

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018
Room 1E09 – Conference Room

Committee Members

Lisa Ellington, Chairman, Paragould Light, Water & Cable
Rodney Williams, Vice-Chairman, Ph.D., University of Arkansas
Jennifer Enos, Springdale Water Utilities
William Wright, Albemarle Corporation
Michael Overstreet, Jacksonville Wastewater
Jonathan Richardson, Martin Operating Partnership
Richard Healey, Executive Secretary, ADEQ

MINUTES

The meeting of the Arkansas Wastewater Licensing Committee (AWLC) was called to order by Chairman Lisa Ellington, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, May 9, 2018.

Public Present: Susan Ledbetter, Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority; Martin Nutt, AR Dept. of Health; Rickey Cole, AR Environmental Training Academy (AETA); Patrick Travers, Sandy Luttrell and Leslie Allen-Daniel, ADEQ, Office of Water Quality.

Immediately following roll call, Mr. Healey presented Chairman Lisa Ellington with a plaque acknowledging her six (6) years of dedicated service on the Arkansas Wastewater Licensing Committee.

Previous Minutes: The February 14th meeting minutes were reviewed by the Committee. Mr. Healey noted an addition needed to amend the current minutes as written. Please add comments made by ADEQ's attorney, Ms. Stacie Wassell, regarding the sudden resignation of a current board member. She announced that Arkansas code states, in the event of a vacancy due to failure to fill a position, two (2) previously recommended candidates could be contacted by ADEQ for possible interest in being reconsidered for service on the Committee in the vacant member's seat. After which, the Committee can make recommendations before the next quarterly meeting to recommend that replacement candidate. **Mr. Williams made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, which was then seconded by Ms. Enos. The motion was accepted.**

Financial Report: Ms. Luttrell presented reports of financial transactions and budget totals over the last quarter and the 2018 fiscal year.

Licensing Report: Ms. Luttrell reported the numbers and types of wastewater licenses issued during the past quarter.

Training Updates: Mr. Rickey Cole presented the Committee with a report on attendance and training record updates by the Environmental Training Academy over the last quarter.

Due to prior commitments, no one was present from the Arkansas Rural Water Association. However, Mr. Sternberg did provide the Committee with a report of the entire 2017 calendar year to the present date that detailed wastewater training courses given on the association's behalf.

There were no public comments brought forth at this meeting.

Old Business: The Committee discussed some changes they would like to see considered when revising the current Regulation 3. Some mentioned requiring at least six (6) months or one (1) year of work experience for Class I license classification. Another possible change was to recognize college training in directly applicable courses (Biology, Chemistry, etc.) to suffice as work experience. Ms. Ellington has received comments about updating terminology and definitions in Regulation 3 that relate to the current licensure requirements, to help better understand its true meaning. She further recommends that Chapter 6 (C) be removed altogether: "Implementation of Act 544 of 2007". Ms. Enos recommends that ADEQ review Chapter 5 for possible changes that pertain to Treatment Plant Classifications.

Mr. Healey updated the Committee on the status of a board member replacement. The department contacted two (2) previously recommended candidates for the recently vacated position on the Board that opened when Ms. Brown resigned. The Committee chose to recommend Mr. Lance McAvoy to this position. On April 27th, Ms. Wassell went to the meeting of the AR Pollution Control & Ecology Commission to present this recommendation on Mr. Healey's behalf. The Commission tabled this decision for need of additional information. Once this information has been gathered, we will present this matter again at the May 24th Commission meeting.

New Business: Mr. Healey presented the Board with a newly revised wastewater license exam application form for their approval. This form will be used for all license exam levels offered through ADEQ, eliminating the separate Class IV application form altogether. The Committee's response was very positive. Several were extremely pleased with the work experience validation section on page 3. Ms. Enos recommends that the reciprocity application be updated as well to include similar details.

Mr. Healey asked for the Committee's insight on an issue the wastewater licensing staff addresses daily when verifying applications for exam eligibility. Operators will include their time worked as plumbers, to be considered as work experience for meeting regulation requirements. The Committee agreed that this is not related work experience. Operators that perform plumbing work within a wastewater treatment system would apply, just not in a residential atmosphere.

Ms. Ellington presented the Committee with Code of Ethics/Professional Code of Conduct documents (used in other states); she obtained during the ABC conference in January. She recommends it is necessary for ADEQ to adopt its own form to be completed by all wastewater operators seeking license certification in the state of Arkansas. Mr. Richardson expressed that facilities with this in place tend to be more selective of who operates their system, thus it would hold the operator accountable for their actions. Ms. Enos suggested we make this an addition to all of ADEQ's application forms for licensure, once we create our own version.

Ms. Luttrell informed the Committee that Ms. Ellington's second term on the board will end on the last day of this month and nominations need to be considered for a replacement as Chairman. **Mr. Overstreet made a motion to nominate Mr. Williams as the new Chairman. Ms. Enos seconded this motion and it was approved by all.** This nomination opens another position on the board that was held by Mr. Williams. **A motion was made by Mr. Overstreet to nominate Ms. Enos for the Vice-Chairman seat currently available, which Mr. Williams seconded and the motion carried.**

Ms. Luttrell will notify state organizations (including all district directors of the AWW&WEA) to request nominations be submitted on their behalf, for the vacant seat now open on the Committee. This position calls for "an active wastewater treatment plant operator licensed by our department", as stated in Reg.3.201 (A) of Regulation 3.

Ms. Ellington announced the next scheduled meeting: **August 8, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.