

*Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment  
Division of Environmental Quality  
Location: Microsoft Teams*

**MINUTES**

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes

Date: November 14, 2024

Time: 11:00 A.M.

I. Call Meeting to Order by the Chairman **11:01 am**

II. Roll Call:

- A. Lance McAvoy, City of Fort Smith, Chairman *Present*
- B. Jeff Ford, Kimzey Regional Water District, Vice-Chairman *Absent*
- C. Doug Ford, Pollution Management Inc. *Present 11:21*
- D. Wen Zhang, PhD., University of Arkansas, Fayetteville *Present*
- E. Austin Ramsfield, Jacobs Engineering *Present*
- F. Heath Ward, Springdale Water Utilities *Present*
- G. Andrew Rike, Harbor Environmental, Inc. *Absent*
- H. Sarah Pierce, Executive Secretary, DEQ *Present*

Also in attendance: Colby Ungerank and Stacie Wassell from DEQ; James Robertson, Chesli Jackson, and Chris Harris from ARWA; Kenneth Roberston from AETA.

III. Approval of the August 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes – Mr. Heath Ward motioned to accept the minutes; Dr. Wen Zhang seconded the motion. The motion passed. Request was made not to use light blue in the future for the minutes.

IV. Old Business: **None**

V. New Business: - Pierce

*Request for Reciprocity – Mr. Heath Ward motioned to approve a Class II license; Mr. Austin Ramsfield seconded the motion. The motion passed. Once Mr. Hardesty meets Arkansas requirements he may test for the Class III Wastewater License.*

*Timothy Hardesty, 1C-OT in Montana requesting a Class III.*

1. License expires on 06/30/2025.
2. ABC Exam. According to Montana's DEQ website and the Need to Know pdf for testing **Class 1C is that it is equivalent to ABC Class II.**
3. Montana reciprocates with Arkansas upon review.
4. Total Training Hours 40
5. According to the Certification of Good Standing operator "is currently an operator in training because he did not meet the full experience requirement to become fully certified when he passed his exam." Requires 2.5 years and he has 2 years of experience.
6. Employed in Arkansas

VI. OWQ Updates:

A. *Financial Report – Pierce – No comment*

B. *Licensing Report – Pierce – Comments made on the upward trend of the number of licenses in each discipline. The fact that we do have a few more operators than the previous report. That Class IV operators are starting to retire. Noticing younger people at a lot of the conferences, which is good new for the industry.*

C. *ePortal/Seek update – Pierce – Still in the process of designing licensing in SEEK. Getting the forms set up and getting all the correct data migrated. Looking at a March/April timeframe for the release.*

D. *Future Meetings - Pierce - Discussion to change meeting date/location. Changing to meeting 3 times a year, with the ability to call special meetings. The AWLC will meet at both conferences. (AWW&WEA Conference and the ARWA Technical Conference) This will allow more of the regulated community to be involved in person. AWLC will still meet in February 2025.*

VII. Public Comments

A. *Training Updates*

1. *Arkansas Environmental Training Academy – Update on training by Mr. Kenneth Robertson.*
2. *Arkansas Rural Water Association – Update on training by Mr. Ches Jackson.*

B. *Open for Public Comment*

VIII. *Adjourn – Mr. Austin Ramsfield motioned to adjourn; Mr. Heath Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed. Adjourned at 11:25.*

2025 Committee Meeting Dates scheduled:

February 13, 2025

May 8, 2025 (or Conference April 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>) – April 29 @ AWW&WEA

~~August 14, 2025~~

Sept 9 @ ARWA Technical Conference

~~November 13, 2025~~

Jan 2026