

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011
ADEQ MEETING ROOMS 5C05/06

MEMBERS

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

MINUTES

The meeting of the Wastewater Licensing Committee was called to order at 10:01 a.m., on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, by Chairman Johnson. Members and attendees present were Johnson, Bouldin, Bryant, Upton, Smith, Gross, Garner; Martin Nutt, AR Dept. of Health; Randy Harper, AR Environmental Academy; Jonathan Richardson, AR Environmental Training Academy; Jane Hurley, ADEQ; Kevin Suel, ADEQ Testing Administrator and Sandy Luttrell, ADEQ Licensing Coordinator.

The August 11th meeting minutes were tabled at the November meeting due to changes that needed to be made. After review, Bouldin made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Gross. The motion passed.

The November 10th meeting minutes were reviewed by the members. A motion was made by Bryant to approve the minutes and was seconded by Smith. The motion passed.

Garner gave the financial report.

Suel presented the Licensing Report.

Randy Harper and Jonathan Richardson discussed the academy's increase in classroom attendance recently, which may have been due to renewal hours.

No one was present from the AR Rural Water Association.

Jimmy W. Smith was welcomed as a new member to the AR Wastewater Licensing Committee, for his 1st term of three years, ending November 30, 2013.

Next on the agenda, the Committee was informed about the Regulation 3 work group that met for the first time on January 26th. Everyone involved felt it was a very productive group discussion. All were eager and willing to work on making the necessary changes to the state regulation.

Under new business, the Committee must vote annually to continue the travel expenses and stipend allowances. A motion was made by Upton to continue these reimbursements to the committee members, which was seconded by Smith and the motion unanimously carried.

Next on the agenda was the discussion of Larry Glover's work experience, in regards to his eligibility to test for his Class II license. After discussion and consideration by the committee, Bouldin made a motion that Mr. Glover be sent a letter informing him that his experience, as stated, does not qualify him for the Class II. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was operator Earl Rausch's complaint concerning his non-issuance of a Class IV license. Garner informed the committee that ADEQ records do not show he has ever taken the Class IV / Part A portion of the test. ADEQ's computer system staff have tried to locate lost/deleted archive files from the Licensing database, without any success. After discussion and review of the materials he provided, Upton made a motion that based on lack of documentation, we cannot grant the Class IV license, but invite him to take the Class IV exam. This motion was seconded by Bouldin. The motion passed with one member, Bryant, voting no.

The final item regarded the Class IV exam and the low pass rate. This provoked heavy discussion and helpful input from our training providers and Martin Nutt with the Dept. of Health. Once ADH implemented the ABC program for their water licenses, they began to experience the same low pass rate results. Their solution was to better prepare the operator through specialized training. They now require that each operator obtain mandatory training hours when attempting the Class IV license level. This is done with special training set-up through the AR Environmental Training Academy and the AR Rural Water Association. Those present from AETA were extremely willing to work with us in achieving this goal. Nutt highly suggest we request a "performance report" from ABC on the recent testers to determine areas they performed poorly in.

Garner suggested that a work group be formed to identify areas needing attention for the development of these specialty classes. Volunteers from the committee consist of: Bouldin, Johnson, Gross, Smith, and Garner. Richardson and Harper with AETA, and ARWA will also be asked to participate. The committee discussed that information such as the statistics identifying areas of need, scores overall, as well as nationally, need to be known and that recommended text books will need to be reviewed and utilized. Bouldin requested that the statistics be compiled by ABC, to show areas where operators

are deficient in their pass rates. Garner will forward ABC's statistics of those tested on March 2nd to the group, once it is received. Also, she plans to obtain a nationwide comparison to Arkansas' passage rate.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20am. The committee reconvened at 11:25 a.m. to discuss and make a recommendation to the ADPC&E Commission that Kelly Bryant be re-appointed to her second three-year term on the Wastewater Licensing Committee.

The meeting then adjourned at 11:27 a.m.