

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2009
ADEQ MEETING ROOMS 5C05/06

MEMBERS

Mark Johnson, Rogers Water Utilities, Chair
David Gross, Future Fuels Chemical, Batesville
David Thomason, Arkadelphia Water & Sewer
Kelly Bryant, Evergreen Packaging, Inc.
Jennifer Bouldin, Ph.D. Arkansas State University
Steve Upton, Heber Springs Wastewater Department
Dennis Brunson, Hot Springs Municipal Utilities
Cindy Garner, Executive Secretary, ADEQ

MINUTES

The meeting of the Wastewater Licensing Committee was called to order at 10:04 a.m., on Wednesday, August 12, 2009, by Chairman Johnson. Members and attendees present were Johnson, Gross, Thomason, Bryant, Bouldin, Upton, Brunson, Garner, Martin Nutt, ADH; Randy Harper, AEA; Dennis Sternberg and Bruce Anderson, ARWA; Aaron Sadler, Public Information Officer, ADEQ; Jamie Ewing, Attorney with Legal Division, ADEQ; Jane Hurley, QA Officer, ADEQ; Dawn Keller, Wastewater Licensing Administrator & Sandy Luttrell, Wastewater Licensing Coordinator.

The minutes from the May 13th meeting were reviewed by the members and no changes or additions were noted. A motion was made by Bouldin to accept the minutes and seconded by Gross. The motion was approved.

Garner updated the committee concerning the purchase of a vehicle for the wastewater licensing staff's use. The approval did not make it through the budgeting process. She then gave the financial report.

Keller presented the Licensing Report. Johnson and Keller discussed the overall passing rate for the different levels of municipal licenses. Luttrell was asked for the percentage of renewals completed for the 2009 licenses, approximately 35-40% processed.

Harper distributed AETA's report to the committee. He also informed them of two bills that were passed during the legislative session. One concerned an official name change to the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy, AETA. Also, the addition of a new laboratory training facility on their campus.

Sternberg passed out the ARWA training report to the committee. He then apologized for his absence during the February and May committee meetings.

They were busy assisting over 77 systems with emergency power and generators, as was assistance provided by surrounding states, due to damage caused by the devastating ice storms.

Under old business, Garner discussed a need for developing specialty classes for operators. After discussion, the committee agreed to table this for the next meeting, giving time for each member to consider how to handle this matter.

Wastewater Collections System Operator Licensing was the next topic discussed under old business. This would involve those working with satellite systems. ABC Testing does offer testing that could be utilized to fulfill this growing need in Arkansas. After much discussion, the committee decided to wait for the permit for the satellite systems to be developed, before continuing with how to handle this situation.

Under new business, Keller updated the committee that all was on track for the ABC Class IV testing, September 2nd. The August 5th Class IV review went well. Additional textbooks were purchased to keep in the Wastewater Licensing Library for the operators to check out for their use to complete courses for the Class IV exam.

Upton had tabled the Class II holding time advancement to a Class III license from the May meeting. He and Johnson agreed that Reg. 3 is reasonable as it stands.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion of Mr. John Baker's license. Mr. Baker was unable to physically attend the meeting, but agreed to make himself available by phone to discuss the reason for his actions. His license was being reviewed by the committee due to an allegation of falsifying information about his employment history on an ADEQ Class III test application. In the past, Baker has provided his experience and consultation to operators with the Sugarloaf facility, but has never actually been employed by them. He offered his apologies.

Johnson and Brunson questioned Mr. Baker in depth and he offered his responses willingly. Baker also informed the committee, that he spoke with an operator from Sugarloaf, Mr. Brown, of his intent to utilize that facility as an employer in the future, based upon these periodical consultations. Brunson noted from Baker's response, that the committee should follow-up with a call to Mr. Brown, to verify this statement, and Mr. Baker concurred that we do so.

After a long debate, a motion was made by Thomason to suspend his license, Brunson seconded. The motion carried.

Brunson then made a motion to recommend the license be suspended for the length of one (1) year. This motion was seconded by Bouldin and passed with two (2) dissenting votes, Bryant and Upton.

Garner then indicated that the application for licenses would be reviewed and updated to request employment information not "jobs".

Johnson announced the next scheduled meeting is set for Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at 10am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.