

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016
Room 1E09

Committee Members

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

MINUTES

The meeting of the Arkansas Wastewater Licensing Committee was called to order by Vice-Chairman, Lisa Ellington, at 10:05 A.M. on Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

Public Present: Randy Harper with AR Environmental Training Academy; Susan Poe with AR Rural Water Association; Sandy Luttrell and Leslie Daniel, ADEQ.

Previous Minutes: The November 4th meeting minutes were reviewed by the Committee. **Mr. Overstreet made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried.**

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

Licensing Report: Ms. Luttrell presented the Licensing Report.

Public Comments: Mr. Harper announced the Environmental Training Academy has partnered with OSHA, to host their training courses throughout Arkansas. Ms. Poe introduced a new course being offered by the Rural Water Association, "Sustainable Management." This workshop will provide six (6) hours of hands-on training to those attending and will be offered at least once a year.

Mr. Healey informed the Committee that in December, 2015, the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission did not meet due to a last-minute cancellation and that the January, 2016, meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. Therefore, the Committee's recommendation of Jennifer Enos' nomination to the Licensing Committee has not yet been presented. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for February 26th and this issue should be considered at that time.

Old Business: Mr. Healey began discussing the previously tabled topic of training criteria guidelines, necessary for accepting new online wastewater training courses being submitted to ADEQ on a regular basis by various providers across the nation. He handed-out email documentation from licensing committee member Mr. Williams, who is employed with the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. On their campus, as well as most in Arkansas, training programs are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. He along with other professor's, have performed evaluations on various programs of study, to determine whether or not the materials meet the criteria for CEU's and the credit/unit hours they are worth. He stressed that the advisory board/committee has the ultimate say in whether an online program meets qualifications for training course approval and hopes that we may utilize local colleges, universities and even our contracted providers, to assist us in making precise decisions in this matter.

Ms. Ellington mentioned that ARWA and AETA can present online courses specific to Arkansas. Also, any decision will not prohibit on-site specific/safety training at facilities around the state. Mr. Healey suggested he would speak with ADEQ's Legal division to request language needed to prepare a written document. Ms. Ellington proposed that once he outlined the proper verbiage for addressing this issue, that he forward the document by email to the Committee members to review and note any additions or corrections to be considered at our May meeting. She also recommended we should begin looking at Regulation 3 to incorporate future changes to the online training requirements, as well as additional areas that may need to be addressed since the last updates were made in 2008. Some members discussed a need to require some work experience prior to testing for the Class I licensure. One consideration was extending the length of the Apprentice license to cover the gap or adding an Operator-in-Training (OIT) license. The Committee will again table the online training class provider approval until the next meeting, when more details and a written proposal should be available to resolve this issue. The current providers who have requested consideration may be informed of this delay and possible solution in the very near future.

New Business: The Committee was asked to approve the annual amount of \$60.00 for board member stipend reimbursements, which must be considered at the first meeting of each new year for our committee. **Mr. Williams made a motion to accept and approve this amount (\$60.00) for stipend reimbursements for the 2016 meetings. Mr. Tooke seconded the motion and it carries.**

The Committee reviewed materials submitted by Louisiana reciprocity applicant, Donald Adams, who is requesting an Arkansas Class III license with consideration of Class IV testing eligibility. **Mr. Williams made a motion to grant his request for an Arkansas Class III by reciprocity, and that he demonstrate he has met our requirements for training and work experience to sit for the Class IV test. Mr. Overstreet seconded this motion, and it carried.**

Mr. Healey announced that EPA has passed the electronic reporting program/NetDMR to become mandatory for Arkansas by December 21, 2016. ADEQ will offer free hands-on training classes for the NetDMR program to the public, every Tuesday at their main office: 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock. Due to limited seating, all participants must pre-register for this training. There will be a morning and afternoon session. Wastewater Licensing will approve 2 ½ hours of direct training toward license renewal credits for attending this ADEQ training.

Ms. Ellington announced the next scheduled meeting: **May 11, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.**

Mr. Williams motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m., which was seconded by Mr. Overstreet. The motion carried.