

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

**Meeting Minutes: June 2, 2010**

**Members in Attendance: Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock, Tom White**

**Others in Attendance: David T. Sousa, Doug Nettleton, Marisa A. Desautel, DEM Legal.**

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

**With one minor grammatical change, Mr. White motioned to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the motion. With all members present voting in favor, the motion passed.**

**The next item discussed was an application submitted by David T. Sousa, of the NBC-Buckling Point WWTF, whose application had been denied at a previous meeting due to a lack of operational qualifications. In wishing to address the Board personally, Mr. Sousa stated that it was his understanding that he in fact did work in operations as he instructs personnel, plans and schedules preventative and corrective maintenance measures, and as such coordinates with operations staff. Mr. Sousa noted that the position was a recent addition to the NBC-Buckling Point organization chart,**

and as such was a chance for advancement. Mr. Kurdziel noted that if he were to consider such a position to be in operations, he would like to review an organization chart of the facility. Mr. Patenaude replied that the position did not appear to be in operations; he explained that such operational duties, to be acceptable experience, would, for instance, not merely notify operations staff of needed repairs to an RAS pump, but would then set a target MLSS to maintain compliance. Mr. Patenaude asked Mr. Sousa if those were the types of decisions he would make in his duties. Mr. Sousa replied that he did not. Mr. Patenaude explained that because such decisions were not made which have direct process impacts, the position was not one sufficiently in operations to warrant a Grade 3 or 4 exam. The Chair offered to discuss the position with Superintendent Brent Herring, to determine how the position could be modified to engage directly in operations to meet the Board's criteria. Mr. Patenaude stated that individuals who take the time to come to a meeting shows willingness to advance professionally, which was to be applauded.

**Mr. Sousa left the meeting.**

The next agenda item was the draft Regulations, which will be postponed.

The next item discussed was the issue of mandatory retraining. Mr. Patenaude expressed frustration with what appeared to be an ongoing stalemate in deciding if or how such a requirement should

be made. He noted the need of the Narragansett Water Pollution Control Commission to attend Board meetings to discuss their position on Mandatory Retraining. Mr. Nettleton, representing the NWPCA, agreed. Mr. McLynch said he would like to see training that benefits the operators and facilities. Mr. Nettleton said the Superintendent in the Association seemed generally positive about MRR, and that since technology has evolved, it is important to set the bar high and motivate individuals. Mr. Schock asked if there was that much interest, then the Association should develop and provide such training without prompting from the State or the Board. Messrs. White and Nettleton agreed to bring information back to the Association for further review and future dialogue with the Board.

With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4th, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Office located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.