

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016
Room 1E09

Committee Members

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

MINUTES

The meeting of the Arkansas Wastewater Licensing Committee was called to order by Chairman, Jimmy Smith, at 10:02 A.M. on Wednesday, May 11, 2016.

Public Present: Randy Harper and Kenny Harvey, AR Environmental Training Academy; Fred and Nena Glascock, retired Arkansas wastewater operator; Sandy Luttrell and Leslie Daniel, ADEQ.

Previous Minutes: The February 10th meeting minutes were reviewed by the Committee. **Ms. Ellington made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Wright seconded the motion and it carried.**

Ms. Luttrell informed the Committee that the approved minute order appointing Ms. Enos to the Committee was enclosed in their materials. The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission approved her three-year term to commence on February 1, 2016 and to expire on January 31, 2019.

Financial Report: Mr. Healey presented the Wastewater Licensing Financial Report.

Licensing Report: Ms. Daniel presented the Licensing Report. Ms. Ellington noted her appreciation for the statistics breakdown on Class IV examinees. Mr. Smith felt exam scores were trending up a bit with new operators.

Mr. Healey discussed a concern he had with the recognition of new Class IV operators at this year's wastewater luncheon held on May 3 at the AWW&WEA conference. No one was present to be acknowledged for their achievement, an issue that ADEQ would like to rectify for future presentation purposes. Ellington believes tickets have been provided in the past by the association after notification by ADEQ staff of those that needed to be present for this recognition. She suggested we notify Angela Rogers for resolutions to this problem.

Public Comments: Mr. Harper reported on first quarter overall statistics through the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy. Mr. Smith acknowledged that no one was present from the Arkansas Rural Water Association.

Open for Public Comment: Ms. Luttrell presented the Committee with an email request from Fred Glascock (present at today's meeting) to reinstate his Arkansas Class III wastewater license. His license lapsed when he retired (inactive since June 30, 2013), which he did not anticipate a need to keep it active at that time. He would like to operate a small system for the community of Eden Isle, which desperately needs an operator due to extenuating circumstances. There are no class III operators in the area willing to work for this facility and he wants to help them become compliant with the state, and in the process, earn a small income to suffice his retirement. Mr. Smith referred to Regulation 3, "Lapsed License", in section D of chapter 6. It specifically states that any operator allowing their license to expire will be required to take a new examination. The class at which the

operator shall be re-examined will be at the discretion of the Committee. The subject of temporary licenses available for operators as a remedy in Mr. Glascock's situation were discussed. ADEQ does not offer any type of "operator in training" license, but the apprentice license is available and good for a maximum of 6 months. Mr. Smith noted that it is only issued once and the operator receiving this license must have never been previously licensed under this Regulation. Therefore, this option will not work in his case.

Mr. Healey informed the Committee that enforcement issues with Eden Isle warrant that without being a licensed operator, Mr. Glascock can only assist them as a consultant until he reactivates his Class III license. Mr. Healey will meet soon with him and Eden Isle to set some guidelines toward compliance until he gets licensed.

Mr. Harper (AETA), commented that if the Committee validates Mr. Glascock as eligible to test for the Class III exam, would it be documented that at their approval, he be given a time frame to accomplish this goal. The Committee was in agreement to give him six (6) months or until the end of the year. Ms. Ellington mentioned that a letter should be prepared, acknowledging the Committee's discussion on this matter and Mr. Glascock's efforts at working towards obtaining his Class III license, which he has scheduled to take in July. Mr. Healey stated that the May meeting minutes would count as confirmation. Mr. Healey replied to Mr. Glascock's question, that he could take samples and forward them to the lab on the facilities behalf. **Mr. Wright made a motion to allow Fred Glascock to test for the Class III license upon satisfactory completion of training and to obtain the license by the end of 2016. Ms. Enos seconded the motion, it carries.**

Sam Goodin submitted an email request, asking the Committee to consider him eligible for testing to reactivate his Class III wastewater license. **Ms. Ellington made a motion to allow him to test for the Class III exam. The motion was seconded by Ms. Enos, and it carried.**

Old Business: Mr. Healey presented the Committee with a document of proposed criteria guidelines for training providers to meet in order to be considered and approved for online training credit hours that apply to Arkansas wastewater operators. After reviewing the document, Ms. Ellington and Mr. Smith expressed their agreement with points made regarding a person to contact for discussion of their online training courses. **Ms. Ellington made a motion to accept this document of criteria guidelines for training providers to meet as written, with one noted verbiage correction. Mr. Wright seconded the motion and it carries.**

Ms. Luttrell presented training hour records for Donald Adams, a Louisiana reciprocity applicant who was granted an Arkansas Class III license at the February meeting. His hours had been questioned during that meeting, this documentation confirms he did provide sufficient training hours to meet the requirements for the license issued.

New Business: The Committee reviewed materials submitted by Maine reciprocity applicant, Dennis McComb, who is requesting an Arkansas Class III/IV wastewater license approval. After a brief discussion, **Ms. Enos made a motion to approve his request to reciprocate to an Arkansas Class III license and to allow him to sit for the Class IV test. Ms. Ellington seconded this motion and it carried.**

Mr. Healey informed the Committee that during the Wastewater Luncheon on May 2nd of the AWW&WEA conference, Rick Warner with the Water Environment Federation (WEF), announced the Federation envisions standardized testing for all license levels nationally within the next ten (10) years. Mr. Overstreet is aware of these discussions and the need for uniformity of licenses. He stated that general manager from WEF's Operator Strategy Committee, Steve Harrison, has requested contact information on those involved with the Licensing Committee. All members in attendance agree to have their email contact information provided to the WEF.

Mr. Smith announced the next scheduled meeting: **August 10, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.**

Mr. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 a.m., which was seconded by Ms. Ellington and the motion carried.