

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019
Room 1E09 – Conference Room

Committee Members

Jennifer Enos, Vice-Chairman, Springdale Water Utilities
Lance McAvoy, City of Fort Smith
Michael Overstreet, Jacksonville Wastewater
Jonathan Richardson, Martin Operating Partnership
Cecil Zollicoffer, Ozark Water Department
Richard Healey, Executive Secretary, ADEQ
Rodney Williams, Chairman, Ph.D., University of Arkansas - absent

MINUTES

The meeting of the Arkansas Wastewater Licensing Committee (AWLC) was called to order by Vice-Chairman Jennifer Enos, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Public Present: Kenny Harvey and Rickey Cole, AR Environmental Training Academy; Sandy Luttrell and Leslie Allen-Daniel, ADEQ, Office of Water Quality.

Previous Minutes: After reviewing the February 13th minutes, **Mr. McAvoy made a motion to accept the minutes as written, which was seconded by Mr. Overstreet. The motion was accepted.**

Financial Report: Ms. Daniel presented the financial reports to the Committee.

Licensing Report: Ms. Daniel reported the number and types of wastewater exams proctored and licenses issued.

Training Updates: Mr. Harvey provided a training report of the total number of students enrolled and the training hours awarded by the Environmental Training Academy for wastewater classes during the last quarter.

No one was present from the Rural Water Association.

There were no additional public comments brought before the Committee.

Old Business: Mr. Healey announced that our newest Board Member, Mr. Doug Ford, still has not been approved by the Commission. Unfortunately, due to the late cancellations of March and April meetings, it has not yet been presented to them. He plans to attend the May 23rd meeting to have this resolved.

New Business: Ms. Luttrell presented correspondence submitted by Missouri operator, Jami Favor. He is requesting reciprocity consideration to Arkansas with his Missouri Class A license that was obtained through a state examination there. **Mr. McAvoy made a motion to grant an Arkansas Class III license through reciprocity and allow him to sit immediately for a Class IV exam. Mr. Richardson seconded this motion and it carried.**

Ms. Enos announced that she has asked Mr. McAvoy to discuss Act 820 (streamline license for veterans across the state). Questions to be considered for this to work with wastewater operator licenses: What are we allowed to do? Can the Committee vote via email without violating the freedom of information act? (Waiting for the Committee to make a decision on a quarterly basis, is not fast track). Is military service being recognized? We do not want to violate Federal laws, but we need guidance. **Mr. McAvoy made a motion to request ADEQ's Legal Division review Act 820 and the licenses issued by the Department and offer guidance/feedback by the 4th quarter meeting of this year (November 13). Mr. Zollicoffer seconded the motion and it carried.**

Mr. Healey provided handouts to the Committee of an Environmental Service Unit, set up at Virginia's Department of Corrections. This apprenticeship program is available to offenders of the prison for onsite wastewater treatment system work. The EPA is pushing to reduce significant non-compliance. Rural areas have problems finding licensed operators and this may be something to consider here in Arkansas.

Ms. Enos announced the next scheduled meeting: **August 14, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.