

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010
ADEQ MEETING ROOMS 5C05/06

MEMBERS

Mark Johnson, Rogers Water Utilities, Chair
David Gross, Future Fuels Chemical, Batesville
Steven Upton, Heber Springs Wastewater Department
Kelly Bryant, Evergreen Packaging, Inc.
David Thomason, Arkadelphia Water & Sewer
Jennifer Bouldin, Ph.D. Arkansas State University
Cindy Garner, Executive Secretary, ADEQ

MINUTES

The meeting of the Wastewater Licensing Committee was called to order at 10:12 a.m., on Wednesday, March 18, 2010, by Chairman Johnson. Members and attendees present were Johnson, Gross, Upton, Bryant, Bouldin, Thomason, Garner, Randy Harper, AETA; Dennis Sternberg, ARWA; Anne Woodbury, Licensing Administrator and Sandy Luttrell, Licensing Coordinator.

The November 18th meeting minutes were reviewed by the members. Bouldin made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Bryant. The motion was approved.

Garner gave the financial report. A discussion began when Johnson noted the funds had grown considerably over the previous years while he has been on the Board. Garner informed the board, that funds had been used to purchase new reference materials that have come out for use by operators attempting the Class III and IV level of licensure. Also, Luttrell's salary is paid entirely by the fund, as well as supplies used by our section. We have not been successful at using the funds to purchase an automobile for our sections use. We have been denied the opportunity to pay operators fees for testing through the ABC program, which is \$36 per operator. This has all come about due to the state trying to make cut backs in all areas, no matter what funds have been allocated to different sections, we all have to tighten our spending.

Luttrell presented the Licensing Report.

Harper informed the board that the Academy had been granted appropriations for building a new training lab on their campus.

Sternberg announced a new training course they offered last month, a Wastewater Microbiology class. It was a huge success, with 40 operators in

attendance. He went on to bring us a bit of sad news, Bruce Anderson is retiring at the end of March. We wish him all the best in his new relaxing career change.

Woodbury began with the old business at hand, results from our March 3rd Class IV testing through ABC. She presented a break-down of subjects covered and the percentage that operators were mastering on each. Out of 100 points possible, they earned an average of 51 points. Garner added that the national comparison we had requested from ABC, still has not been received. Once we have it, the results will be forwarded to the committee members to review for discussion at the next meeting in May.

Garner brought up the case of Joel Burgos, who has a CAO through the Enforcement section. He was to receive flow meter training, which Richardson commented he never contacted him, nor did he attend an ethics course. Garner said she would update the Director, to decide what further actions will be taken and report back to the committee.

Garner initiated a discussion, when she proposed to set-up Class III testing through ABC by the end of this year. Harper commented that this would be a problem for AETA, since they schedule classes around the state, computers are not readily available for operators to use at all of these sites. Richardson asked that we provide a curriculum for what will be covered on the test.

Next in old business, Garner relayed to the board that Michael Wegrzyn (he attended the previous meeting for consideration to test at the Class IV level) had been arrested for violations (sludge found on floor of sludge room; solids being discharged into receiving stream; and more...) performed on the job at Eureka Springs. Garner informed the members that we could not take action against him until due process is complete.

Garner showed supporting email responses to create a collection system license for operators of the state. Johnson made a motion "to direct staff to initiate a collection system licensing program." Thomason seconded, the motion carried.

Finally in old business, the topic of developing specialty classes, which was brought up by Benson and tabled at the last meeting. It was decided to table this once again, so he may be present for discussion.

Under new business, the continuation of stipend payments had to be addressed. Thomason made a motion "to pay the maximum allowable stipend available under the law, for conducting the business of the Wastewater Licensing Committee." Upton seconded and the motion carried.

Johnson announced the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at 10am.

Bouldin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Gross and accepted by all at 11:28 a.m.