

## Richard Healey (adpce.ad)

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**From:** Thomas Harrington (adpce.ad)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** bobtharp@decaturarkansas.us; 'james.boston@decaturarkansas.us'; 'Wick.Warden@amce.com'  
**Cc:** Richard Healey (adpce.ad); Leslie Allen-Daniel (adpce.ad); Joe Martin (adpce.ad); Bryan Leamons (adpce.ad); Alan York (adpce.ad); Stacie Wassell (adpce.ad); Guy Lester (adpce.ad); Jason Bolenbaugh (adpce.ad)  
**Subject:** City of Decatur Zoom Meeting Attendance Form and Meeting Minutes  
**Attachments:** City of Decatur Zoom Meeting Sign in Sheet August 17 2023.pdf; City of Decatur Meeting Minutes August 17 2023.pdf

Mayor Tharp,

Please see the attached attendance form and minutes. If you have any questions please contact me.

**Please respond to this email to verify that you have received it.**

Thank you,

Thomas Harrington | Enforcement Analysts  
Division of Environmental Quality | Office of Water Quality  
Enforcement Branch  
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**ARKANSAS**  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

## AGENDA

DEA Zoom meeting with the City of Decatur

Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 2:00pm

1. Introductions
2. Complaint
  - a) Complaint from landowner (Ms. Driggers) about solids in the creek downstream from the treatment plant.
  - b) Complaint stated that her children became sick after swimming in the creek.
  - c) Landowner took water samples that showed a very high amount of fecal.
  - d) The City took samples took water samples from the creek a week later. The report showed elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria.
3. Overflows
  - a) DEQ asked for the City to show where the overflows were coming from on the map that they provided.
  - b) City showed that the overflows that leave the facility come from treatment tank number 3. When that tank overflows it goes over the wall of the facility and into the creek.
  - c) The City said that there have been overflows at the influent pump station but that those overflows go to a pond on at the facility and not to the creek.
  - d) City stated that the overflows are due to electrical issues, caused by lightning, which causes the system alarms not to work when the tanks reach a high level.
  - e) DEQ advised the City that if the plant has a lightning strike it needs to be reported as an upset condition.
  - f) City said that the system has been repaired. Most of the alarms have come back online except for the high-level alarms. City does not know if all of the damage due to the lightning strikes have been repaired.
  - g) City said that the alarm company would be coming to the plant to check the system to find out why the high-level alarms are not working.
4. Plant Operation
  - a) DEQ asked if the plant was staffed 24 hours a day. The City said that the plant was staffed five days a week. There is an operator on call during the weekend.
  - b) The city said that the current system is not meeting the current demand.
  - c) City stated that the EQ basin is pumped down at the end of the week.
  - d) DEQ asked how the sludge was handled. The City said that the sludge is pumped to a de-watering chamber in a building at the facility. The solids are then land applied in Missouri.

- e) DEQ asked about the operating capacity of the plant during dry weather. The City said that on a monthly average, they have an 80-85 percent capacity but on a daily basis, they have a 90-95 percent capacity during dry weather. The City stated that during heavy rain events the plant operates at over 100 percent capacity.
- f) DEQ asked if the City of Centerton and Simmons Foods were on a contract stating how much wastewater that they could send. The City said that neither were on a contract.
- g) The City said that Simmons Foods sends approximately 60 million gallons a month and that the City of Centerton accounts for approximately 8 percent of the monthly total.
- h) DEQ asked if there were flow meters for each of the influent trains. The City said that they had a flow meter for Centerton and Simmons Foods but not for the City of Decatur.
- i) DEQ asked what the size of the EQ basin is. The City said that it was approximately 7.5 million gallons.
- j) DEQ asked if the City had any means to address the capacity of the facility. The City said that this would be addressed in the Master Plan that is being developed.

#### 5. Funding and Planned Upgrades

- a) The City said that they had received approximately \$6.5 million dollars in bond revenue to upgrade the new head works. The City said that they are approximately 60 percent complete with the planning of the upgrades.
- b) The City said that they have received 11.5 million dollars from ANCR but are waiting on Project Administrator to be able to access this. They must be able to start spending this money by July 2024.
- c) DEQ said that the plans did not have to 100 percent complete to be submitted but they have to be certified by a Professional Engineer.
- d) The City said that they would be sending the plan and construction permit application to DEQ soon. The plans may be sent to DEQ by September.
- e) DEQ encouraged the City to submit the plans and the construction permit application as soon as possible. DEQ advised that it could take longer than six months for the application to be processed and the permit to be issued.

#### 6. Wrap Up

- a) DEQ thanked the City for taking part in the meeting.



Facility: City of Decatur AR0022292

# MEETING ATTENDANCE

Date: August 17, 2023 at 2:00pm via Zoom

Name	Organization	Job Title	E-Mail Address	Telephone Number
Richard Healey	DEQ	Enforcement Branch Manager	<a href="mailto:healey@adeq.state.ar.us">healey@adeq.state.ar.us</a>	501-682-0640
Leslie Allen-Daniel	DEQ	Enforcement Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Allen-daniel@adeq.state.ar.us">Allen-daniel@adeq.state.ar.us</a>	501-682-0630
Joe Martin	DEQ	Planning Branch Manager	<a href="mailto:Joe.Martin@adeq.state.ar.us">Joe.Martin@adeq.state.ar.us</a>	501-682-0660
Bryan Leamons	DEQ	Asst. Division Manager	<a href="mailto:leamons@adeq.state.ar.us">leamons@adeq.state.ar.us</a>	501-683-5406
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Stacie Wassell	DEQ	Deputy Associate Director OWQ	<a href="mailto:Wassell@adeq.state.ar.us">Wassell@adeq.state.ar.us</a>	
Guy Lester	DEQ	Permit Engineer	<a href="mailto:lester@adeq.state.ar.us">lester@adeq.state.ar.us</a>	501-519-0304
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James Boston	City of Decatur	Public Works Manager	<a href="mailto:James.boston@decaturarkansas.us">James.boston@decaturarkansas.us</a>	479-752-3912
Robert Wick Warden	Allgeier, Martin and Assoc.	Consulting Engineer	<a href="mailto:Wick.Warden@amce.com">Wick.Warden@amce.com</a>	

REMARKS:

