

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

**MEETING MINUTES: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2014**

**Members in Attendance: Paul Desrosiers, Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch and Bill Patenaude**

**Others in Attendance: Carmine Goneconte and Stephen Morelli, Jr. – NBC Fields Point Gregory Schultz, Esq. Rhode Island Attorney General's Office**

**Marisa Desautel, Esq. and Traci Pena, RIDEM**

**The meeting came to order at 9:30.**

**The first order of business was the contestation of three Grade 3 exam questions. Mr. Desrosiers recused himself discussion and vote as he supervises Mr. Morelli.**

**Mr. Morelli explained the answers and how he derived as the answer he chose.**

**After discussion Mr. McLynch voted in favor to award Mr. Morelli the additional points, thereby receiving a passing score on the summer 2014 exam. Ms. Forgue seconded the vote. All eligible members voted**

**in favor, as such the motion passed. Mr. Desrosiers abstained from the vote.**

**The next order of business was the review of the draft June 4, 2014 meeting minutes.**

**After review of the June 4, 2014 minutes, Mr. Desrosiers motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor.**

**The next order was the draft July 2, 2014 meeting minutes.**

**After review of the draft July 2, 2014 minutes, Mr. McLynch voted in favor of the minutes as amended. Mr. Patenaude seconded the vote. All eligible members voted in favor. Messers Kurdziel and Desrosiers abstained as they were not present at the July meeting.**

**Per §42-46-4 and §42-46-5(a)(4), Mr. Patenaude motioned to convene into executive session to discuss issues regarding Rhode Island wastewater treatment operators related to possible civil or criminal misconduct. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers and Ms. Forgue all voting in the affirmative.**

**Mr. Patenaude motion to seal the September 3, 2014 executive session meeting minutes. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers and Ms. Forgue all voting in the affirmative.**

**Mr. Patenaude motioned to resume the meeting into open session. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. McLynch, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers and Ms. Forgue all voting in the affirmative.**

**The next item discussed was training course approval.**

**Mr. Patenaude approved a wastewater disaster preparedness course offered by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency in February on an hour-per-hour basis.**

**The next discussion was the Water Environment Federation's Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC). WEFTEC was seeding continuing education approval for the conference.**

**After discussion Mr. McLynch offered to adopt the Massachusetts model with respect to approving WEFTEC. Ms Forge seconded the motion, all members voted in favor; as such the motion passed.**

**The next item discussed were regulatory updates.**

**Mr. Patenaude suggested deleting references to posting times in Rule 11. Mr. Patenaude also noted that DEM Legal will be providing guidance on streamlining Rule 14 (revocation) as related to the renewal process.**

**The next regulation consideration/guidance a subject raised to Mr. Patenaude attention. Could an operator with OIT status work alone on an “off” shift? Mr. Patenaude polled the Board as to if they should provide guidance. Mr. Patenaude thought was that is the operator’s duty to pay attention and alert a supervisor if something should go wrong. Mr. Desrosiers would hope that a superintendent would want someone on the shift he sought to be capable. It was the Board’s consensus that this matter was best handled at the facility level, thus giving the superintendent/management team wide latitude in staffing their facility.**

**The next item discussed were the use of last 4 digits for examinee identification of exam results. Other options were discussed.**

**In new business, exam results were reviewed.**

**Mr. Patenaude updated the Board on the Operator Boot Camp. The last class is Thursday, September 4, 2014 whereupon the campers will be giving half-hour presentations. The graduation will take place on September 12, 2014 at the Narragansett Water Pollution Control**

**Association's trade show.**

**The meeting adjourned at 10:48 with a motion from Mr. Patenaude, seconded by Mr. McLynch. All members present voted in favor as such the motion passed.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM-Office of Water Resources Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI.**