

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012
ADEQ MEETING ROOMS 5C05/06

MEMBERS

Mark Johnson, Rogers Water Utilities, Chair
Dennis Brunson, Hot Springs Wastewater
Jennifer Bouldin, Ph.D., Arkansas State University
Tommy Tooke, Tyson Foods, Inc.
Steven Upton, Heber Springs Wastewater Department
Jimmy Smith, Searcy Water & Sewer
Craig Uyeda, Executive Secretary, ADEQ

MINUTES

The meeting of the Wastewater Licensing Committee was called to order at 10:02 a.m., on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, by Chairman Johnson. Members and attendees present were Johnson, Tooke, Bouldin, Brunson, Smith, Upton; Randy Harper, AR Environmental Training Academy; Jane Hurley, ADEQ; Craig Uyeda, ADEQ Executive Secretary and Sandy Luttrell, ADEQ Licensing Coordinator.

The November 9th meeting minutes were reviewed. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes, this was seconded by Upton and the motion carried.

Uyeda gave the financial report. Brunson raised concerns the Committee has had in the past, about utilizing the funds available by offering specialty courses. Smith asked that Shafii review the legalities of allotting funds for training facilities to receive for courses focusing on curriculum that best fits the needs of our Arkansas operators. Brunson suggested we review other states training procedures in place, with possible modifications to better fit our operator's needs.

Luttrell presented the licensing report.

Public comments were next on the agenda. Harper with AETA announced that he received positive reviews from the 25 students on-hand for the 3-day Class IV wastewater training course held last week in Little Rock (Jan. 31 – Feb. 2). He is hopeful that the results will pay off at the upcoming test, scheduled for March 7th. He also stated that practice tests would be beneficial when preparing for the Class IV test, which Hurley pointed out are available through the internet, with the Water Environment Federation (WEF). ADEQ has literature available on-site as well.

No one was present from the Rural Water Association.

Smith stated that on the water licenses side, instructors were allowed to help develop their test. Harper explained, this input applied to a number of questions from different categories of study, which would be reviewed and allowed if the training facility deemed them as legitimate questions.

Committee members brought up several ideas for suggestions to modify ABC's computerized Class IV test: 1) Add a questionnaire at the end of the test, asking about their overall experience; 2) was the time available for the test adequate? 3) What areas of training would you like to see offered? In addition, Brunson would like to see courses made available to help operators learn good study habits, to better prepare them for exams.

Several members asked, why has there been no correspondence sent out by ADEQ regarding the Regulation 3 Work Group meeting held on December 8, 2011?

Brunson reported on an email he received from a concerned license holder. They felt ADEQ's website was not being utilized efficiently due to the outdated list of current members on the Committee. He also states that they would like to see the Licensing Committee Minutes available online as public record.

The Committee then turned its focus on matters of concern, such as the obvious reduction of staff's time devoted to the Licensing Section. They expressed the importance of maintaining accurate, current records for all operators on a daily basis, and that two individuals working on a full-time basis can manage this more efficiently. This was achieved in the past, before the two branches were merged, which they were not familiar with why this occurred. Brunson made a motion that a letter be drafted by the chairman of the Committee addressed to Mo Shafii concerning Wastewater Licensing staff's time dedicated to their duties and a potential solution. Upton seconded the motion, which was accepted.

Under old business, only one resume has been submitted for consideration to be nominated for one of two vacant seats becoming available on the Board. Both Johnson and Brunson have graciously agreed to extend their length of service with the Wastewater Licensing Committee until we have a sufficient number of interested candidates for each vacancy. Hurley suggested we notify several of our sister agencies to get the word out regarding our upcoming vacancies, in hopes of getting more interested candidates to apply for these seats on our Committee.

Uyeda presented the minute orders approved by the APC&E Commission on January 27th. This was for the first term appointment of Tooke and the second term reappointment of Upton to the Committee.

Johnson officially welcomed Uyeda to the Committee, whose appointment by ADEQ was approved recently for the Executive Secretary's position.

Under new business, Luttrell mentioned it is time for the annual acceptance of the stipend reimbursement by the Committee. Bouldin made a motion to accept the current stipend, which was seconded by Smith. The motion carried.

Finally under new business, Luttrell presented a letter of previous employment and an application for operator, Rob Whorton, who wants to be considered for eligibility to test for his Class II license. After review by the Committee, Smith made a motion that Whorton's past experience is adequate for him to test, which Bouldin seconded and the motion passed.

Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Bouldin made and was seconded by Tooke. The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.