



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

**Meeting Minutes: October 6, 2010**

**Members in Attendance:** Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Dr. Gene Park, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White  
**Others in Attendance:** Marisa Desautel and Traci Pena, RIDEM

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The first orders of business were the draft September 2010 minutes.

**Mr. White motioned to approve the September 1 meeting minutes. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. With all eligible members present voting in favor, the motion passed. Mr. Schock abstained as he was not present at the September meeting.**

The next item was a review of the draft Regulations. Discussion was tabled pending input from the Narragansett Water Pollution Control Association.

The next item to be discussed was Operator Applications. An application for Grade 2 reciprocity was received from Robert C. Atwood of Resource Control Associates Inc., an engineering firm overseeing daily operations and needed upgrades at the Tiverton High School wastewater treatment package plant. Mr. Atwood holds a Grade 2-I in Massachusetts, has a Bachelor and Master in Engineering and is President & CEO of Resource Control Associates, Inc.

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve Mr. Atwood's application via grade 2 reciprocity. Mr. Forgue seconded the motion.**

During discussion, Mr. Schock raised concerns as to how much actual time Mr. Atwood spent at the Tiverton facility. Mr. Patenaude stated that Mr. Atwood's employment time at the facility would be less than operators at larger municipal facilities, as the Tiverton High School facility is a package plant and a full-time operation is not required. Mr. Patenaude noted that the facility was currently responding to enforcement action by DEM due to permit violations and that the town was considering its options with regard to the facility. One such option was replacing the facility with a sub-surface disposal facility; as such, Mr. Patenaude wished to propose that the Grade 2 license be granted for the Tiverton facility only, but language in the regulations would preclude this. Mr. Patenaude also considered using the model for sampling/lab technicians at the Narragansett Bay Commission, which issued an OIT license with a doubling of the time in which the applicant would hold the OIT status; this would fulfill time-in-operations requirements. However, Mr. Atwood's application stated that his time in operations was 10 months, which placed him two months shy of the requirements for full grade licensure. Mr. McLynch offered that there was not a full week of work at such facilities,

and as such seeking “full-time” employment, or some percentage thereof, would not be similar to that of the municipal wastewater operators. Attorney Desautel stated that according to the Regulations, an OIT could be granted if the Board’s examination was to be taken; if Reciprocity was being sought, she noted that Rule 10 of the Regulations allowed a Provisional license to be granted, which would only be for the facility at which the applicant is presently employed.

Based on this discussion, and Attorney Desautel’s advisory opinion that Mr. Atwood could be granted a non-renewable Provisional certificate via Rule 10, Mr. Patenaude rescinded his original motion.

**Mr. Patenaude then made a motion to grant Mr. Atwood a six-month provisional Grade 2 license via reciprocity, which would allow him to serve in the capacity of the Tiverton High school superintendent of record during the time. The license would expire on April 6, 2011. After this time, Mr. Atwood would have to re-apply for Rhode Island licensure. Ms. Fogue seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Ms. Fogue, Dr. Park, Messrs. White, Kurdziel, McLynch, and Patenaude. Mr. Schock voted against. As such, the motion passed.**

In new business, Mr. Patenaude reported that potential low enrollment almost resulted in the cancellation of a Grade 1 Basic WWTF course for the second time in as many offerings; however, several individuals enrolled near the close of the signup period, allowing the course to proceed. Also related to training, Mr. Patenaude will be hosting a math course at the Department of Environmental Management to help individuals prepare for the December exams.

Based on a number of conversations throughout the meeting, Mr. Kurdziel suggested it would be helpful to put specific Board policies in one written document. Ms. Fogue noted that such “policies” were more accurately recordings of “past practices.” Mr. Patenaude noted that such practices could be recorded going forward; he noted that in the past, the Board would rely on minutes as statements of such policies or past practices, which would then be folded into revised regulatory language during routine upgrades of the regulations.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Office located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.