

SOLID WASTE LICENSING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2011

A regular meeting of the Solid Waste Licensing Committee was held on Thursday, May 26, 2011, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 1E09 of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Headquarters, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The meeting was called to order by Roger Davis, Chair, who called the roll. Members present included Roger Davis, Elizabeth Hoover, Mark Witherspoon, Sid Fitzgerald, Jack Jones, Dave Rose, Gary Oden, and Jim Willits. Others in attendance included Randy Harper, Kenny Nutt, and Vivian Tucker.

The minutes were read and approved.

Kenny Nutt gave the update from the Academy, reporting that there were a total of 745 students attending classes from July 2010 through May 2011. There were 92 apprentice students, 66 journeyman students, 49 master students, and 538 who attended renewal classes. The classes broke down to 13 apprentice classes, 7 journeyman, and 5 master classes.

Jim Willits said he would like to know how many new people there were per year, to see if finding new employees was the same for all types of facilities statewide. Randy Harper said he would prepare a report and have it ready for the next Committee meeting; Kenny Nutt said he didn't think there was a lot of turnover now. Elizabeth Hoover said she would like to see a survey of the facilities showing how many employees were new hires, and how long each employee had been with the facility.

Jim Willits asked if the tests were being offered in Spanish; Elizabeth Hoover replied that they were if the student pre-arranged the testing so that a translator could be scheduled. Tests in Spanish are only given at the ADEQ offices in North Little Rock.

Elizabeth Hoover reported that Jane had most of the renewal letters mailed. Mark Witherspoon asked if people were still waiting to the last minute to attend a class. Elizabeth Hoover replied that it was hard to tell until after the responses to the renewal letters had been received.

Elizabeth Hoover reported that ADEQ was working with the Academy to provide online testing; she and another employee attended a Blackboard class to see how it might work. She said that paper tests could still be offered at ADEQ offices in North Little Rock.

Elizabeth Hoover reported that there were six upcoming Committee vacancies to be filled. Billy Buck was no longer eligible because his employment status had changed. She stated that five of the current members' terms were expiring, and they were not eligible for reappointment. She said that Jim Abbey and Gary Oden were both eligible for reappointment when their terms expired, but that the rest of the committee members could not be reappointed. She said that Dave Rose's term would not expire until May 2013. Elizabeth said that those with terms expiring in September 2011 were Jack Jones, Roger Davis, Sid Fitzgerald, Jim Willits, and Mark Witherspoon. She passed out lists of

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all of the licensed operators and facility inspection reports saying that the members could review both lists and consider recommendations for replacement members to be presented at the next meeting. She said that she would probably take just one person per position to the Commission for nomination, but two per position should be selected and ranked according to Committee preference. That would give a fall back in case the first choice for some reason could not accept nomination. Motion was made, seconded and passed by the Committee to act on Elizabeth's suggestions.

Mark Witherspoon asked how the fund raising for the curriculum updates was going. Randy Harper and Mark Witherspoon had prepared a letter, and he wanted to know if this project was going to be passed along to the new Committee members or whether they would try to finish it at the next meeting before the terms expire. He also inquired about who would be signing the letter. Copies of the letter were distributed, it was reviewed, and the Committee made slight changes. Motion was made, seconded and passed for the Committee to send out the letter to the operators and managers of facilities. Motion was further made, seconded and passed that Roger Davis would work with Elizabeth Hoover on the letter to be sent out under his signature on the Committee's behalf. Mailing was discussed.

Jim Willits said he was concerned that the inspectors no longer were required to maintain a license. He asked whether the inspectors could attend classes for no charge, and Randy Harper said that it could be done--especially if the inspectors participated in teaching classes. Mark Witherspoon agreed, saying that the inspectors had insight that the instructors lacked. Mark Witherspoon moved that the Committee suggest to Roger Lawrence that all inspectors be required to attend class and hold operator licenses-- that they could exchange being involved with training for the fee. A motion was made, seconded, and passed by the Committee in favor of Mark's recommendation.

Roger Davis set the next-meeting for August 25, 2011, at 10:30 am.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Roger Davis, Chair