

SOLID WASTE LICENSING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2015

A regular meeting of the Solid Waste Licensing Committee was held on Thursday, March 26, 2015, 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 William Wright, Chairman. The roll was called. Members present included William Wright, Warren Atkins, Jim Abbey, Gussie Robinson, Neil Washburn, Phillip Davis, Elizabeth Hoover and Randy Harper. Bill Burroughs was absent. Others in attendance included Rickey Cole, Cassie Kent, Jane Schwartz, Susan Speake and Ben Jones.

The minutes from the prior meeting were reviewed and approved.

Elizabeth Hoover provided the Department report. She requested an annual vote on stipends and other travel reimbursements. Motion was made, seconded and passed that members would be eligible to receive the \$60 per meeting stipend and other travel reimbursements as allowable for state employees.

Elizabeth Hoover reported on the assessment results from the 2013-2014 assessment exams. She said that exams were administered to 284 operators and 357 supervisors and managers for a total of 641 assessment exams administered. She said that the next step would be developing the training eligibility criteria for the next licensing year. Ben Jones said that the assessment report represents all raw data and that the Department will be looking at all of it closely.

Elizabeth Hoover asked for input on recommendations for the two upcoming vacancies. She reminded the group that Jim Abbey would be completing his second term in April, and she said that the Committee needs to think about a replacement for him and the position formerly held by Judge Jacobs. She said that Jim Abbey's replacement had to be a representative of a regional solid waste management board, and Mike Jacobs' replacement had to be an on-site supervisor or manager of a county operated solid waste management facility. Motion was made, seconded, and passed, to nominate Angela Sparks of Craighead County RSWMD as first choice for the district representative position, and if she were unable to accept a nomination, the second choice would be Wendy Cravens of Benton County RSWMD. For the county position, motion was made, seconded and passed to nominate Rosemary Rogers of the Marion County Transfer Station as first choice, and if she were unable to accept a nomination, the second choice would be Benny Williams of the Carroll County Transfer Station.

The Academy Report was presented by Randy Harper. He said that during October through December there were 15 classes, 15 locations, 130 students and 198 contract hours, and from January through the March 26 meeting date, there were 20 locations, 207 students, and 242 contract hours.

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General discussion was held on Regulation 27.201 related to exam administration. Specifically, the regulation states that the department has the authority to give permission for the administrator of an approved course to administer licensing exams. It was decided that the Academy and the Department would get together and discuss the administering of the tests.

The Committee discussed the number of instruction hours assigned to the Level C "Master" course. Sometime around July of 2000, the number of instruction hours was changed to 30 hours. It was originally supposed to be a 20 hour course, and since Regulation 27 assigns 20 hours to it, the Department database assigns 20 hours to it, as well. Randy Harper said that Mark Witherspoon said he would be glad to come and talk to the Committee and explain why it went to 30 hours from the original 20 hours. It was originally designed as a 20 hour course but it took longer to cover the material in the workbook. It was discussed if the Department database could post the 30 hours instead of the 20. It was decided that the Committee would take a look at the regulation and discuss it again.

In other business, Warren Atkins brought House Bill 1452 to the Committee's attention. He said that the bill appears to give the ADEQ director the ability to give written waivers for people who do not have an operator license. Ben Jones said he thinks it is for situations like Clear Harbors who has a household hazardous waste collection center at their transfer station. He said that the transfer station is right next door to their primary hazardous waste facility. They have employees who go through hazardous waste training, but because it is a transfer station, employees are required to have solid waste operator licenses rather than hazardous waste facility operator licenses.

The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, May 20, 2015, with Tuesday, May 19, an alternate date in case the room was not available.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



William Wright, Chairman