

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018
Room 1E09 – Conference Room

Committee Members

Lisa Ellington, Chairman, Paragould Light, Water & Cable
Rodney Williams, Vice-Chairman, Ph.D., University of Arkansas
Jennifer Enos, Springdale Water Utilities
William Wright, Albemarle Corporation
Michael Overstreet, Jacksonville Wastewater
Jonathan Richardson, Martin Operating Partnership
Richard Healey, Executive Secretary, ADEQ

MINUTES

The meeting of the Arkansas Wastewater Licensing Committee (AWLC) was called to order by Chairman Lisa Ellington, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, February 14, 2018.

Public Present: Randy Harper, AR Environmental Training Academy (AETA); Larry Oelrich, City of Prairie Grove and Johnny Lunsford, City of Rogers – both representing the AR Water Environment Association (AWEA); Martin Nutt, AR Dept. of Health; Stacie Wassell and Leslie Allen-Daniel, ADEQ.

Previous Minutes: The November 8, 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed by the Committee. **Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded by Mr. Richardson. The motion was accepted.**

Financial Report: Mr. Healey presented detailed financial documents showing expenditures and budget totals for the past fiscal year.

Licensing Report: Mr. Healey reported wastewater license certification totals for the past quarter to the Committee. Ms. Daniel shared test results for 2 gentlemen approved to test for all municipal license levels at our November meeting. Both came to ADEQ the following week (second Tuesday of month), took the Class I through III license exams and passed them that day. They registered for the December ABC Class IV computerized exam, which they passed on their first attempt.

Training Updates: Mr. Harper presented attendance and training record updates by the Environmental Training Academy.

Due to prior commitments (training course in progress), no one was available to attend from the Arkansas Rural Water Association. However, Mr. Sternberg did provide the Committee with a training report of all 2017 wastewater training course details on the association's behalf.

No "Public Comments" were brought to the Boards attention at this meeting.

Old Business: The AR Pollution Control & Ecology Commission's minute order was provided to the board approving the reappointment of Mr. Overstreet for a second term on the Wastewater Licensing Committee.

New Business: Ms. Ellington announced that the Committee must vote to approve the stipend reimbursement amount for the calendar year, which is always addressed at the first meeting of a new year. **Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the rate set, which was seconded by Ms. Enos. The motion carries.**

Next on the agenda, Larry Oelrich and Johnny Lunsford have joined us to discuss the Arkansas Water Environment Association's (AWEA) collection system certification program. This is a more formal request to the Committee to consider the addition of a new collection system license offered through the state. Mr. Wright inquired about the training and qualifications required for this licensure classification. A high school graduate with one year of work experience was mentioned, along with Mr. Nutt's observation that ABC uses population driven statistics with voluntary licenses.

Ms. Ellington shared her experience attending ABC's Certification Conference in San Antonio on January 16-19. She stated this conference was one of the best she has attended during her career in the wastewater industry. The purpose for attending was to gain insight into the benefits of converting from state administered operator licensing exams to the ABC standardized certification exams. After learning more about the ABC certification process, she highly recommends that ADEQ considers switching to ABC's certified examinations for all municipal license levels, as well as including the industrial licenses.

In previous meetings, we have discussed converting all license levels to ABC testing. Ms. Wassell has joined us, as an attorney with the department, to help with changes to Regulation 3. She pointed out in regards to the set fees, statute needs to be changed, then Regulation 3 because statute says what we can charge. Ms. Enos stated that time is of the essence for statute revisions, which Ms. Wassell claimed to be true, and it is time to incorporate changes. In moving forward with these changes, we could have the Department identify issues we see with the Regulation and then let the Committee review our recommendations.

Ms. Ellington announced recommendations are needed for a municipal wastewater operator to fill the vacant position left when Ms. Brown resigned. Discussion commenced about nominations being accepted before our next meeting and possibly choosing a candidate to recommend to the Commission as well. Ms. Wassell stated according to Ark Code Ann. 8-5-204 (b)(1), in the event of a vacancy, a new member shall be appointed by the commission to serve out the unexpired term. The AR Wastewater Licensing Committee can consider the two (2) other previous candidates to fill the vacant position. The Department will contact those 2 individuals. Their qualifications and recommendations will be emailed to the committee for consideration and a vote to recommend a candidate.

Ms. Ellington announced the next scheduled meeting: **May 9, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.