

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2015
Room 1E09

Committee Members

Jimmy Smith, Searcy Water & Sewer
Lisa Ellington, Paragould Light, Water & Cable
Tommy Tooke, Tyson Foods, Inc.
Rodney Williams, Ph.D., University of Arkansas
William Wright, Albemarle Corporation
Michael Overstreet, Jacksonville Wastewater
Richard Healey, Executive Secretary, ADEQ

MINUTES

Executive Secretary, Richard Healey, began the meeting of the Arkansas Wastewater Licensing Committee at 10:04 a.m., by addressing the reappointment of Ms. Ellington and Mr. Winn. The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission approved Ms. Ellington for a second term. However, one Commissioner requested additional information regarding Mr. Winn's current job duties and whether he met the requirements on the committee for which he was appointed to. His reappointment was tabled until the next commission meeting. Mr. Healey and Mr. Winn corresponded on several occasions working together to resolve this issue. On August 6, Mr. Winn emailed his decision to withdraw his name for reappointment of a second term on the Licensing Committee. He wished to thank the Commission for the honor of allowing him to serve in this capacity.

Mr. Healey announced the Committee now needs to elect a new chairman to take his place. **Mr. Williams made a motion to appoint Jimmy Smith as the new Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Tooke. The motion carried.** Mr. Wright mentioned it might be beneficial to appoint a vice-chair, which was agreed upon by the majority. **Mr. Smith made a motion to appoint Lisa Ellington to the new position of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Wright seconded and the motion carried.**

Mr. Smith wished to ensure recognition of William Winn's service on the Committee, which Ms. Luttrell confirmed a service plaque would be ordered and mailed to his home, acknowledging our appreciation for his dedicated service on the Committee.

Members began discussing the vacant seat now available on the Board. Three current members meet regulation requirements for this seat, being in management positions with their facilities. Mr. Healey pointed out, their appointments by the Commission were specific to the positions they were nominated for. He felt we should announce the vacancy as is for those interested. We can revisit the option of appointing a current board member, if we do not receive an adequate number of candidates nominated for this vacancy.

Public Present: Angela Rios, Northern Mobile Home Park; Sandy Luttrell and Leslie Daniel, ADEQ.

Previous Minutes: The May 13, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed. **Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, it carried.**

Financial Report: Ms. Luttrell presented the Wastewater Licensing Budget Report.

Licensing Report: Ms. Luttrell presented the Licensing Report.

Public Comments: No one was present from ARWA or AETA. A training report was provided by AETA in advance.

Old Business: The Commission results for second term reappointments of Committee members, Lisa Ellington and William Winn, were discussed at the beginning of this meeting by Mr. Healey. Members were provided the minute order reappointing Ms. Ellington for her second term on the Board.

New Business: The Committee reviewed a letter submitted by Thomas Northern, an inactive Class 3 operator for Northern Mobile Home Park, who is asking the Committee to consider reinstating his license based on hardship circumstances. Ms. Angela Rios, a Class II wastewater operator for her father's facility, was present for the meeting on his behalf. As the letter described, Ms. Rios stated her Dad started the business and helped install the package plant in 1986, when he obtained his wastewater operator license. He exceeded the required license level needed to maintain his plant (Class II in 1992 and Class III in 2004) and had maintained his license for over 27 years. Originally, his wife took care of all paperwork for the family business, but during the last 3 years, her health issues have been overwhelming, causing her to be homebound. He has been unable to keep on top of this task, which resulted in him overlooking the payment of his own license renewal fees in 2013. He has remained current with his required training hours throughout the years. **Ms. Ellington made a motion to reinstate Mr. Northern's Class 3 license with the payment of the last two license period renewal fees and late penalties (\$100.00) being made, which his daughter will comply with today. Mr. Overstreet seconded this motion and it carried.**

The Committee reviewed materials provided for Arkansas Class III operator and reciprocity applicant, Timothy Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins holds a current Nebraska Class IV license issued August, 2014, through the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC). He also held a Class IV license from Iowa that was obtained through ABC. However, he let this license expire on June 30, 2015. He has held his Arkansas Class III license for three years in July and would like to be considered for a Class IV license. **Ms. Ellington made a motion we grant reciprocity for the Class IV license with Arkansas based on his current Nebraska license. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion carried.**

The Committee was presented with details for Oklahoma Class A (IV) operator, Mark Rogers, wishing to reciprocity to Arkansas. His license was obtained through a state administered test. **Ms. Ellington made a motion to deny reciprocity for the Class IV, but grant an Arkansas Class III license with the ability to test for a Class IV as long as all requirements for Class IV licensure were met. Mr. Tooke withdrew his earlier motion and seconded Ms. Ellington's motion. The motion carried.**

Next under "New Business", the Committee reviewed two online training programs offered through Bismarck State College in North Dakota and Water-Otter.com in Virginia. Mr. Williams wanted more details on course content and if they are recognized by ABC's standards. He commented that classroom interactions prove to be more helpful in developing well-informed operators. Mr. Wright and Ms. Ellington believe local Arkansas institutions are qualified and capable of offering the training Arkansas operator's need and we should support them. Mr. Healey suggest that this issue be tabled until ADEQ could review training standards previously accepted and see if new guidelines need to be discussed by the Committee for future consideration on this issue. **Ms. Ellington made a motion to table this issue until the next meeting, to allow ADEQ time to introduce new verbiage on training course criteria needed for the Committee to consider in making a precise decision on this topic. Mr. Overstreet seconded, it carried.**

The next scheduled meeting (11/11) falls on Veterans Day, a state holiday. **Ms. Ellington made a motion to move the meeting one week earlier, to November 4th. Mr. Tooke seconded and it carried.**

Ms. Ellington motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m., which was seconded by Mr. Tooke and it carried.