



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: October 5, 2011

Members in Attendance: Gene Park, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White
Others in Attendance: Marisa Desautel, Esq. and Traci Pena, RIDEM
Kathy Perez, Superintendent, South Kingstown WWTF and Scott Goodinson,
Superintendent, West Warwick WWTF

Mr. Patenaude called the October 5, 2011 meeting to order. The first order of business was the review of the draft September 7th meeting minutes.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the September 2011 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members present voting in favor.

The next item to be discussed was compliance with package plant re-grading. Per a decision at the previous Board meeting the Board determined that Mr. Robert Silva would be issued a Grade 1 license through Reciprocity and to issue a Grade 2 Provisional license pending the results of the Grade 2 Fall/Winter 2011 exam. Discussion also ensued as to if Mr. Silva's Provisional license should only be valid at the Briarcliffe facility. Messers. Schock and White thought not. (No vote was needed as the matter had been voted on at the September meeting.)

The next item was Regulations Revisions. Mr. Patenaude noted that he had met with the state's superintendents to discuss the draft regulations. Mr. Patenaude summarized the concerns discussed by those in attendance: These included the proposed definition of Assistant Superintendent, for which some superintendents suggested might create confusion as to who would be in charge in the absence of the superintendent. Mr. Patenaude noted that his response to the Superintendents was that the Board was not requiring facilities to have two assistants but merely providing the option. He also stated that doing so may create a pool for mobility and allows for some flexibility. Mr. Schock thought the new proposed definition opened the window for "finger pointing" and would like a linear structure. Ms. Perez stated that someone has to make a decision in an emergency situation and this structure could create issues because of personality conflicts; she noted that a clear-cut chain of command is needed, because if not, one could run into confusion in an already confusing, emergency situation. Mr. Patenaude again noted that the Board was not *requiring* a facility to have two assistants, but given the concerns he offered to seek a revision to the draft definition to allow a tiered primary and secondary assistant superintendent.

The next issue with the draft Regulation includes the definition of full time to include 35 hours or more and to state that those hours must be worked at the facility and not include travel time, for example.

The next topic was Rule 8. An individual who is working as a laborer or in maintenance as a Grade 1 or 2 license holder may not have the qualification or knowledge to work at a Grade 2 facility Direct Responsible Charge should come through the Chain of Command.

Mr. Patenaude also reported that the Superintendents seemed genuinely appreciative of the proposal to create a Grade 1 Apprenticeship, although they suggested that the timeframe be expanded to 3 years.

The next item with respect to the draft Regulations was the language of training. In general, the Superintendents thought that the burden of tracking training hours was unfairly placed with them. Others at the superintendent's meeting suggested that there should be no party between the licensee and the Board. Mr. Patenaude informed the superintendents that the Board was providing a structure, not a specific model that required the superintendent to take this role. Mr. Patenaude noted that at the conclusion of the superintendent's meeting, the NWPCA provided Mr. Patenaude with a comment document, which included comments by individual members to the NWPCA board. Copies of this comment document were distributed to Board members. (See attached.)

Per requests by Mr. Schock and guests in attendance, Mr. Patenaude agreed to develop a template which could be an addendum to the Regulations. Mr. Patenaude then noted that he was surprised and disappointed with the general response from the operator profession, noting that the model being discussed had been under consideration for some time without any formal concerns raised by the Narragansett Water Pollution Control Association. Mr. Patenaude reminded the Board and those in attendance that the establishment of training in the regulations would very likely not occur using a "CEU" model given the current economic conditions within the state and municipalities. Mr. Patenaude then read aloud a number of the comments written by individual NWPCA members within the formal comment package. Mr. Goodinson commended Mr. Patenaude for trying to develop a plan, noting that NWPCA wants mandatory training, even if coming to an agreement is difficult.

Ms. Perez and Mr. Goodinson then left the meeting.

Mr. Patenaude asked the Board if they had any objection on holding the December Board meeting on the 14th. They did not.

**With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned for adjournment.
Seconded by Mr. Schock, the motion passed with all members voting in favor.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 2, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Office located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.