

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2010
ADEQ MEETING ROOMS 5C05/06

MEMBERS

Mark Johnson, Rogers Water Utilities, Chair
David Gross, Future Fuels Chemical, Batesville
David Thomason, Arkadelphia Water & Sewer
Steven Upton, Heber Springs Wastewater Department
Jennifer Bouldin, Ph.D. Arkansas State University
Dennis Brunson, Hot Springs Utilities
Kelly Bryant, Evergreen Packaging, Inc.
Cindy Garner, Executive Secretary, ADEQ

MINUTES

The meeting of the Wastewater Licensing Committee was called to order at 10:03 a.m., on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, by Chairman Johnson. Members and attendees present were Johnson, Gross, Thomason, Upton, Bouldin, Brunson, Bryant, Garner, Marilyn Stout, ADEQ Enforcement Administrator; Anne Woodbury, Licensing Administrator and Sandy Luttrell, Licensing Coordinator.

The March 10th meeting minutes were reviewed by the members. Thomason made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Gross. The motion carried.

Garner gave the financial report. A discussion ensued, beginning with Brunson suggesting that funds be used towards creating specialty classes for wastewater operators. Upton felt money could be used for off-setting the cost of Class IV testing fees through ABC Testing. Bouldin recommended the creation of a grant to make money available to municipalities that could use assistance in training and testing their operators properly. Garner made an attempt to contact someone from the fiscal division (who was not available), to see if this was something we would be able to do. This matter would be discussed further at an upcoming committee meeting, giving Garner a chance to confer with the appropriate division beforehand.

Luttrell presented the Licensing Report.

No one was present to give training report updates, so the committee moved forward to the next item on the agenda.

Brunson led off the old business of specialty classes that wastewater operators would like to see created for their benefit. He has heard from several operators, topics of concern they want addressed in these newly developed classes. From

troubleshooting; reducing bacteria; pathogens; parasites; changes that affect floc formation; heavy metal toxicity; nitrification and denitrification; types of protozoa; preventative and corrective methods, due to cold weather, just to name a few. Upton mentioned an excellent instructor of a microbiology course given by the Arkansas Rural Water Association within the past 2 months. The board agreed to ADEQ announcing in its upcoming June newsletter, these and any state operators suggestion for courses they would like available for their benefit.

Under new business, Garner presented the board with a chart of the national comparison of standardized exams through ABC. Woodbury informed the committee that the report provided by ABC, shows the National Passing Rates for exams taken during a ten (10) year period. Several members voiced their concerns of the obvious low percentage of operators passing these standardized tests. One of the reasons we considered ABC, was to offer a more diverse test bank of questions. In addition, ADH was very pleased with the ABC program and highly recommended that ADEQ implement this service. They also mentioned, that we could have a part in the set-up of questions offered on these tests. This would enable ADEQ to choose to replace some of the more difficult problems with what we feel is more appropriate for operators of our state to have asked on their test. Remarks were made that we should intervene and have ABC provide us with a sample test of questions to be reviewed by the committee.

Garner presented the board with a comments memo from ADEQ attorney, Ben Jones, regarding licensed operator, Joel Burgos. This subject matter involves an operator with a CAO through the enforcement section, who has not completed required steps to correct violations to a permit in his name. Mr. Jones requires a recommendation from the Committee, to file a notice of revocation on Mr. Burgos license. Brunson, as well as other members, stated that this matter has been previously dealt with and that the Committee will remain silent on the subject.

Garner recognized another item to be handled under new business, David Thomason's second term with the Committee ended July 31, 2009. He will stay on until a replacement is found. He currently holds the position of wastewater operator with Arkadelphia Water Utilities, so we will need at least 3 applicants with this title for nomination to the committee. Resumes need to be submitted, and we will announce in our June Newsletter, the nominations for consideration to this position.

The other committee members records were reviewed for current status of terms of service, and Jennifer Bouldin's first term ends July 31, 2010. Garner asked Ms. Bouldin if she would be interested in serving a second consecutive term, for which she agreed too. Brunson made a motion to start the process of getting Bouldin re-elected for a second term, which was seconded by Upton. The motion carried.

Brunson suggested that with our upcoming Newsletter, we announce the current specialty classes that were discussed in today's meeting, as well as, any operators suggestions of what they would like to see made available. Bouldin has a WET Testing class she will be teaching, which the details can be included in the Licensing Newsletter, as well as, a Net DMR class that a member of Garner's Enforcement Analyst team can teach in the near future.

A motion was made by Bouldin to adjourn, which was seconded by Thomason and the meeting adjourned at 11:28am.