

**Minutes**  
**Louisiana Committee of Certification**  
**September 5, 2014**  
**Bienville Building**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM.

**ROLL CALL:**

A. Determination of Quorum.

Committee Members in attendance were: Dirk Barrios, Chairman, Mayor Vern Breland, Tom Walton, Greg Shelden, and Jake Causey.

Absent members were: Dennis McGehee, Vice-Chairman, Camille Mize, Tom Owens, and Grant Magnon.

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others:

Visitors in attendance: Pat Credeur, C. Bryan Racer, Randy Dardeau, Brandon Dardeau, and Carroll Aucoin.

DHH staff in attendance: David McCay, Chris Soileau, Silas Corkern, Stacy Williams, Steve Hoss and Jim Mooring.

B. Announcements: There were no announcements.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes from the August 7, 2014 meeting were not available and are to be considered at the next meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Mr. Barrios stated that he had spoken with Mr. Dardeau who was present.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Dr. Mooring asked the Committee to please respond (accept or decline) to meeting invitations so that we have an idea if a quorum will be achieved. He stated that Staff is looking forward to having Valenscia Walker begin on 9/15/14 to fill the position vacated by Jill Ruffin's promotion. He also mentioned that nominees were needed to proceed with appointments for the 2 seats which expired as of September 2014.

**TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT:**

The Committee reviewed exam statistics presented by Mr. Hoss. The stats from all 2014 exams to that date were provided along with exam totals from 2009 to that date. There were over 160 examinees scheduled for the 9/12/14 test in Shreveport.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

None.

## **ASSOCIATION REPORTS:**

**Louisiana Conference:** Mr. Tom Walton reported that the Conference is working on the 2015 Short Course in Alexandria in conjunction with LWEA and that the agenda is almost complete.

**LELAA:** Steve Hoss had nothing to report.

**LETA:** – No report.

**LRWA:** Pat Cradeur – There were over 1000 attendees at the Annual Conference. The conference will be held in Lake Charles in 2015. He had spoken with the mayor of Alexandria and was assured that the “hotel situation” would be taken care of and ready for July of 2016. He stated that if it is ready, then the annual conference would be back in Alexandria in 2016.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Brandon Dardeau was present in response to the notification letter from the Committee. Mr. David McCay informed the Committee that the statute requires that before a state agency holds a hearing the person is given the opportunity to address the agency and explain why a hearing is not necessary and that is what this meeting is for. Mr. Cradeur stated his intention to make LRWA resources available to train Mr. Dardeau in the areas in which he is deficient.

Tom Walton asked Mr. Dardeau if he had ever been contacted by DHH regarding these issues. Mr. Dardeau reiterated the points made in his letter of response, which was provided to the Committee, by stating that many of the violations occurred prior to his employment with the Grand Prairie Water System.

Chris Soileau stated that correspondence from his office goes to the administrative contact. Mr. Dardeau stated that he was unaware of these issues until he received a packet of violations from the board of the system and soon after he received the letter from the Committee.

Mr. Causey asked if Mr. Dardeau collects the coliform samples and was informed that CENLA Environmental pulls the samples monthly. He next asked about the Lead and Copper samples and Mr. Dardeau said that he thinks CENLA handles everything they possibly can. Mr. Causey asked Mr. Dardeau if he oversees any of CENLA’s activity. He responded that he meets with them sometimes about the Bac-T samples but setting up routes and locations is the extent of his involvement with CENLA.

Mr. Causey asked Mr. Dardeau if he is familiar with what disinfection by-product sampling is and he was not familiar with it. Mr. Dardeau asked what that test is and was informed it is a laboratory test for trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids.

Mr. Causey reiterated that the purpose of this meeting is to determine if a hearing is warranted and that a hearing does not necessarily mean revocation of certification. It does entail the possibility of disciplinary action such as: revocation, suspension, probation, etc. Mr. Causey expressed concern that Mr. Dardeau, as the system’s certified operator, is not aware of the sampling requirement and is not being certain that this is being done.

A motion to schedule a hearing for Mr. Dardeau was made by Mr. Causey and seconded by Mayor Breland. The motion was approved. The hearing was scheduled for October 31, 2014.

Some discussion continued regarding whether or not his lack of knowledge of the violations absolves him of his responsibility. Mr. McCay asked if his agreement with the company is we are going to pay you to do this and he says that as an operator there are these

other things I'm supposed to do but you are not going to pay me to do them and should it be the operator's position that I can't work for you under these limitations?

Mr. Causey responded that absolutely that should be the position, otherwise the operator is putting his certification on the line. Mr. McCay next asked if the system's violation records are available on-line. He was informed that the information is available to anyone through "Drinking Water Watch."

No response had been received from Mr. Arad Brown in regards to the letter notifying him of the Committee's consideration of disciplinary action. The Administrator stated that he had received confirmation of delivery of the letter. A motion to schedule a hearing for Mr. Brown was made by Mr. Causey and seconded by Mayor Breland. The motion was approved. The hearing was tentatively scheduled for October 31, 2014.

Mr. Causey stated his opinion that the Committee should obtain more information before acting upon the Minimum Educational Requirement Position Statement draft. He suggested inviting education experts to attend the next meeting to share information. The Committee agreed to consider the issue at the next meeting. Since the issue would not be resolved at the 9/5/14 meeting, Mr. Aucoin stated his intention to file a lawsuit regarding the Program's existing Minimum Education Requirement policy.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

#### **COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

None

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next scheduled meeting will be held on September 23, 2014 in Baton Rouge at the Bienville Building.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn by Mr. Walton was seconded by Mayor Breland and was approved.