

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016
Room 1E09

Committee Members

Lisa Ellington, Vice-Chairman, Paragould Light, Water & Cable
Jennifer Enos, Springdale Water Utilities
Rodney Williams, Ph.D., University of Arkansas
William Wright, Albemarle Corporation
Tommy Tooke, Tyson Foods, Inc.
Richard Healey, Executive Secretary, ADEQ
Jimmy Smith, Chairman, Searcy Water & Sewer - absent
Michael Overstreet, Jacksonville Wastewater - absent

MINUTES

The meeting of the Arkansas Wastewater Licensing Committee was called to order by Vice-Chairman, Lisa Ellington, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 10, 2016.

Public Present: Randy Harper and Kenny Harvey, AR Environmental Training Academy; Jeff Ford, AR Rural Water Association; Sandy Luttrell and Jane Whitcomb, ADEQ.

Previous Minutes: The May 11th meeting minutes were reviewed by the Committee. **Ms. Enos made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Wright seconded the motion and it carried.**

Financial Report: Ms. Luttrell presented the Wastewater Licensing Financial Report.

Licensing Report: Ms. Luttrell presented the Licensing Report.

Training Updates: Mr. Harper presented his report on statistics during the quarter, while Mr. Harvey reported courses taught and attendance counts with the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy. Mr. Ford presented a report and supplied a handout with hours earned and attendance counts through the Arkansas Rural Water Association.

Public Comments: No additional topics were voiced during this time.

Old Business: Ms. Luttrell confirms progress made on the recognition of new Class IV Wastewater Operators at the Wastewater Awards Luncheon held at the AWW&WEA conference. Mr. Healey notified Susan Merideth with Jonesboro City Water and Light, who then contacted the AWEA. They will take the lead on this in the future, communicating with both ADEQ and Angela Rogers Group (AWW&WEA Executive Administrator), to make sure these operators are invited and that they receive free luncheon tickets. The referenced email was included in member's packets.

Ms. Luttrell informed the Committee that retired operator, Mr. Fred Glascock, would not be pursuing reactivating his lapsed Class III wastewater license at this time due to illness. In May, the Committee approved him to test for his Class III license by the end of the year, in order to become operator for the community of Eden Isle. I will keep them informed of his progress on this issue.

New Business: Ms. Luttrell presented documentation to the Committee on Alaska reciprocity applicant, Nathan McCombs, who is requesting an Arkansas Class IV license approval. His questionnaire reveals he obtained his Class IV license in Alaska on October 10, 2008 by examination through ABC. He currently resides in Pierre, South Dakota.

Mr. McCombs has applied to work in northwest Arkansas and is awaiting results. He would like to move here and work until retirement. **Mr. Williams made a motion to approve Mr. McCombs reciprocity request for an Arkansas Class IV Wastewater Operator license, which was seconded by Ms. Enos. This motion was approved by all but one, and the motion carried.**

Our Committee Chairman, Jimmy Smith, is quickly approaching the end of his second term of service on the Licensing Committee, November 30, 2016. Nomination requests are needed for an active wastewater treatment plant operator licensed by ADEQ. Letters will be mailed to various industry organizations, along with our state training facilities, in hopes for an adequate number of candidates to review for this position on our Board.

Mr. Healey verbalized an addition to the agenda, the American Boards of Certification (ABC) testing contract. Renewing our agreement with ABC requires ADEQ's Legal team's involvement, due to the review of numerous clauses within the contract. Currently, 10% of ADEQ's questions are "state specific" for the Class IV exam through ABC. They want validation of these test questions, which is not possible. Mr. Healey spoke with Martin Nutt at the Department of Health, who claims that is why they switched to standardized testing with ABC. He will get copies of ABC's agreement to present for review at the next meeting.

Ms. Luttrell and Mr. Healey reviewed the recent PowerPoint presentation with the Committee that was used at the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy's annual Train-the-Trainer Workshop held on August 2nd. Discussion focused on the main area of deficiencies, MATH. Mr. Williams questions ARWA and AETA, what is the problem in regards to teaching math to our trainees? Mr. Harper explains the issues most familiar to him, revolve around the trainees not paying attention and their confusion with math conversions. Ms. Luttrell reminds the Committee of the newest reference material available, which needs to be considered to add to ADEQ's Class IV need-to-know study guide list: (https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/uocpstudyguides/#guide2 - chose New Mexico Wastewater Systems Operator Certification Study Manual). This guide has proven to be extremely beneficial to one operator who earned his Class IV license after passing the exam on his first attempt.

Mr. Healey updates everyone on the NetDMR on-site and statewide training being instructed by ADEQ staff throughout the year. Ms. Luttrell emphasizes that operators participating will earn 2 ½ training hours toward renewal requirements.

Ms. Ellington announced the next scheduled meeting: **November 9, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.**

Ms. Ellington motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:19 a.m., which was seconded by Mr. Williams and the motion carried.