

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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.
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 10:03 a.m., on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, by Chairman Johnson. Members and attendees present were Johnson, Gross, Thomason, Bryant, Upton, Brunson, Garner, Martin Nutt, ADH; Ryan Benefield, Water Division Deputy Director; Michael Wegrzyn, Eureka Springs Wastewater; and Sandy Luttrell, Wastewater Licensing Coordinator.

The minutes from the August 12th meeting were reviewed by the members. Upton requested an amendment be made regarding the Class II holding time, before advancing to a Class III license. He wanted it to clarify that Reg 3 is reasonable as it stands. Upton made a motion to accept the amended minutes which was seconded by Bryant. The motion was approved.

Garner gave the financial report.

Luttrell presented the Licensing Report.

Johnson noted that no one was on hand to present the training report, so this section of the agenda was skipped.

The subject of new business, brought the opportunity to share the outcome of our first Class IV testing experience with ABC. Out of 10 students taking the part A level test, only one person passed. ABC Testing provided ADEQ with a mastery summary and statistics report, indicating subject matter most challenging to students. Garner informed the committee that the students received individual summaries as well, which is beneficial for them to see the areas in which they are lacking knowledge. The committee discussed how this information will assist AETA and ARWA in what subjects need to be taught, thus creating more classes. Garner mentioned contacting Suzanne with ABC Testing, to gather

information for the committee on a national comparison of standardized exams. Members look forward to seeing the data collected at the next meeting.

Johnson recognized Mr. Wegrzyn in the audience, and invited him to address the committee. He had come to discuss his eligibility for taking the Class IV exam in Arkansas. He held a Class A license in Michigan, equivalent to our Class IV, for a period of three years. He expressed his reasons for change of jobs, moving to different states and his inactive licenses. Bryant made a motion that we allow Mr. Wegrzyn to sit for the Class IV exam, provided that his credentials are confirmed with the state of Michigan, ahead of time. Brunson seconded this motion and it was accepted by the Board.

Under old business, Garner brought up new developments pertaining to John Baker, an operator whose license was suspended for a year at the last board meeting. Garner informed the committee that she was in doubt of whether a letter had been sent to his current employer, Diamond City, at the time immediately following the meeting in August. Ryan Benefield was present to address the board with additional information uncovered, where Mr. Baker further falsified his employment records. He had listed being employed by the City of Lead Hill and Sugar Loaf, which upon confirming, was found to be incorrect. He has never worked for either municipality as listed on his test application. Therefore, once his license is reinstated in August of 2010, Mr. Baker will hold a reduced Class II Wastewater Operators License. The committee was also provided with a letter of resignation from Mr. Baker to his current employer, Diamond City, where he worked for a period of two years.

Brunson pointed out, that since no one was present from the training facilities, the topic of developing specialty classes for operators should be discussed at a later time. He felt that ABC's category breakdown of areas mastering and not, would be good source material for AETA and ARWA in creating more effective classroom subject areas.

The next topic discussed under old business, changes and updates to test applications. The change noted regarding employment of the operator, asks: "List paid employment (past and present) and dates." The committee felt that this could be more descriptive. A motion was made by Gross, to provide a space "to list other experience that you would like to have considered," and this was seconded by Brunson.

Johnson announced the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 10am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.