

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS
OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 4, 2002

Members in Attendance: Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Tom White and Ray Wright

Others in Attendance: Greg Schultz, Esq., DEM Legal Services
Traci Lima, DEM
David Gaipo, AquaSource

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

The first order of business discussed was that of Mr. David Gaipo. As a result of the previous meeting, the Board had determined that more information would be needed (such as Mr. Gaipo's position on an official Town of Westerly staffing plan flow chart, his exact duties and hours of his employment, etc.). Due to a subsequent telephone conversation with the Town of Westerly, as well as correspondence from the town, Mr. Gaipo's exam application had been re-reviewed in light of the information received. Specifically, the town informed the Board that Mr. Gaipo's position is considered to be a "half-time" employee, which, while required by the town in the agreement with AquaSource, is not an official position on the town's staffing plan. A number of questions came to light, all focusing on whether or not to include Mr. Gaipo's full wastewater employment with AquaSource, as he is working half time in Rhode Island and half time in Massachusetts. Should the Board consider the Massachusetts experience, Mr. Gaipo would have 21/2 years of direct responsible charge. Mr. Patenaude explained to the Board that Mr. Gaipo's situation would set a standard to begin a new policy regarding concurrent out-of-state experience as part of meeting existing experiential requirements.

After discussing the ramifications and the possible need for such a policy, the Board agreed that acknowledging such experience would be appropriate, but would need to be done on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Patenaude made a motion to consider on a case-by-case basis concurrent experience of equal or greater authority at a wastewater treatment facility in another state when considering an application for certification and the experiential requirements thereof. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the vote. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude motioned that Mr. Gaipo's previous and current half-time experience in Massachusetts would be considered for his Grade 3 exam application, thereby giving him approval to sit for a Grade 3 make-up examination. Furthermore, should he pass the exam, the Board would issue a 6-month Grade 3 OIT to fulfill the required 3 years in direct responsible charge. Mr. White seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next item addressed was an update on Mr. Timothy Barry. Attorney Schultz is currently drafting a Consent Agreement. Mr. Patenaude inquired if the required training for Mr. Barry could begin. Mr. Schultz informed the Board that it could.

The next topic discussed was the issue of the Fall 2002 exam results. Since the results have continually been disappointing, Mr. Patenaude informed the Board that he is considering ways for more training. The Board then discussed additional ways to improve upon existing training initiatives.

The next item discussed was the review of the draft November 5, 2002 meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. White motioned to approve the minutes as given. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2003 at 9:30 am in conference room 280C in the Office of Water Resources on the 2nd floor of the Department of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence.