

**ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020
ONLINE – ZOOM MEETING**

Committee Members

Jennifer Enos, Chairman, Springdale Water Utilities
Michael Overstreet, Jacksonville Wastewater
Lance McAvoy, Vice-Chairman, City of Fort Smith **(Late Arrival)**
Jonathan Richardson, Martin Operating Partnership **(Absent)**
Doug Ford, Pollution Management, Inc.
Richard Healey, Executive Secretary, ADEE

MINUTES

The meeting of the Arkansas Wastewater Licensing Committee (AWLC) was called to order by Chairman Jennifer Enos, at 10:01 A.M. on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. Several members were absent or planning to join the meeting late, so the Chairman requested that we begin the meeting with the Department Reports, to allow time for members joining the meeting late to sign on.

Financial Report: Ms. Luttrell presented the quarterly budget and expenditures report to the Committee.

Licensing Report: Ms. Luttrell reported the number of wastewater exams proctored and license certifications issued during in the past quarter, which included Zoom video conferencing exams done on an individual basis. In classroom training with testing was very minimal due to social distancing and classroom availability.

Chairman Enos recognized that the Committee's Vice-Chairman, Lance McAvoy had joined the meeting during DEQ reports, so now we could follow-up with roll-call of members and guests in attendance.

Public Present: Dennis Sternberg, AR Rural Water Association; Dr. Wen Zhang, University of Arkansas; Jeff Ford, Kimzey Regional Water; Stacie Wassell, Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (ADEE), Legal Division; Sandy Luttrell and Leslie Allen-Daniel, ADEE, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ); and Randy Harper, AR Environmental Training Academy.

Previous Minutes: After reviewing the May 13th meeting minutes, **Mr. Ford made a motion to accept the minutes as written, which was seconded by Mr. Overstreet. The motion was accepted.**

Training Updates: Mr. Sternberg presented the Committee with a report of an overview of courses taught by the Rural Water Association. The Covid pandemic has affected their numbers and classes available, as well as their decision to cancel the annual conference for the safety of all involved.

Mr. Harper joined the meeting late (previous zoom meeting ran late), but just in time to give his report for the Environmental Training Academy. As experienced by both training providers, counts have been extremely low due to Covid-19 and classroom availability. The academy began zoom training through their Camden office and allowed local students to be present in the classroom for these training events. This has worked out well because most are able to test with DEQ immediately following the conclusion of the training class via zoom.

Public Comments: Mr. Healey reminded the Committee that our regularly scheduled November quarterly meeting falls on a federal holiday this year, Veteran's Day (second Wednesday). This conflict was previously discussed and everyone agreed that the first Wednesday in November would work best for all to attend. It will be scheduled for the first Wednesday, November 4th, to avoid conflicts with anyone's Thanksgiving holiday plans.

Old Business: Mr. Healey announced that the (APC&E) Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission has not yet been able to meet for their regular monthly meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our request to approve two nominees recommended from our last meeting in May for these vacancies on the Committee are still open at this time. He is hopeful that they will meet later this month.

New Business: Ms. Luttrell presented the Committee with a reciprocity request from Missouri Class A operator, David Malone, which is equivalent to an Arkansas Class IV. Mr. Healey informed the committee that this operator is currently working for the City of Lewisville, whose permit requires a Class II operator. **Mr. McAvoy made a motion to grant Mr. Malone an Arkansas Class III license with the opportunity to sit for the Arkansas Class IV exam at his convenience. This motion was seconded by Mr. Overstreet, and the motion carried.**

Luttrell informed the board that there are two members approaching the end of their first term of service on the Committee. Ms. Luttrell spoke to Jonathan Richardson early this morning, who was not able to attend today's meeting. He mentioned during the conversation that he does not wish to serve a second term on the Committee. He feels he has missed too many meetings during his first term, which he felt is not fair to the board or the people of the state for him to continue at this time. Mr. Doug Ford announced he will gladly serve a second consecutive term on the committee. This news was gratefully approved by all for him to continue his service.

Mr. McAvoy asked that DEQ present the topic of license renewal for 2021 on the November agenda. Many operators are attempting to complete the necessary hours needed to renew their licenses through the online webinars and training available to them due to the statewide pandemic. If we could discuss options and further updates as to where we stand in this crisis by November, that can be used to advise them further. Mr. Healey spoke of how Ms. Wassell is working to address issues throughout the agency that have been impacted by this issue. She informed the committee of the current Emergency Orders implemented to address issues of training hours required to renew licenses in other divisions. An additional order could be created to apply directly to the Wastewater operators of the state regarding their license renewals in June of 2021. Mr. McAvoy withdrew his request to address this at the next meeting because of Ms. Wassell's efficient work in addressing the need proactively. Chairman Enos said that we should keep this topic in play at the next meeting, to see what has transpired by that time with the pandemic and all state agencies handling of the circumstances involved with this matter on our state.

Chairman Enos announced the next scheduled meeting of this Committee: **November 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (in person or through zoom).**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.