

SOLID WASTE LICENSING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2020

A regular meeting of the Solid Waste Licensing Committee was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 10:30 a.m., via Zoom conference call.

The meeting was called to order by Angela Sparks, Chairperson. Members present included, Shane Ellis, Randy Harper, Billy Sawyer, Randy Atkinson, Jennifer Merritt, Paige Davis and Jodi Reynold-Coffelt. Wendy Bland was absent.

Jennifer Merritt explained why the nominee Jeff Barfield was deemed ineligible to fill the seat vacated by Warren Atkins. A motion was made by Randy Atkinson to request new applications and Billy Sawyer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Randy Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Jodi Reynold-Coffelt seconded the motion. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Jennifer Merritt gave the DEQ report: There are 604 active operators, 725 renewals were mailed out on May 22nd. Currently there are 224 inactive operators. 66 of the inactive operators have paid for renewal but not yet acquired the necessary CEU's to be eligible for renewal. 20 operators have responded that they do not plan to renew that leaves 138 unknown operators. An update on in office rotation and Corona Virus Pandemic schedule for DEQ was given.

Randy Harper gave the Academy Report: Year on year comparison 2018-2019 year they taught 74 classes with 931 students; 2019-2020 they have taught 65 classes with 635 students. They started in person and make up classes in June. They are working on the 2021 course schedule. He discussed the recent workshop he held to work on training modules to allow for a more customizable training program and talked about the new Zoom room that will allow them to teach live classes via Zoom. Some training locations remain closed to them. Randy gave kudos to solid waste training sites, adjunct professors and DEQ for being rock stars during Covid-19, keeping classes and operators going through out the pandemic.

Angela Sparks asked how exams will be conducted with the Zoom classes. Jennifer Merritt answered that virtual students will be offered verbal exams over the phone or via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. She compared the test scores of virtual students to those of the in person students and the performance of virtual students was actually better than the in person test scores. Angela Sparks asked a follow up question about the adjunct professors being able to utilize Zoom for their in person classes. Randy Harper answered that if the adjunct professors and the

operators seeking training had the technology necessary to host, run and attend a Zoom class that he would support that method of training.

Jennifer Merritt asked committee members to solicit candidates to fill the vacancy of an operator employed by a municipality. She asked the committee members if they had anyone that they would like to recommend. Jodi Reynold-Coffelt recommended Joe Hopper from the City of Conway.

The committee discussed the next meeting date and it was decided on November 12, at 10:30 a.m. at DEQ or via Zoom.

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Billy Sawyer and Randy Atkinson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Angela Sparks, Chairperson