

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**  
**Board of Certification of Operators**  
**Of Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

*Meeting minutes March 2, 2005*

**MEMBERS in ATTENDANCE:** Rick Dionne, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock, Tom White and Ray Wright

**OTHER in ATTENDANCE:** Matt Calderiso, Warren WWTF  
Matt Puglia, Traci Pena and Greg Schultz, RIDEM

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

Because of the attendance of Mr. Calderiso, Mr. Patenaude took as the first order of business an exam question contestation by Bristol WWTF operator Jose DaSilva. The concerns related to potential scenarios in which answers considered incorrect may be, in fact, legitimate choices. Mr. White and Mr. Dionne provided operational input that confirmed the possibility of the questions being open to interpretation. (In a recent and unrelated review of exam questions, Mr. Patenaude and Dr. Wright identified these questions as being suspect and slated for revision.)

**Mr. White motioned to award the point to Mr. DaSilva for question number 35 of the Grade 4, and that the question would be stricken from the exam. Mr. White seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to award the point to Mr. DaSilva for question 63 of the Grade 4 exam, and that the question would be stricken from the exam. Mr. White seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.**

Mr. DaSilva will receive a Grade 4 OIT, which will expire October 28, 2005. Other examinees will be evaluated as to whether their grades will be affected by these questions.

The next item to be discussed were the draft February 2, 2005 meeting minutes

**Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes as given. Mr. White seconded the motion. With all other members present voting in favor, the motion passed.**

The next item on the agenda to be discussed was the issue of Mandatory Retraining Legislation. Mr. Patenaude noted that it was the same legislation introduced last year, with additional supporters. Mr. Patenaude will need to meet with Acting DEM Director Fred Vincent to discuss his view on the legislation. Mr. Patenaude provided language to NWPCA, which was not included into the proposed legislation and was expressed disappointment that it was not included. Mr. Patenaude also noted that he wanted to be sure if the legislation does pass that there has to be a way of measuring knowledge learned and a level of integrity. Mr. White, who represents NWPCA, supports the legislation and said he has tried to work with the Board, as he feels mandatory retraining needs to be a reality. Mr. Schock wanted to know if it was a industry-wide decision and if all wastewater operators were interested in this proposal, or if it was just NWPCA that was in favor of the legislation. Mr. Schock also did not feel as the Board had been truly included in discussion on the legislation and felt there should have been more of an effort of working something out together. Mr. Schock would also like to come up with a possible Sub A to the legislation and would also like to go on record as to where the Board stands on this legislation. He did not want to debate the legislation at the subcommittee level, as was the case last legislative season. Mr. Schock would like to meet with NWPCA to come up with a level of common ground. Mr. Dionne spoke to operators and stated that most are not in favor of the legislation because of cost and being required to pass a test thereby jeopardizing their licenses. Mr. Wright offered that it would be the Board's responsibility to fine-tune the legislation and its implementation. Mr. Patenaude would like to have a meeting with NWPCA and all Board members. Mr. White would be arranging such a meeting.

Pursuant to Rhode Island General laws §42-46-5(a), Mr. Patenaude requested that the Board convene into executive session to discuss an enforcement matter regarding possible allegation of civil or criminal misconduct at the NBC-Fields Point WWTF.

**Mr. Patenaude led a roll call of votes to convene into Executive Session: Mr. White voted in favor, Mr. Kurdziel voted in favor, Mr. Dionne voted in favor, Mr. Patenaude voted in favor, Mr. Wright voted in favor and Mr. Schock voted in favor of convening into executive session and the motion passed.**

**Mr. Schock motioned to exit executive session: Mr. White voted in favor, Mr. Kurdziel voted in favor, Mr. Dionne voted in favor, Mr. Patenaude voted in favor, Mr. Wright voted in favor and Mr. Schock voted in favor of exiting executive session and the motion passed.**

**Mr. Schock motioned to seal the March 2, 2005 executive session meeting minutes: Mr. White voted in favor, Mr. Kurdziel voted in favor, Mr. Dionne voted in favor, Mr. Patenaude voted in favor, Mr. Wright voted in favor and Mr. Schock voted in favor of sealing the March 2, 2005 executive session meeting minutes.**

The next item discussed was the Freedom Bay Classification status. Messrs. White and Patenaude went on a fact-finding trip to Wrentham to look at a system similar to the one being proposed at the Freedom Bay for a location within both Middletown and Portsmouth. The system is designed to run in a highly automatic mode, especially such systems as reverse osmosis and the ion-exchange system. Mr. Patenaude offered that when the regulations were put together most such systems were not contained or fully automated, and as such warranted higher point-classification values.

**After review of the specifications, Mr. Schock made a motion to allow DEM's Operation and Maintenance section come up with an appropriate score for classification. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.**

**Mr. Patenaude then made a motion to allow the Board to administer the Grade 1 exam, and the Grade 1 exam ONLY, more than the current twice a year, not to exceed 3 months after a previous exam. Mr. Dionne seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed.**

Mr. Patenaude disseminated information regarding exam history for the Board to peruse.

**With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn the March 2, 2005 meeting. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. With all members voting in favor the motion passed.**

The next meeting will be April 6, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at 235 Promenade St., Providence, Room 280 in Providence.