**Minutes**

**COMMITTEE OF CERTIFICATION**

**March 21, 2017**

**10:00 AM**

**Crowne Plaza Executive Center**

**Baton Rouge, LA 70808**

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. Determination of Quorum.

Committee Members in attendance: Dirk Barrios, Chairman, Mayor Vern Breland, Vice-Chair, Ronald Turner, Barbara Featherston, Joanne Massony, Camille Mize and

Amanda Laughlin.

Committee Members Absent: Delos Williams, Michael Baudoin

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others: Curtis Davis, Jerry Baker.

LDH personnel in attendance: Tom Walton

1. Announcements: There were no announcements.
2. **MINUTES**

The minutes from the December 1, 2016 meeting was presented. Motion by Barbara Featherston, Second by Vern Breland to approve meeting minutes as presented. Motion was approved.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

No Report

1. **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Reported that Steve Hoss retired February 3, 2017. Advertised and received applications for his position. Currently reviewing applications.

The administrator had 2 reciprocity request and recommended approval of the following operators and certification levels. In accordance with the rule, the Committee of Certification must make the final approval on all reciprocity request.

Mr. Dereck McLoud, Arkansas, qualifies for Wastewater Treatment Class 3 certification.

Mr. Freddie Cox, Alabama, qualifies for Wastewater Treatment Class 4, Water Production, Distribution and Treatment Class 1 certifications.

Motion to accept the administrator’s recommendations by Camille Mize, second by Barbara Featherston. Motion was approved.

The Administrator noted that other information will be discussed in the Old and New Business.

1. **TRAINING OFFICER’S REPORT**

Administrator reported that LDH is set up for 600 seats at the testing site. Expected a little over 500 operators to be testing with plenty of help from the LDH staff.

1. **SECRETARY’S REPORT**

No report at this time.

1. **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

**Louisiana Conference** – JW Hellums is teaching and unable to attend the Committee of Certification meeting. Steve Hoss, executive secretary of the Louisiana Conference, reported that they have 415 people attending the Conference, 154 operators in certification classes. **LELAA** **–** Steve Hoss reported that he had two requests to take a lab exams. One did not qualify to take Class 2 Lab exam the other never completed the necessary paperwork.

**LETA** **–** No report at this time.

**LRWA –** Timmy Lemoine reported the LRWA Conference is on schedule, already have 76 vendors that have registered. Rusty Reeves has about finalized the classes, training and instructors.

**LWEA –** No representive present.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

Kevin Branch and Danielle Roussel will be invited to a Committee of Certification meeting to finalize or close out their probation.

Thomas Owens will be invited to a Committee of Certification meeting to discuss complaints against him on water systems that he operates. Will try to have him at the July Committee of Certification meeting (July 18th, tentative at 1:00pm).

A discussion was held on the proposed changes to the first draft Operator Certification Rule. Discussion on having operators pay up front for exams. Cost of increasing exam fees ($15 the high) may be an issue with stakeholders. Discussion on how some systems pay for operator’s exams, increase in pay if passing exam, one time pay for each level passed, etc. Most of the changes to the rule are a “cleaning-up” of the wording.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion on Operator Complaints.

Mr. C.L. Robbins complaint that the operator (Scott Day, ID#351) for his subdivision’s water system will not return his phone calls when there are problems, he hired someone to read the water meters while he sits in his truck and that Mr. Day should be required to let people in the subdivision know when something is wrong with the water system and how long they will be without water. Mr. C.L. Robbins has the number to the LDH Region office and has talked with the staff about his complaints and is happy with their response.

Mr. Calvin J. Tyler (ID#4537) has made complaints on operators for the City of Alexandria and the City of Opelousas. City of Alexandria complaints where from 2010-2014, operators have since obtained their Class 4 certifications.

1. **COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

Curtis Davis, City of Shreveport – Has the Certification Committee ever thought of allowing proctoring of exams? Example, allowing testing via on-line computer? The Operator Certification office had looked into the proctoring exams on computers via colleges and trade schools but the infrastructure is not available to do that. Mr. Davis asked if a community college was set up the proctor exams via computers, would the Operator Certification office consider allowing it? The answer was that the office would consider allowing the proctoring of exams. The Operator Certification office has talked with Delgado Community College on their new operator training classes and Bossier Parish Community College on beginning operator training classes and testing at the completion of the classes. Mr. Davis asked that if Bossier Parish Community College was set up to proctor a test on a Saturday and send us the money for the exams would the office consider allowing it? The answer was that the office would consider it, but at this time it cannot be done.

1. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Next meeting will be July 18, 2017 (Tuesday), 1pm, at the Lake Charles Civic Center (LRWA Conference), Lake Charles, LA.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Camille Mize to adjourn, Second by Joanne Massony. Motion was approved.