

**Minutes**  
**Louisiana Committee of Certification**  
**December 6, 2012**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

**ROLL CALL:**

A. Determination of Quorum.

Committee Members in attendance:

David Wittner (Chairman), Dirk Barrios (Vice-Chairman), Craig Gautreaux, Grant Magnon, Mayor Glenn Brasseaux, Dennis McGehee (9:30), and Jake Causey.

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others:

DHH-OPH staff in attendance: Steve Hoss and Jim Mooring.

Visitors were: Greg Shelden, Tom Walton (LA Conference), Pat Cradeur (LRWA), Curtis Davis, Tom Wilson, Lloyd Benoit, John Goodson, and Patrick Mounts.

B. Announcements: There were no announcements.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes from the July 16, 2012 meeting were distributed and reviewed. A motion to accept was made by Mayor Brasseaux and was seconded by Mr. Gautreaux. The minutes were approved. The minutes from the October 25, 2012 hearing were distributed and reviewed. A motion to accept was made by Mr. Causey and was seconded by Mr. Gautreaux. The minutes were approved.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

David Wittner reported that he had received numerous communications regarding the issues to be discussed in "New Business."

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

The Administrator, James Mooring, explained that he would address the issues in "New Business" as well.

## **TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Training Officer, Steve Hoss, distributed reports of all the exams given in 2012. He reported that 1644 persons took a total of 3328 exams. The pass rate was 58.4%. A report of exam totals from 2009 – 2012 was also included. Pat Cradeur commented that the pass rate was higher for closed exams, which require a 32 hour course, than for open exams, which do not. Dr. Mooring thanked Mr. Hoss for his diligence in preparing these reports as they are a great help in the preparation of the administrator's reports.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary, Jake Causey, reminded the Committee that the federal grant which has been supplementing much of the Op Cert Program will end at the end of this month. The Department plans to pursue fee increases during the next legislative session with the aim of making the Operator Certification Program self-funded as it is required to be. Included in the proposal are new fees to be charged for the review/approval of courses for CEU. The Committee, after much discussion, suggested a higher fee for certificates and renewals be charged in lieu of that fee. Mr. Causey reiterated that the law requires that funds be dedicated to the Committee and he is working with the budget office to set up this account. This statutory dedication will allow additional funds collected in renewal years to be carried over into non-renewal years.

The Secretary also reiterated the statutory requirement that a list of three (3) names must be provided to the State Health Officer for consideration of appointment and re-appointment to the Committee. Dr. Guidry has asked that the list be accompanied by the nominees' biographic information. Mr. Walton confirmed that the LA Conference has two (2) appointments to be filled. He stated that he would forward this information to the LA Conference Chairman.

## **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

Louisiana Conference: Tom Walton – The 76<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held in Baton Rouge on March 11-14, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

LELAA: Steve Hoss – Three (3) people took the Lab test. None of them passed.

LETA: – No report.

LRWA: Pat Cradeur – The July 2013 conference was to be held at the Best Western Hotel in Alexandria, however discussion is underway to return to the Riverfront Center. He reported that LRWA has been awarded an EPA contract to provide training. Mr. Causey reported that, through this EPA grant, additional training will be offered in 2013. This training is targeted for systems serving populations less than 10,000 and there will be no charge.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The Chairman reported that he has sent the Committee's recommendation regarding Mr. Papadopoulos to Dr. Guidry for his consideration.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Leland Cable requested that his certificates, which were reciprocated to Kansas, be reinstated. The Staff presented evidence that he has obtained a sufficient number of CEU, he does meet the education and points requirements, and he has been employed in the water industry in Kansas. Mr. Magnon made a motion to accept his certifications by reciprocity. Mr. McGehee seconded the motion which passed.

Next, Lloyd Benoit asked the Committee to uphold Staff's decision to reinstate his water certifications. The Staff presented evidence that Mr. Benoit has obtained a sufficient number of CEU and that he does meet the education and points requirements. He was employed outside the water industry for more than two (2) years thereby requiring the Committee's ruling. Mayor Brasseaux made the motion to uphold Staff's decision. Mr. Gautreaux seconded the motion which passed.

Lastly, John Goodson requested that he be allowed to apply for his Class 1 and Class 2 water certifications even though the examination scores are over two (2) years old. He stated that extenuating circumstances with the management of Beekman Water System resulted in his certificate applications not being received by Staff. The Staff presented evidence that he has obtained sufficient CEU for the cycles following the examinations and that he meets the points and education requirements. Mr. Causey verified that the water system has had issues with mismanagement. Mayor Brasseaux made the motion to allow Mr. Goodson to apply for his Class 1 and Class 2 certifications. Mr. Gautreaux seconded the motion which passed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

The next Committee of Certification meeting will be held in March at the Baton Rouge Crowne Plaza Hotel in conjunction with the LA Conference Short Course.