

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Members in Attendance: Dr. Janet Baldwin, Julia Forgue, Paul Desrosiers, Fred Kurdziel, Bill Patenaude, and Jon Schock

Others in Attendance: Gregory Schultz, Esq. - RI Attorney General's Office

Christina Hoefsmit, Esq., Traci Pena and Matthew Puglia - RI Department of Environmental Management

The meeting came to order at 9:33.

Mr. Patenaude announced that Marisa Desautel has resigned from DEM and would be replaced by DEM's Christina Hoefsmit.

The first order of business was the review of the draft January meeting minutes.

After review of the draft January 7, 2015 minutes, Mr. Kurdziel motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock abstained as they were not at the January meeting.

After review of the draft January 7, 2015 executive minutes, Mr. Kurdziel motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Patenaude seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members voting in favor. Ms. Forgue and Mr. Schock abstained as they were not at the January 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. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers, Dr. Baldwin, and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to seal the February 4, 2015 Executive session meeting minutes. Mr. Shock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers, Dr. Baldwin, 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: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers, Dr. Baldwin, and Mr. Schock all voting in the affirmative.

After returning from executive session the following motions were

made:

Mr. Patenaude motioned to send a letter to a Rhode Island wastewater superintendent with a copy to an operator stating that the Board will not take any further action related to a matter reviewed by the Board, but that this incident may be considered should another violation take place. Mr. Kurdziel seconded the vote. The following roll call took place: Mr. Patenaude, Mr. Kurdziel, Mr. Desrosiers, and Dr. Baldwin all voting in the affirmative. Ms. Forgue and Mr. Shock voted nay, as such the motioned passed.

After discussion of another matter, Mr. Kurdziel motioned to send a letter to a Rhode Island wastewater regarding fecal coliform exceedance violation. The letter will request additional information, such as if a corrective action plan has been or is in place and, if so, to submit said plan. The letter will also request information on what changes have been made since the event. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, as such the motion passed.

The next item discussed was training course approvals. Mr. Desrosiers presented several courses offered by Beacon Mutual. Many of the courses were related to safety. Mr. Shock offered that when the guidance document was developed it was his understanding that the training should be plant performance related.

Ms. Forgue suggested such courses could be approved but that the number of safety credits could be limited. Mr. Patenaude offered that safety was important but questioned taking such courses was “going above and beyond” what would be expected of an operator. Mr. Patenaude asked for the Board to individually consider the matter and to continue it at the next meeting.

The next course, “VSAT and WHEAT”, discussed was offered by EPA. This course gives attendees the tools to perform an all-hazard risk assessment, and offers techniques like estimating threats, vulnerability, and consequences. After discussion, this course discussion will also continue to the next meeting.

Dr. Baldwin presented the Board with a short demonstration on a basic math course to illustrate the usefulness of an online class. The demonstration was met favorably. Dr. Baldwin would build upon the presentation, and asked what additional examples would be helpful. A subcommittee was developed to include Messers Desrosiers, Patenaude, and Dr. Baldwin.

The next discussion was the search of a basic math instructor. Mr. Patenaude will send a letter out to the profession to solicit an instructor.

Mr. Schock motioned to adjourn. Dr Baldwin seconded, all members voted in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM-Office of Water Resources Room 280 located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI.