

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER
TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Minutes for the special September 22, 2020 meeting on Regulations

Members in Attendance: Julia Forgue, Jon Shock, Paul Desrosiers, Bill Patenaude

Others in Attendance: Harrison Songolo and another, W. Warwick
Joe Lobianco, Esq. And Traci Pena, RIDEM

Due to COVID restrictions the meeting was held via Zoom. Mr. Patenaude called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

A roll call of Board members and members of the wastewater industry/public that were participating was performed (see above).

Mr. Patenaude announced that this special meeting should be the last such special meeting on regulations and that the forward motion of regulation revision should now occur during regular monthly meetings.

The Board went through each section of the draft regulations, including language on decreasing the number of staff supervised from two to one in the definition of Direct Responsible Charge.

In the discussion on the definition of sciences, Mr. Schock noted concerns with courses in human resources being included in approved education.

Another update would be to extend the effective time of a passing score in the basic wastewater course from two to five years.

A new addition to the Regulations would be the proposed Section 5.10(G)(1) and (2) which would allow maintenance technicians in a full-time supervisory role to sit for the Grade 3 exam. Mr. Desrosiers noted that this change would need a corresponding change in the maximum length of time that an Operator in Training license can be issued. This would require a change in 5.7(A).

Mr. Schock recommended further discussion on 5.11(F).2 on granting Grade 4 licensure via reciprocity.

During public comment, Mr. Songolo asked how electricians would be considered in light of the suggested expansion of Grade 3 examination opportunities for maintenance technicians. Mr. Patenaude replied that electricians are considered members of maintenance staff, and as such would be covered in any proposed change thereof.

With no further business, at 10:15 Mr. Schock motioned to adjourn. Ms. Forgue seconded. The motion was approved with the following roll call: Mrs. Forgue, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. Schock and Mr. Patenaude voting in the affirmative.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held remotely.