

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2008
ADEQ MEETING ROOMS 5C05/06

MEMBERS

Mark Johnson, Rogers Water Utilities, Chair
Cindy Garner, Executive Secretary, ADEW
Kelly Bryant, Evergreen Packaging, Inc.
Jennifer Bouldin, Ph.D. Arkansas State University
Michael McDaniel, Batesville Water Utilities
David Thomason, Arkadelphia Water & Sewer
**David Gross, Eastman or Future Fuels Chemical, Batesville
Sandy Luttrell, Wastewater Licensing Coordinator, ADEQ
Dawn Keller, Wastewater Licensing Administrator, ADEQ

MINUTES

The meeting of the Wastewater Licensing Committee was called to order at 10:03 a.m., on Wednesday, August 13, 2008, by Chairman Johnson. Members present were Johnson, Bryant, McDaniel, Gross, Bouldin, Thomason, Garner, Keller & Luttrell. Guests were: Randy Harper, AR Environmental Academy; Dennis Sternberg, AR Rural Water Association; Charles Pitts, Little Rock Wastewater; Martin Nutt, ADH and Linda Johnson, Chairman's spouse.

Chairman Johnson asked that we depart from the printed agenda for a moment to hear from Charles Pitts, who wished to address the committee board regarding his Class IV Operators License. The Licensing Committee is considering reviewing the status of his license due to certain discrepancies identified in the ADEQ inspection report and by his former employer the City of Pangburn. He informed the board that there were no intentional wrong-doings on his part, but did acknowledge that he may have made some inadvertent mistakes regarding the operation of the wastewater treatment plant facility. He stated that he was appearing before the board to defend himself against any accusations towards him and to give his version of the truth. Chairman Johnson thanked him for his time and Mr. Pitts left the meeting.

The minutes of the February & May meetings were read by the members and no changes were noted to be made. A motion was made by McDaniel to approve the minutes, and seconded by Bouldin, the motion was approved.

The financial report was given by Garner. Appropriations were discussed. The wastewater licensing staff was asked to compose a list of possible purchases in the future, which could include a vehicle for use by the wastewater licensing staff.

The Licensing Report was given by Garner. During the months of May, June & July 2008; 120 municipal and 11 industrial examinations were given, 35 new municipal

licenses were issued, 11 new industrial licenses were issued, 62 licenses were upgraded, 07 apprentice licenses issued, and 03 reciprocity applications processed. Total number of municipal licenses current is 2,881 and total number of industrial licenses current is 1,675. The total number of current licensed operators was 3,117. Since the new regulation went into effect 3/17/08, 318 current operators have requested to be grandfathered into the industrial license. The pass rate for the examinations was 82%.

Harper handed out a copy of the training report with a list of wastewater classes conducted by the Environmental Academy showing that 70 students were enrolled in 11 classes. He reminded us that Larry Hazal will be retiring in January, 2009.

Sternberg handed out a training report for 2008 classes taught by Rural Water Association. A total of 373 students were enrolled in 18 wastewater classes from January through July, 2008. Mr. Sternberg addressed Cindy with a comment, apologizing for lack of complimentary exhibit space normally available to state agencies at their conference. Due to being faced with a tight budget, their board made this decision.

Garner brought up before the board the issue of a request for variance on Reginald Grant (License Number 007512). The board discussed the request in great detail and Thomason made a motion to give the exam on September 3, but to hold his Class IV license until he is eligible for it in February, 2009. Motion was seconded by Bryant.

Garner brought up as old business for discussion, the acceptance of some wastewater treatment plants being run by an operator with a Class III License over a Class IV operator, in order to save money for the city's desiring this solution. This was acceptable only if there was a Class IV licensed operator available 24/7 if needed by the facility. During the discussion, a comment was made to have the Director of ADEQ write a letter to the mayors office showing the importance of following procedures and employing qualified licensed operators in the State of Arkansas. This was something the Chairman completely agreed with, as a solution to helping them understand and would make a real impact coming from our Director. A suggestion was made by Nutt to address the mayors through our newsletter of the importance of following procedures also.

Under new business, the Chairman announced an upcoming vacancy on the board. Suggestions were asked for and three resumes were provided to the committee members to consider for recommendations as a replacement to the committee board. Garner informed the board that McDaniel's term ends August 31, 2008. A motion by Thomason was made for Steve Upton as the committees first choice, and was seconded by McDaniel. Bouldin made a motion for Mike Ross as a second choice, and was seconded by McDaniel.

Garner presented a plaque to McDaniel for his dedication and work on the licensing committee.

McDaniel made a motion to dismiss the meeting, seconded by Gross, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m. The next scheduled meeting is set for Wednesday, November 12, 2008.