

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF CERTIFICATION
July 16, 2024 3:30 PM
Lake Charles Civic Center
Contraband Room (2nd Floor)
900 N Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Charles, LA 70601

1.) ROLL CALL

A. Determination of Quorum.

Committee Members in attendance: Camille Mize – Chairman, Patrick Edmond, Sidney Bazley, Amanda Ames, Brandon Snead, Michael Chauffe

Committee Members Absent: Lacey Landrum

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others:

David McKay, Rusty Reeves, Barbara Featherston, Jennifer Khilken, Kristen Hungerford, Steven Joubert, Brandon Bouy, Vijai Elango, Caryn Benjamin, Christopher Rogers, Ralph Hosch, Blake Fogleman, Johan Forsman, Josh Nguyen, Michael Norman, Corey Harris, Stacy Lafont, Bernard Daniels, Rodney Daigle

2.) MINUTES

The minutes from the October 2023 meeting were presented. Motion by Patrick Edmond, Second by Sidney Bazley to approve meeting minutes. Motion was approved.

3.) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Camille Mize will step down as Chairman and will resign from the Committee.

4.) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Reciprocity:

Colorado reciprocity and Oregon reciprocity denied by statute, these states do not grant reciprocity to Louisiana so we do not honor reciprocity from incoming licenses from those states

Approved for – Michael Sims TX, Theo Baker TX, Blake Boehringer MS, Nathan Bailey AL. Motion Michael Chauffe, Second Sidney Bazley to approve reciprocities.

Outgoing Reciprocity – 5 to TX, 1 to MS, 1 to AZ

SB 60 and HB 716 – Able to get exception to these bills for Operator Certification (no HS Diploma requirement)

Exam Locations – No longer conducting exams in Hammond due to issue with gym. Moving November exam to Westwego.

5.) TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

Have had 6 exams since last meeting. 2 Open, 4 Closed.

No issues since security has been implemented.

July LRWA exam, currently 491 Operators registered for exam this Friday.

6.) SECRETARY'S REPORT

SB 60 and HB 716 – Presented serious issue to reciprocity requirements had exception not been granted. Bills did pass so issues do affect other licenses in state.

7.) ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Louisiana Conference – Organization will dissolve by default if no report and filing submitted to Secretary of State.

LRWA – LRWA Conference - 599 attending classes, around 200 attending certification classes, 180 exhibit booths in exhibit hall with 443 exhibitors representing booths, 47 guests and spouses, and 50 speakers. Looking to move Mini-Conference from Alexandria to Natchitoches in 2025.

LWEA – No report, no attendees, will remove from future meetings

8.) OLD BUSINESS

Administrative Hearing – Administrative Hearing was conducted for Bernard Daniels. Testimony was received from LDH personnel Michael Normand, Vijai Elango, Josh Nguyen, Christopher Rogers, and Blake Fogleman. Mr. Daniels did not have additional representation.

Motion made by Pat Edmond to find Mr. Daniels negligent, second by Michael Chauffe. The Committee voted 3 for – 2 against – 1 abstain that Mr. Daniels was negligent in the performance of his daily duties and that he fraudulently signed and submitted Monthly Operating Reports regarding turbidity meter readings. The Committee determined that disciplinary action was warranted. Mr. Daniels license was placed on probation for two years and he is directed to complete the California Manuals Water Treatment Plant Operation Volume 1 and 2 within the first year. Failure to meet these provisions will result in removal of certificates.

Rule Change – Tabled but Committee members have been instructed to review and submit notes

Testing Centers – Decided to not use custom software and we are now currently looking for something more commercially available with better customer support.

9.) NEW BUSINESS

Hours Extension request – Courtney Ontario, Medical. Motion in favor Amanda Ames, Pat Edmond second. St. Bernard Operators, extension due to salt wedge emergency. Motion in favor Amanda Ames, Pat Edmond second.

Philip Hornback forgot to get hours, has rescinded his extension request

Operator Complaint Mamou – Complaint is not specific to operator it is really for system and the regional engineer has reached out to Mamou

10.) COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Steven Joubert – Clarification of probation for Mr. Daniels. Can he be designated Operator? Committee advised Mr. Joubert that he cannot sign anything so he can go somewhere else but he cannot sign MORs or any other type of paperwork so he would not be able to listed as the Designated Operator.

11.) NEXT MEETING DATE

TBD

12.) ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Camille Mize to adjourn, Second by Brandon Snead. Motion was approved.