

SOLID WASTE LICENSING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 18, 2010

A regular meeting of the Solid Waste Licensing Committee was held on Thursday, November 18, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 4C05/06 of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Headquarters, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The meeting was called to order by Roger Davis, Chair, who called the roll. Members present included Roger Davis, Elizabeth Hoover, Mark Witherspoon, Sid Fitzgerald, Billy Buck, Gary Oden, and Jim Willits. Others in attendance included Roger Lawrence, Randy Harper, Ricky Cole, and Vivian Tucker.

The minutes were read and approved.

Gary Oden said he had been approached about the solid waste licensing training, asking if the district directors were consulted, and he said he would work with the directors on the training program. He said that everyone had looked at the current schedule, and it had been approved by ADEQ. He initiated a discussion on testing, and inquired about whether the Department would allow Committee members to proctor the tests when an ADEQ employee was not available.

Mark Witherspoon suggested that instructors be allowed to proctor the exams. Randy Harper stated that he would prefer that his staff not give the tests.

Elizabeth Hoover said that proposed changes would need to be discussed with Roger Lawrence, but she felt that ADEQ should continue to be the only ones giving tests. She said that it wasn't cost effective for ADEQ to give tests for only three or four people when travel was required.

Gary Oden said he still felt that there should be an alternate way of giving the tests.

Jim Willits asked why this issue had been brought up, and Gary Oden said that he had received some complaints that the test wasn't being given at the same time as the class.

Elizabeth Hoover said that some of the classes were too small for ADEQ to travel to give the test, and that the test was given in North Little Rock twice a month. Tests were also given when someone from ADEQ was in the area on other business and were available to administer the tests locally.

Jim Willits said that it may be difficult for all Committee members to have the free time to do the testing, and that the current system shouldn't change unless failures were increasing.

Elizabeth Hoover said that there was only one person in the history of the licensing program that failed to receive their license. If a student fails the test, retesting is free.

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Randy Harper stated that classes considered too small for testing were rare, but that it caused a hardship for students to travel to North Little Rock for the tests. He said that some of the districts have complained that not all districts were getting training, so there were an increased number of classes, which caused the classes to be smaller. Elizabeth Hoover said that there were only two classes this year that were too small for testing.

Gary Oden said that the complainant said that there were eight people in the class that they had attended and that there was no test given.

Randy Harper said that they are trying to give the training as needed by the districts, and while ADEQ gives the tests, it would be nice to be assured that all classes will be tested on site. He passed out the current class schedule.

Ken Nutt said that he was working on the textbook updates and that he would be contacting Jim Willits on composting soon. He said he wants to start the updates with the Master workbook.

Elizabeth Hoover asked if the Academy has a budget for sending instructors to training, so that Kenny Nutt could attend meetings for advanced training, such as SWANA. She recommended that Ken Nutt get as much training as possible. She also suggested that Ken Nutt attend managers training to help with the Master update.

Jim Willits asked if there were any of the training modules completed, and Mark Witherspoon said none had been completed yet. Mr. Willits then inquired about how long they have been working on the modules. Gary Oden replied that they had been working on them about two years. Jim Willits said that the modules were intended to help with the training and that they were supposed to provide a way to tailor the classes as needed. Mark Witherspoon said that modules were included in the training schedule, and they would have to be finished soon. He said that there were some outlines completed that just needed some input on details.

Roger Lawrence asked how the training schedules were set, and Randy Harper said that the dates were requested by the districts and most of the dates were what the districts wanted. Mr. Lawrence asked if the dates were set to meet the licensing renewal date. Mr. Harper said that the districts choose the dates that best serve them. He also said the main time focus for the class dates was from February to May, and not many classes were needed outside of this time period.

Randy Harper said that the Academy also offers private classes on location as needed.

Roger Lawrence mentioned possibly developing online testing. Gary Oden said that choice was up to ADEQ, but that other programs have internet testing. Mr. Lawrence said that there would have to be security to assure that only the student was able to take the test. Elizabeth Hoover said that the tests were different each time a test was given, and it would have to be the same for internet tests. Mr. Lawrence said that he would

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discuss this further with Elizabeth and that they would try to work with the Academy. He asked Mr. Oden to send him information.

Elizabeth Hoover gave a department report, saying that IDOC training will be held again in 6 to 8 months and she will give more information as she gets it. She also said that there would be a few free registrations available for the Academy. Mrs. Hoover also talked about the recent district meetings. She said that there were presentations given by Roger Lawrence, Susan Speake, Robert Hunter, and herself covering waste tires, licensing, solid waste plans, financial assurance, and recycling grants. She stated that she told the attendees that there were classes offered by the Academy for solid waste licenses and renewals.

Roger Lawrence said that during the District meetings that were held, he found out that there were only 11 composting sites in the state, and he stressed to the boards that the law required one facility per county.

Jim Willits asked if the purpose of the meeting presentations were for updating information for the districts, and Elizabeth Hoover replied that they were held because Roger Lawrence felt the meetings could improve communication between the district boards and ADEQ.

Sid Fitzgerald said that the boards have county judges as members and that not many of them have solid waste training. Elizabeth Hoover replied that most boards have licensed members or an employee with a license, and she said that newer judges may not realize the need for training.

Elizabeth Hoover also talked about a DVD produced by the EPA on TDA. She said that Roger Davis was concerned that there wasn't enough training on waste tire disposal, and this DVD could be used by the Academy as training material, because it wasn't copyrighted. She said that she showed the DVD in-house to the technical staff, and they were impressed with the information given and the way it was presented. This DVD is just now available, but will be distributed in the state as soon as there were enough copies.

Dave Rose asked when the 6-hour update had to be completed for license renewal, because he wanted to be sure that his operators are able to renew. Elizabeth Hoover told him the date was May 15<sup>th</sup>. She also said that the renewal process has taken longer because of changes in how mail was being handled by ADEQ.

Roger Davis stated that there is a recycler in Jacksonville with tires on the ground, and that he called Jim Goble and wasn't able to contact him. He said that he called City Hall, and they told him that their employees were out for training and testing for their relicensing. He felt that students were not being given enough training on their jobs--that they were studying information that wasn't relevant to them. Elizabeth Hoover said that

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ADEQ is working on making the tests more tailored to the type of facility where students work, but that some general information would always be included because the operators could change jobs. When the licensing program was set up, public comments received reflected that commenters believe that there were too many kinds of licenses. As a result, they were consolidated. Dave Rose said that he got questions on his test that was not covered in his class. Elizabeth Hoover said that the questions in the database come from the workbooks and from Committee input.

Mark Witherspoon asked what was required for approval of training for license renewal. He suggested that the Department publish the criteria for approval, and that the committee should recommend this be done. Elizabeth Hoover said that by publishing the criteria, the requirements would be locked down to only what was on the list, and there would be little flexibility. Mark Witherspoon called for a vote, and motion was made, seconded, and passed to recommend the Department publish a list of training criteria.

Roger Davis set meeting dates for February 24, 2011, and May 26, 2011, at 10:30 a.m.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Roger Davis, Chair