

SOLID WASTE LICENSING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES November 21, 2024

A regular meeting of the Solid Waste Licensing Committee was held on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. in the Arkansas River Valley conference room of the Arkansas Department of Environment and Energy Headquarters at 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The meeting was called to order by Randy Harper, Chairman. Members present in person: Jennifer Parslow, Randy Harper, Joe Hopper, Angela Sparks, Christal Baker, John Dyson. Members absent but represented by proxy Joseph Pence (Angela Sparks acting as a proxy), Shane Ellis and Jeff Barfield (Jennifer Parslow acting as proxy). Guests at the meeting were Alan Spangler, representing the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy and Jarrod Zweifel representing DEQ.

Angela Sparks made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Joe Hopper seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Old business, from the last meeting was discussed, regarding staggering term limits of committee members and sending out an electronic communication regarding training needed for license renewal.

New business regarding committee member proxy was addressed. A motion was made by Joe Hopper, that one person can only hold a proxy for one other person, and that it be added to the bylaws. The motion was seconded by Angela Sparks. A vote was conducted and the motion carried.

Jennifer Parslow gave the DEQ report: 943 solid waste operator renewals were mailed on 11/13. There are currently 943 active operators and 12 Provisional licenses. Renewals went live in ePortal on Nov 1st and 60 renewals have been received to date. Operators not eligible to renew are 115 with less than 12 hours and 78 with zero hours of training, leaving 750 who are eligible to renew. The past historical renewal rate has been 80%. There was a discussion about if the DEQ database has bad data or if there have been expansions in workforce at facilities. Some facilities have added operators. Some facilities were short operators from Covid and now have those positions are filled. Jennifer gave an update on SEEK implementation and discussed all the prework the division does in order to be ready for renewals.

Alan Spangler gave the Academy report: He compared January through October 2023 against the same time frame in 2024. Apprentice, 122 students in 2024 vs 149 in 2023. Journeyman, 82 students in 2024 vs 56 in 2023. Master, 41 students in 2024 vs 28 in 2023. Update classes had 460 students in 2024 vs 377 students in 2023. A total of 40 classes with 437 students in 2024 compared to 39 classes with 436 students in 2023. Total of 718 students in 71 classes for 2024 vs 632 students in 64 classes in 2023.

The committee discussed the next meeting date of February 13th, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at DEQ. Meeting dates for next year were decided on, February 13, May 15, August 14, and November 13, 2025.

With no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting.


Randy Harper, Chairperson