



## **BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, October 3, 2018

**Members in Attendance:** Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude and Jon Schock

**Others in Attendance:** Joseph Brennan, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp.  
Scott Goodinson, Narragansett Pollution Control Association  
Christina Hoefsmitt, Esq and Traci Pena, RIDEM

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

The Board reviewed the draft September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting minutes.

**After review, Mr. Schock voted to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Ms. Forgue and Mr. Kurdziel abstained as they were not present at the September meeting.**

Mr. Patenaude provided an update regarding the Department of Administration (DOA) correcting the Board's examination. §42-17.4-3(b) states that the division of personnel of the Department of Administration shall provide assistance to the board to administer, prepare and grade any examination, as deemed necessary by the board. Mr. Patenaude has not heard from the representative from DOA.

The next business discussed was to take a formal vote regarding the request from Joseph Brennan, Treatment Systems Manager of the RIRRC to license their employees. The RIRRC facility does not discharge into State water, it does not meet the definition of a wastewater treatment facility according to the Board's regulations.

**After discussion, Mr. Patenaude motioned to deny the request by RIRRC to extend licensure to the staff at RIRRC. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. Ms. Forgue voted nay. All other members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.**

Mr. Brennan left the meeting.

Next to be discussed was the licensure status of Mr. Robert Sheridan. Mr. Patenaude wanted to advise the Board that a Grade 3 license had erroneously been issued to Mr. Sheridan in 2011 during a renewal reissuance, apparently because of a database issue in which a Grade 3 If and When was read as a Grade 3. Mr. Patenaude will have to follow-up with Mr. Sheridan telling him about the error, as Mr. Sheridan's license level was in actuality a Grade 2. However, Mr. Patenaude said that the Board may need to

consider that Mr. Sheridan had not taken steps to maintain his Grade 3 If and When because of his assumption that a Grade 3 had been awarded.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session per §42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4). Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Ms. Forgue, Mr. Schock, Mr. Kurdziel and Mr. McLynch voting in the affirmative.**

Mr. Goodinson left the meeting for executive session.

**After further discussion, Ms. Forgue motioned to acknowledge the September 27<sup>th</sup> event at the NBC – Bucklin Point facility stating the Board appreciates bringing the matter to our attention but that no further action would be taken at this time. A formal letter would not be sent. Mr. McLynch seconded. All other members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.**

**After review Mr. Schock voted to approve the draft executive session September 5th, 2018 meeting minutes. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. Ms. Forge and Mr. Kurdziel abstained, as they were not present at the meeting. All eligible members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.**

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the October 3rd, 2018 executive session meeting minutes. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all present voting in the affirmative.**

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to resume the meeting into open session. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. The motioned passed with all present voting in the affirmative.**

Mr. Goodinson returned to the meeting.

Mr. Patenaude presented conceptual draft Rules and Regulations of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Facilities. One proposed change was to eliminate the definition of "Maintenance technician" and include it in the definition of "Operator." By doing so, it would allow maintenance staff to sit for exams higher than Grade 2. Ms. Forgue was not opposed to the general idea, noting that if someone has a Grade 3 or 4 license there is still a hiring process and probation period, which is another means to ensure competency. From a union perspective, Mr. McLynch stated including maintenance staff with operations would create issues with facility job classifications and duty assignments/expectations. The Board then discussed allowing maintenance staff within management to sit for the three and, if passed, issue a Grade 3 If and When license similar to operations staff who are not in Direct Responsible Charge. Mr. Goodinson, who was speaking on behalf of NWPCA, was concerned that a mechanic who passes a Grade 3 exam would very likely not be qualified to run a plant; however, NWPCA does not

want to restrict a higher-grade level of individuals. After further discussion Mr. Kurdziel asked if a flow chart could be developed and presented to gain clarity on the available options. Mr. Patenaude asked if Board members would like to submit draft language for consideration. The matter was then tabled until the next meeting.

Prior to leaving, Mr. Goodinson updated the Board that the RI Operations Challenge Team, "Ocean State Alliance," finished first in lab and process control at the national WEFTEC Operations Challenge and came in eighth overall out of some forty teams. Mr. Goodinson particularly praised Ed Davies for being an excellent coach.

Next to be discussed was RCAP Solutions: Asset Management for Wastewater Utilities.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to give him the authority to approve the course once he determines the number of hours. Ms. Forgue seconded. All members voted in favor, as such the motion passed.**

In other new business, Ms. Pena congratulated Ms. Hoefsmit on her recent marriage.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7th, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM – Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908.