

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012
ADEQ MEETING ROOM E109

MEMBERS

Jennifer Bouldin, Ph.D., Arkansas State University
Kelly Bryant, Evergreen Packaging, Inc.
Lisa Ellington, Paragould Light, Water & Cable
Steven Upton, Heber Springs Wastewater Department
Tommy Tooke, Tyson Foods, Inc.
Jimmy Smith, Searcy Water & Sewer
William Winn, City of Fayetteville
Craig Uyeda, Executive Secretary, ADEQ

MINUTES

The meeting of the Wastewater Licensing Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, August 8, 2012, by Executive Secretary, Uyeda. Members and attendees present were Winn, Ellington, Bouldin, Upton, Bryant, Tooke, Smith; Dennis Sternberg, AR Rural Water Association (ARWA); Jo Anna Brown, Little Rock Wastewater Utility; Martin Nutt, AR Department of Health (ADH); Jane Hurley, ADEQ; Craig Uyeda, ADEQ, AWLC Executive Secretary; Kevin Suel, ADEQ Testing Administrator and Sandy Luttrell, ADEQ Licensing Coordinator.

Executive Secretary Uyeda made a suggestion that the Committee entertain the motion of electing a member to fill the position of Chairman on the AWLC. Upton made a comment that the Regulation 3.201(B) Licensing Committee Composition section provided for the Committee to review was rather vague and does not clarify in any terms that the chairman meet the standards written within this section. A nomination was made by Bouldin to appoint Bryant to the position of Chairman of the Committee, which was seconded by Upton. This was agreed upon unanimously, and the motion carries.

The May 9th meeting minutes were reviewed. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded by Bouldin and the motion carried.

Uyeda gave the financial report. He informed the Committee that a vehicle for the Wastewater Licensing sections use was requested again to be considered for the upcoming legislative session, but did not make the fleet purchase list this budget cycle. He noted that this will be brought up again for future consideration when the legislature is in session again.

***Please note: "Responses to Committee concerns researched are typed in italic print."

Luttrell presented the licensing report.

Public comments began with Sternberg present for the Arkansas Rural Water Association. He announced they were close to finalizing the 2013 training course calendar.

No one was present with the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy.

Under old business, the matter of addressing Mr. Shafii was brought up regarding Committee concerns, which had been tabled from the May meeting due to his lack of knowledge of these matters. However, no one acknowledged Uyeda when he offered to invite Shafii into the meeting to review their list of concerns previously mentioned, so the matter was omitted.

Conversation then proceeded with Committee member Smith, bringing up three (3) areas of concern he wished to discuss that date back to matters dealt with from previous meetings of the Wastewater Licensing Committee. Back on May 11, 2011, the minutes referred to Garner's statement of an Act passed for \$184,509 in appropriations toward salaries, travel and operating expenses through Section 5 (which pertains to the licensing section). *"Nutt informed the Committee that this Act gives permission for the money to be spent during a length of time (1-2 years) by the licensing agency if it is needed, but does not actually have to be used. Sternberg agreed with this comment then added that legislative sessions start out with categories of appropriations needed and amounts are set and approved for use during even numbered years."*

Smith's second discussion came from the November 9, 2011 minutes, which addressed concerns of the extensive money built-up in the Wastewater Licensing account, which had been an ongoing concern of every member on the Board. The conversation revolved around an automobile needed for use in testing and for statewide travel by the wastewater licensing staff. *"Nutt mentioned this request would need to be brought up for appropriations at the current legislative session in order to have permission granted for this expense, which would take effect within a two-year period. He added that most state agencies have a cap on the number of vehicles allowed in their fleets."*

Smith's third concern he wished to address, related to the May 12, 2010 Minutes, where Garner presented the current board with a comparison chart of ABC's national standardized exams through their program. The report provided by ABC, as explained by Woodbury (testing administrator at that time), showed the National Passing Rates for exams taken over a ten (10) year period. *"The ABC program came highly recommended by Martin Nutt with ADH to implement into the ADEQ wastewater licensing program, to avoid questions or doubts of previous methods used in testing, even with the low pass rate through ABC. Garner felt this would relieve her of overseeing Class IV testing practices"*

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(obligations) and ABC offered sample test to be reviewed by the agency for which we would have some input to the questions provided by ABC.”

Upton and Winn expressed their desire to see and review the sample test provided by ABC if possible, to ensure that the questions being asked were area specific to Arkansas’ operators. Suel was able to verify that out of the 100 test questions asked of the Class IV operators, 20 questions were inserted by ADEQ.

Nutt added that to his knowledge, ABC does not offer special training courses designed to assist operators in preparing for their test. Winn suggested a study guide prepared by the Water Environment Federation and ABC (WEF/ABC) that is available for purchase called “The Wastewater Operators’ Guide to Preparing for the Certification Examination”. Luttrell announced this literature is available and can be reserved through ADEQ’s Wastewater Licensing library, for a period up to six months. This is an excellent tool in studying for the Class IV licensing test. Hurley suggested that a committee member consider taking the Class IV exam, which Bryant asked if there were any volunteers (three did reserve the literature to review / unknown as to whether they will take the test at this time).

Sternberg inquired about the Class IV training course ADEQ initiated with the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy and the length of time the contract agreed upon between the two was to last. *“To Luttrell’s knowledge, this course agreement was arranged in a meeting between ADEQ’s Director, Teresa Marks and the AR Environmental Training Academy (this transaction never involved the Arkansas Wastewater Licensing Committee and had no effect on the wastewater licensing funds account). The wastewater licensing team was not involved with all the details, just that the money used to fund this training was in an ADEQ account with a time-sensitive date for the funds to be used, which was quickly approaching.”*

Under new business, Jo Anna Brown with Little Rock Wastewater was present to inform the Committee of the 360 Water training program that her facility is currently implementing for their wastewater operators. No one was available with the 360 Water Program due to short notice, therefore, the Committee decided to wait until the November 14th meeting to further consider this training program.

Finally under new business, Suel discussed the instruction course being offered by SEMS Technologies to help facilities with record keeping procedures. The Committee agreed to discuss this training option at the next scheduled meeting on November 14th.

Bryant asked do we have a motion to adjourn this meeting? Smith made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Bouldin. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.