SOLID WASTE LICENSING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2008

A regular meeting of the Solid Waste Licensing Committee was held on Thursday, September 18, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 1E09 of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Headquarters, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The meeting was called to order by Dave Rose, Chair, who called the roll. Members present included Jim Abbey, Sid Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Hoover, Jack Jones, Gary Oden, Roger Davis and Dave Rose. Others in attendance included Steve Martin, Randy Harper, Ricky Cole, Jane Schwartz, and Vivian Tucker. Jim Willits, Micci Fendley, and Mark Witherspoon were absent.

The minutes were read and approved.

An update on the expired Committee member vacancies was given by Elizabeth Hoover. She said the paperwork requesting reappointment for the expired member vacancies was ready to go for the next Commission meeting.

Jane Schwartz reported that the license renewal process was almost completed, and that the issuance of new licenses was going smoother.

Elizabeth Hoover commented that Regulation 8 was being amended so that Solid Waste licensees wouldn't have to fill out a new Disclosure Statement each year, and that only the first and last pages would need to be completed if there had been no changes.

Dave Rose gave a statement of appreciation for everyone's attendance and for being elected as Chair.

Ricky Cole gave a training report on the Solid Waste training classes from July 1 to September 1, 2008. He reported 35 students attended classes during that time period. He will give a report on internet class numbers at the next Committee meeting.

Randy Harper presented a demonstration of the internet classes. He stated that all registration forms are to be sent to Ricky Cole.

A general discussion was held about giving tests to assess how well students did in each class. The course content for internet classes should be the same as used for attendance classes and the tests should also be the same. It was stated that a student must score at least 70% to receive credit for attending class and would have up to two weeks after the class to pass the test with no limit on how many times the test has to be taken. The test would be multiple choice and take about 30 minutes to complete.

Randy stated that the test is needed to show that the students did study the material; he said the college has been using this system for five years in other departments and had no problems with the system.

Gary Oden said that as the program was used it would be adjusted as needed. He suggested that Ricky contact any students who haven't taken or passed the test and that the roster would not show people who haven't passed the test.

Sid noted that classroom attendance was verified by the instructor, and that by having a test on the internet courses, it would verify that the student read and studied the materials.

Elizabeth commented that the standards for both the internet and classroom courses needs to be the same.

Steve asked what would stop online students from getting help to pass the test, and how the standards for both types of class could be kept the same.

Gary suggested a compromise of having no tests in the first year of the internet classes and then the data showing how long each student spent on the classes would be compared with the licensing test results.

Roger suggested that by knowing a test would be given it helped the students pay attention better.

Steve suggested that no pass/fail grade be given to the test, but that students would still need to take it.

Jim stated that he felt that if the internet students were tested online, the classroom students should also be tested.

Steve asked what the procedures were for the classroom courses, and Sid replied that the instructor goes over the test and then the students take the test.

Dave said it keeps the students interested in staying in the class, and that when he attended his update class, it had the best attendance he had ever seen.

Gary said the 70% standard was borrowed from the wastewater licensing procedures, and it was used to tell if the student had learned the class materials. The classroom and internet classes must have the same standards. He suggested that an evaluation be done after six months or a year to see if a pass/fail test would be needed.

Elizabeth suggested that having to pass a test could cause people to not attend classes at the Academy and use other sources for the update hours needed to renew their license.

Gary suggested that Ricky contact some of the district directors for suggestions on how to validate online class attendance.

Randy said he would give ADEQ test scores and time online as information.

Gary said a chat room could be added to the online classes and that students would have to log in a minimum number of times to prove their time spent on the class.

Roger opened a discussion on students attending classes that don't apply to them in order to renew their license. He felt that classes needed to be on subjects that were part of their job and that they shouldn't have to cover areas that didn't apply to them.

Elizabeth stated that there shouldn't be separate classes and tests for every kind of facility, because there are too many types.

Gary suggested a bank of questions so that a test could be tailored to each type of license with at least 60% of the questions to be on the kind of job the student will be doing.

A subcommittee was appointed to do further study on how classes could be made to fit the different jobs of the students.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

David Rose, Chair