of the NBC Bucklin Point WWTF, at which Mr. Soltys is employed. Mr. White provided technical clarifications regarding sludge digestion, which assisted the Board in determining the validity of Mr. Soltys's contesting of the question.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to award Mr. Soltys an additional point giving him a passing score of 70 on the Grade 4 exam, and to reword the questions in on the Grade 4 exam. Mr. White seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor, the motion passed.**

Another item discussed was that of a Mr. John Schupp. Mr. Schupp is employed at the NBC Fields Point WWTF and is seeking Grade 1 reciprocity based on his license from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**After a review of Mr. Schupp's application, Mr. Patenaude motioned to award Mr. Schupp a Grade 1 OIT (to expire 1 year from the date of hire) because he lacks the required 1-year's experience to be given a Full Grade 1. Mr. White seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor, the motion passed.**

In new business, Mr. Patenaude will be meeting with NWPCA on September 7, 2004 to discuss Mandatory Retraining and hopes to begin the process to come up with a unified policy and legislation for the 2005 legislative session.

Also, Mr. Patenaude also informed the Board that the Association of Boards of Certification had offered to provide the Board with security questions for use in exams; The Board agreed that such questions should be part of operations and maintenance questions on its exams. ABC send a security form and wondered if it would be OK if he were to fill it out. The Board was fine with the request.

Lastly, Mr. Patenaude commended the staff and management of the East Providence, Cranston, Warren, Fields Point and East Greenwich plants on taking part in voluntary nitrogen-removal efforts, which were identified as an important step in helping control nutrient-related pollution problems in Narragansett Bay.

**With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn the September 1, 2004 meeting. Dr. Wright seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor the motion passed.**