

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

Meeting Minutes: July 11, 2012

Members in Attendance: Paul Desrosiers, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Gene Park, Bill Patenaude and Jon Schock

**Others in Attendance: Marisa Desautel, Esq. and Traci Pena, RIDEM
Mike Rubin, Esq. Rhode Island Attorney General's Office**

Mr. Patenaude called the July 11, 2012 meeting to order.

The first order of business was the review of the draft June 6, 2012 meeting minutes.

After review, Mr. Schock motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. All eligible members voted in favor as such the motion passed. Mr. Kurdziel and Ms. Forgue abstained as they were not present at the June meeting.

Per §42-46-4 and §42-46-5(a)(4), Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session in order to discuss an issue regarding Rhode Island wastewater treatment operators related to possible civil or criminal misconduct Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Desrosiers,

Ms. Forgue, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. McLynch, Dr. Park and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Schock motioned to send a letter of reprimand to a Rhode Island wastewater operator as a result from an incident regarding an unauthorized and inappropriate discharge of 300 gallons of odor-control scrubber water onto the grounds of a Rhode Island facility. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kurdziel. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed. (Note that Ms. Forgue abstained from the discussion, left the meeting before discussion, and returned after the Board vote.)

Ms. Forgue motioned to send a letter of notice to a Rhode Island wastewater operator as a result of an incident that occurred at a Rhode Island facility due to operational error which resulted in an overflow of wastewater influent that occurred during a wet-weather event. The motion was seconded by Mr. McLynch. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed. (Note that Mr. Desrosiers abstained from the discussion, left the meeting before discussion, and returned after the Board vote.)

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the July 11, 2012 Executive Session meeting minutes. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call in the affirmative: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Desrosiers, Ms. Forgue, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. McLynch, Dr. Park and

Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to resume the meeting into open session.

Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call in the affirmative: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Desrosiers, Ms. Forgue, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. McLynch, Dr. Park and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

The next item discussed was an application for reciprocity from a Mr. Kevin A. Dahl. He currently holds a Connecticut Class IV license and is seeking a Grade 4 Rhode Island license through reciprocity. His experience includes operating Grade 4 equivalent wastewater treatment plants in Connecticut and New Jersey for over 13 years. He is being offered a position at the Woonsocket wastewater treatment plant which will be under contract through CH2M Hill. He has experience in teaching college level wastewater classes and holds a P.E., B.S. and M.S. While he meets the qualifications of our regulations for Grade 4 licensure, Mr. Patenaude noted that the Board will need a letter from the City stating that he is the operator that will hold the Superintendent position, and the date that this becomes effective.

After brief discussion Mr. Schock motioned to approve Mr. Dahl's Grade 4 application through reciprocity pending employment confirmation from the City of Woonsocket. The motion was seconded by Mr. Desrosiers. All members present voted in favor, as such the

motion passed.

The next item discussed were draft Regulations. Mr. Desrosiers met with Narragansett Water Pollution Control Association (NWPCA) and confirmed their feeling from about a year ago that the Superintendents object to any requirement for tracking the mandatory retraining credits; they believe that individual operators should have this responsibility. Mr. Desrosiers also stated that NWPCA is willing to facilitate training to members and discussions are underway for training at four satellite locations throughout the state and at minimal costs. Mr. Patenaude stated that the Board had proposed to certify a training program submitted by the facility, and that this philosophy need not include such a requirement for superintendents. Mr. Patenaude provided a history of attempts to add training to the Board's regulations, a requirement that has been unable to move forward for a lack of votes. Mr. Patenaude then noted options for moving forward, none of which would likely pass with a strong majority—and he noted that he would prefer for the Board to be in agreement. In general discussions, Ms. Forgue raised concerns about administrative impacts of such changes as well as concerns about training second and third shift operators, which has been an issue for her city with regards to training requirements for drinking water operators. Mr. Kurdziel urged that an online training program would assist in implementing the training; such programs are low-cost and could be administered at the operator's schedule. Mr. Desrosiers responded to concerns about a lack of available training

that there are good courses out there and operators and managers must practice time management to incorporate training—as is most likely the case already. Mr. Schock again suggested a template be provided so that communities can maintain a level of comfort with particular training proposals. Mr. McLynch suggested that requiring operators to track their training would inevitably fall back on the facility in some way. He also stated that currently there is little support within the profession for such mandatory training and that most operators already get training from the facility. Dr. Park offered that there are many variables that must be weighed but that he was certain that all parties appreciated the importance of training. Mr. Patenaude suggested that it seems likely that each entity represented on the Board is going to have to make a sacrifice when it comes to training. He also needs to speak with the DEM Director and see which direction he should go to as he is the director's designee. Mr. Desrosiers offered that a phased-in approach could be looked into.

With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Schock, the motion passed with all members voting in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM office located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI.