



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

November 6, 2019

Members in Attendance: Julia Forgue, Frank McLynch, Melissa Orpen-Tuz, Bill Patenaude, and Jon Schock

Others in Attendance:

Bryan J. Murray - The Trust
Greg Schultz, Esq., RI Attorney General's Office
Traci Pena and Matt Puglia - RIDEM

Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order.

The Board reviewed the draft October 2, 2019 meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the draft October 2, 2019 minutes, as amended. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Ms. Forgue abstained as she was not present at the October 2 meeting.

The Board reviewed the draft October 15, 2019 special meeting minutes—a meeting for which there was no quorum.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to approve the draft October 15, 2019 minutes and asked for a procedural second, acknowledging that no other Board member had attended that meeting. For procedural purposes, Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Patenaude—the only eligible voting member—voting in favor. Mss. Forgue and Orpen-Tuz and Messrs. McLynch and Schock abstained as they were not present at the October 15 meeting.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session per §42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) to discuss matters of potential criminal or civil misconduct. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Schock and Ms. Forgue, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz, and Mr. McLynch voting in the affirmative.

(Mr. Patenaude and Ms. Forgue recused themselves and left the executive session meeting opening matter related to a matter at the Newport WWTF. Mr. Schock was designated as the vice chair for the purposes of Executive Session.)

Motions in Executive Session are repeated in Open Session.

The Board reviewed the draft October 2, 2019 executive Session meeting minutes.

Mrs. Orpen-Tuz motioned to approve the October 2, 2019 executive session meeting minutes. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor.

After discussion, Mr. McLynch motioned to send a Rhode Island operator a letter stating that they will not be taking action at this time as a result of a CSO event at the facility. The letter will also include a recommendation to the RIDEM O&M staff contact the facility and suggest updating and retraining staff on SOPs of the facility. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Also, to include that the Board has the right to re-evaluate this determination should additional information warrant reconsideration. Mr. McLynch seconded. All eligible members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

After discussion, Mrs. Orpen-Tuz motioned to send letters to operators stating that the Board would not be taking action at this time regarding a CSO event at a RI facility and to remind them of the importance of reporting permit violations to RIDEM in a timely manner. Also, to include that the Board has the right to re-evaluate this determination should additional information warrant reconsideration. Mr. McLynch seconded. All eligible members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

Mr. McLynch motioned to seal the November 6, 2019 executive session meeting minutes. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in the affirmative.

Mr. McLynch motioned to resume the meeting into open. Mrs. Orpen-Tuz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in the affirmative.

(Ms. Fogue and Mr. Patenaude returned to the meeting, at which point motions made in executive session were repeated in the public session.)

Mr. Bryan J. Murray of the RI Interlocal Trust spoke on the matter of a request for approval of training courses, which the Board considered at its May 1, 2019 meeting. In particular, Mr. Murray presented the Trust's desire to have safety courses approved for contact hours. The Board discussed the outcome of the May 1 request and Board vote, which resulted in a tie vote by the Board, which was determined to be a failure of the motion to approve the courses for training hours. After discussion, Mr. Patenaude suggested that Mr. Murray resubmit their request and provide additional information on the safety courses. The Board could then opt to re-review the matter if the information submitted included information not available at the May 1 meeting.

At 11:06 Messers Schultz and Murray left the meeting.

Mr. Patenaude reported that due to time, there will not be a basic course but NEIWPC will be hosting a 2-day exam review on November 12 and 13.

He then provided the monthly Quonset Point WWTF update, noted that according to Mr. Puglia, operations continue to go well at the facility.

In a related matter, a staffing plan for the Quonset Point WWTF has also been submitted to address vacation schedule in light of the sudden death recently of its assistant superintendent. Mr. Patenaude noted that while Mr. Davies will be on a pre-planned vacation, he and Mr. Colberg will still be available via telephone should the need arise, and the Mr. Davies will be checking on the facility daily.

Mr. Patenaude noted that during administrative reviews of applications for examination/licensure, that he and Traci Pena will be requesting copies of high school diplomas or GEDs for newly licensed operators. The requirement for this submission has been on the application for some time. Mr. Patenaude noted that several recent applications prompted the decision to enforce the application's requirement to submit such documentation.

The matter of Regulation Revisions has been tabled.

The board then reviewed the 2020 NEWEA Annual Conference & Exhibit trade show for training hours.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to award the conference for 7.0 hours per day. Ms. Forgue seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn. Mr. Schock seconded. All members voted in favor and as such the motioned passed.

The next Regulation meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 2:00 a.m. at the RIDEM - Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM - Office of Water Resources, Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.