

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF CERTIFICATION
October 30, 2025 10:00 AM
Bienville Building
Room 173
628 N 4th St
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

1.) ROLL CALL

A. Determination of Quorum.

Committee Members in attendance: Patrick Edmond, Sidney Bazley, Steven Joubert, Brandon Snead, JT Taylor

Committee Members Absent: Michael Chauffe

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others:

Melissa Blake, Rusty Reeves, Barbara Featherston, Jennifer Khilken, Reyna Duffus, Mykala McGee, Curtis Davis, Johan Forsman, Corey Harris, Jennifer Dewitt, Claude Swope, Anthony Farrell, Jennifer Green, Charles Beard, Chris Dunaway, Charln Stewart, Gloria Thompson

Election of new committee chair. Patrick Edmond nominated by JT Taylor. Second by Steven Joubert. All members in favor. Patrick Edmond elected as new Committee Chair.

2.) MINUTES

The minutes from the July 16, 2024 meeting were presented. Motion by Patrick Edmond, Second by Sidney Bazley to approve meeting minutes. Motion was approved.

3.) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

New Chairman, no report

4.) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Program is working on getting additional position approved for program

Working with Community College systems to get them in their testing centers and away from in person on paper

5.) TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

Have had 13 exams since last meeting. 4 Open, 9 Closed.

Open exams generally have a pass rate below 60% while closed has higher pass rate

Reiterated need for exams to be in testing centers in order to make testing more feasible statewide.

6.) SECRETARY'S REPORT

Wants to echo electronic testing and provided examples based on actions taken in Mississippi.

Jennifer Kihlken stated Pearson testing centers and possibilities through state.

JT Taylor stated robust library system and ability to do testing there as well as local community colleges.

Esteban Gonzalez stated goal of doing exams at community college venue would be to keep prices as low as possible for test takers.

7.) ASSOCIATION REPORTS

LRWA – Rusty Reeves. Annual LRWA Conference in Lake Charles - 1450 attendees including exhibitors, students, and visitors. 183 exhibit booths in exhibit hall
Mini-Conference in Natchitoches had less numbers attended than expecting. Next year will move back to Alexandria and hope for better numbers.
Rusty showed support for push to testing center but state main issue will continue to be Operator pay.

8.) NEW BUSINESS

Melissa Blake went over process for discussing initial Operator Complaints during Committee meeting.

Operator Complaint – Jennifer Green & Anthony Farrell. Jennifer Green, Anthony Farrell, Charlyn Stewart, Gloria Thompson, and Barbara Featherston all sworn in and provided testimony.
Complaint that Ms. Green and Mr. Farrell knowingly manipulated data on turbidity meter reports to deceive LDH regulators and Pendleton Water System and prevent violations at system.
Motion by Brandon Snead to bring Jennifer Green and Anthony Farrell to an Administrative hearing. Second by JT Taylor. All members voted in favor except for Steven Joubert who abstained from vote. Jennifer Green & Anthony Farrell will be brought forth for an Administrative Hearing.

Operator Complaint – Don Jones. Don Jones sworn in and provided testimony. Don Jones represented by Bill Arata. Complaint submitted in writing form Courtney Billiot that Don Jones was only licensed in Wastewater Treatment but was making decisions for all Water and Wastewater Collection system.
Motion by JT Taylor to stop proceeding and not move to Administrative Hearing. Second by Sidney Bazley. All members voted yes except for Brandon Snead who voted no. Don Jones complaint dismissed.

Operator Complaint – Joseph Parker. Joseph Parker sworn in and provided testimony. Complaint was brought forth by Chief of Police of Mooringsport regarding deceptive sampling practices for lead sampling at town clerk's home.
Motion by Brandon Snead to stop proceeding and not move to Administrative Hearing. Second by JT Taylor. All members voted yes. Joseph Parker complaint dismissed.

Hours Extension Request – Wayne Thibodaux, extension unanimously approved and licenses reinstated
Hours Extension Request – Curtis Thibodaux, extension unanimously approved and licenses reinstated
Reciprocity – Approvals for June Rogers, Rodney Belsome, Bart Cathey, Michael Rhoads, Charles Heino, Robert Nienhuis, Brittanie Gloyd. – Reciprocities approved as presented.
Exam Requirement Change – Request to change closed exam admittance process. Allow testing at closed exams after Operator has taken corresponding exam course. Once an Operator takes the course once the Operator can continue testing based off the course taken until that Operator fails a single exam three times. If they fail a single exam three times they will have to take the exam course again in order to test again. Motion by Brandon Snead, second by Sidney Bazley. Unanimously approved.
Draft Statute Change – Need to remove Louisiana Conference from statute. Will replace with another seat to LMA and remaining seats to LRWA. Appointments will be based on system size in order to represent large and small systems. Draft will be given to a legislator by Committee Chair. Motion by JT Taylor, second by Sidney Bazley. Unanimously approved.

9.) OLD BUSINESS

Rule change presented by Steven Joubert. Rather than change entire rule the rule change will be focused on the fees. Exam fee proposed increase to \$20 from \$5. Certification fee increased to \$30 from \$20 and additional certificates to \$20 from \$10. Motion by Brandon Snead, second by Sidney Bazley. Unanimously approved.

10.) COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Claude Swope proposed changes to licenses. Requested changes are to instead of lose licenses when CEUs are not completed to suspend the license initially in order to give an operator the opportunity to get their license back before it's fully lost. No expiration date on test scores. Let CEUs rollover.

Thanked Claude for time. Advised would need to study the info and follow up at a later meeting to discuss what can be changed and what would be needed in order to implement the change.

11.) NEXT MEETING DATE

December 4, 2025. Baton Rouge, LA

12.) ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Sidney Bazley to adjourn, Second by Brandon Snead. Motion was approved.