

SOLID WASTE LICENSING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 15, 2008

A regular meeting of the Solid Waste Licensing Committee was held on Thursday, May 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Headquarters located at 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock.

The meeting was called to order by Sid Fitzgerald, Chair, who called the roll. Members present included Sid Fitzgerald, Roger Davis, Elizabeth Hoover, Jim Abbey, Jack Jones, Gary Oden, Jim Willits, and Mark Witherspoon. Michelle Hillett of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette was present. She stated that she has just recently started covering environmental issues for the newspaper and attended to become familiar with the Licensing Committee, the members, and the activities of the Committee. Others in attendance included Randy Harper, Rickey Cole, Jane Schwartz, and Vivian Tucker. Micci Fendley and Dave Rose were absent.

The minutes were read and approved.

Rickey Cole stated that the Academy did not have a report, but he said that there would be a report at the next meeting on the online update classes. He said that the Academy would be closed for six weeks, and they would use this time for review.

Randy Harper stated that the Academy had received complaints about the class lists being only on CD, and that the Academy would return to paper schedules. He also brought up that too many people were waiting to the last minute to attend a class and that there needed to be a system in place that would help relieve this problem. He said that they needed a person in each district to coordinate the classes.

A general discussion on class attendance was held. Roger Davis stated that he had trouble getting information from his district office when he needed license numbers or class dates. Several members stated that the district offices were created to be a "focal point" for information, with the district director being the person responsible for having licensing and training information available.

Mark Witherspoon said that he thought that the districts didn't know that they were supposed to have this information. He said that he thought if it was explained to them, they would be willing to gather the needed info and make it available. There was additional discussion on who should contact the districts to remind them of this duty. Gary Oden suggested that the Licensing Committee make a statement that the Committee recognizes the importance of training, and the Academy and ADEQ will begin working more closely with the district directors ensuring we provide the needed training for their districts with the expectation that the district directors will become more actively involved in keeping the records that need to be kept on the training. He further suggested that the Academy and ADEQ pledge to work with that one designated person in each district to communicate the required training information. Gary suggested that Mike Robinson write the letter, with a copy to the Academy, saying that we will communicate with the

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district directors about licenses and training issues. Gary stated that by empowering the directors, they will take ownership of their districts and be more active. There was a general discussion on how this would work and what changes it would make. The general feeling was that a letter from ADEQ would have more impact than what it would have coming from the Licensing Committee.

Elizabeth Hoover reminded the group that Jim Abbey is the District Representative to the Committee. Jim then stated that he is a member of the Association of Solid Waste Districts and would be willing to bring up the issue at their next meeting and request that the districts e-mail contact information to ADEQ and the Academy. He stated that he is already asked for reports on what is happening at the Licensing Committee meetings, and it would be easy for him to get this information to the district directors.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed that Jim Abbey develop a draft of this information and submit it to Elizabeth, Mike, Gary, Rickey, and Randy before sending it by e-mail to the district directors. Then there would be a follow up by a letter from Mike Robinson if needed.

The new Solid Waste Chief, Mike Robinson was introduced to the Committee.

Elizabeth Hoover said that the license renewal letters would be mailed around May 23. She asked the Academy to submit any remaining rosters as soon as possible.

The next regular meeting of the Committee was scheduled for Thursday, July 24, 2008, at 10:30 a.m.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Sid Fitzgerald, Chair