

## AGENDA

### ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 30, 2024

Time: 9:45 A.M.

- I. Call Meeting to Order by the Chairman – 09:48am
- II. Roll Call:
  - A. Lance McAvoy, City of Fort Smith, Chairman *Present*
  - B. Jeff Ford, Kimzey Regional Water District, Vice-Chairman *Present*
  - C. Doug Ford, Pollution Management Inc. *Present* (after roll call)
  - D. Wen Zhang, PhD., University of Arkansas, Fayetteville *Present* (via Zoom)
  - E. Austin Ramsfield, Jacobs Engineering *Present*
  - F. Heath Ward, Springdale Water Utilities *Present*
  - G. Andrew Rike, Harbor Environmental, Inc. *Absent*
  - H. Sarah Pierce, Executive Secretary, DEQ *Present*
- III. Approval of the February 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes –  
*Mr. Jeff Ford motioned to accept the minutes. Mr. Ramsfield seconded the motion. The motion passed.*
- IV. Old Business: None
- V. New Business:
  - A. Requests for Reciprocity:
    1. Paul Baker, Grade B in Texas requesting a Class III. His license expires 05/03/2026. Texas uses state generated/administered exams. Texas reciprocates with Arkansas upon review. *Mr. Ward motioned that we grant a Class III License, Mr. Jeff Ford seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

2. Joseph Thaxton, Grade A in Texas requesting a Class IV. His license expires 06/14/2025. Texas uses state generated/administered exams. Texas reciprocates with Arkansas upon review. *Mr. Jeff Ford motioned that we grant a Class III License and allowed to sit for a Class IV. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

3. Edward Smith, Class A in Florida requesting a Class IV. His license expires 04/30/2025. Florida uses state generated/administered exams. Florida reciprocates with Arkansas upon review. *Mr. Jeff Ford motioned that we grant a Class III License and allowed to sit for a Class IV. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

**B. Reappointments:**

1. Jeff Ford, 1<sup>st</sup> term expires on 08/31/2024, would like to request that the Committee make a recommendation to reappoint Mr. Ford for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term, which would expire on 08/31/2027. *Mr. Ward motioned to reappoint Mr. Ford for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Mr. Ramsfield seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

2. Austin Ramsfield, 1<sup>st</sup> term expires one 11/30/2024, would like to request that the Committee make a recommendation to reappoint Mr. Ramsfield for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term, which would expire on 11/30/2027. *Mr. Ward motioned to reappoint Mr. Ramsfield for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Mr. Jeff Ford seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

**VI. OWQ Updates:**

A. *Financial Report – Pierce*

B. *Licensing Report – Pierce*

C. *ePortal/Seek update - Pierce*

D. *Update – Wassell – AWEA collection system update. Received a formal request made to us by AWEA for DEQ to consider taking on the collection systems license, which is currently a voluntary program by AWEA. Took the request to the director. DEQ is taking it under advisement and consideration for taking on that program. It would be contingent on the changes that would have to be made in the statute to allow us to have that program. Changes that would have to be made in the statute that would need to go before the next legislative session. There would also have to be changes to the Rule to take on that licensing program. It is a tentative yes with the contingency of getting through legislator approval of statutory changes and we would have to get through a change in Rule 3 to incorporate that program into the licensing rule.*

*E. Future Meetings (See Below) – Mr. McAvoy and Ms. Wassell both commented on the Wastewater Licensing Committee meetings being open to the public. All meetings but April/May are via Zoom. The April/May meeting is in person at the AWW&WEA conference.*

## VII. Public Comments

### A. Training Updates

- 1. Arkansas Environmental Training Academy – Mr. Harper gave an update on AETA, classes and training offered, and staff changes. Gave the quarterly numbers update.*
- 2. Arkansas Rural Water Association – Mr. Jackson gave the quarterly numbers for ARWA classes and training. Stated that ARWA also gives technical assistance. Mr. Ward and Mr. McAvoy made comments on what ARWA offers and the help they have provided in the past.*

### B. Open for Public Comment

Mike Ross asked if we tracked if Reciprocity for those that sat for a Class IV. WWL Coordinator stated none have sat for the IV. Healey updated with ABC is approved. Frank Knight stated has an employee that went from Class II to Class III without the correct amount of time.

Mauldin Hot Springs - is there anything that the training is doing to help the passing rate of Class III and Class IV. Lance responded. Heath responded with our pass rate. Library at DEQ to check out books.

ePortal question – Colby gave update on Seek and passwords. Lance spoke on the security of Seek and CROMERR compliant. Set up by 40 CFR. Lexis Nexis update. Heath mentioned the data breach in NWA. Stating security is real.

## VIII. Adjourn – *Mr. Ward motioned that we adjourn, Mr. Jeff Ford seconded the motion. The motion passed. 10:28*

2024/2025 Quarterly Committee Meeting Dates scheduled:

August 8, 2024

November 14, 2024

February 13, 2025

May 8, 2025 (or Conference)