

Minutes
COMMITTEE OF CERTIFICATION
March 15, 2016
1:00 PM
Shreveport Convention Center, Room 205
Shreveport, LA 71101

1.) ROLL CALL

A. Determination of Quorum.

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

Absent Members were: Delos Williams, Michael Baudoin and Amanda Laughlin.

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others: Pat Credeur, Rusty Reeves, Doil Nelson, Chad Troxclair, Dustin Zeringue and Ricky Robert.

DHH personnel in attendance: Tom Walton and Steve Hoss.

B. Announcements: There were no announcements.

2.) MINUTES

The minutes from the August 27, 2015 and October 29, 2015 meetings were presented. Motion by Camille Mize, Second by Barbara Featherston to approve both meeting minutes. Motion was approved.

3.) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dirk Barrios reported that Tom Walton has been attending Louisiana Conference regional meetings talking about different operator certification ideas trying to get the operators involved in the process. The Committee has been talking about fee increases since he has been on the board (5 years ago) and since around 2011-2012, but has never been brought in front of the Legislators as it needs to be. This Committee has not really discussed what it would like to do concerning changes. Dirk asked Tom to discuss some of the ideas with the Committee. Tom said he was trying to get all the regions involved and get some ideas. Tom commented that in a previous meeting in Baton Rouge Barbara Featherston had brought up the idea of having one fee to do everything, which means you have to come up with a price to review applications, operators take the exam(s), operators receive their certificate(s) and ID card. If the operator fails his/her exam operators don't get any money back. It slows down all the mailing back and forth, lost paperwork and with the time involved, keeping the operator from receiving raises from their systems. Reviewing having a minimum age requirement of 18 years old to become certified. Other states have this requirement in their rules and at the present time we do not. Our rule says that if you fail an exam you must wait 90-days before you can take that same exam again. I am asking operators what they think the wait time should be. Received answers from

operators ranging from 30, 45 to 60 days. Also asked about the 3 failures having to take a 40 hours class in order to take the exam again. The Louisiana Conference nor LRWA offer a 40 hour class so the operator has to go to the instructor and pay an additional fee of around \$100 to obtain the extra 8 hours. Some people thought if you fail a test once that operators must attend a 32 hour training class prior to testing. Discussed the possibility of requiring operators to attend a 32 hour class if you fail an exam two times.

Will be talking with other regions and LRWA training classes wanting feedback from the operators about the rule in general, their ideas, to get them involved in the process before coming to the Committee with a proposal. If not, we may have many systems, LRWA, Louisiana Conference fighting us on the changes because they don't understand what we are doing or trying to do.

4.) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Reminder that since I moved over to DHH that there is an opening on the Committee. Only four months left so you may just want to wait until it runs out. This is a Louisiana Conference appointment. Need 3 names from Louisiana Conference.

Michael Baudoin's appointment expires the end of August. This is a LMA appointment. Need 3 names from LMA.

The administrator had 8 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. Kevin Close Sr. from North Carolina. Recommended Water Treatment Class 4 certification.

Mr. William Rehrig from North Carolina. Recommended Wastewater Collection Class 3 and Water Distribution Class 2 certifications.

Mr. Stacy A. Goff from North Carolina. Recommended Class 2 certifications in all categories.

Mr. Bryan M. Raisor from Utah. Recommended Wastewater Collections Class 4, Water Distribution Class 4 and Water Treatment Class 4 certifications.

Mr. Aron A. Yellott from Texas. Recommended Water Production Class 2 and Water Distribution Class 2 certifications.

Mr. Marshall W. Nolen Jr. from Texas. Recommended Water Production Class 2, Water Distribution Class 2 and Wastewater Treatment Class 2 certifications.

Mr. Kenneth J. Williamson from New Jersey. Recommended Wastewater Treatment Class 4 and Wastewater Collection Class 4 certifications.

Mr. Benjamin J. Meyer from Florida. Recommended Water Treatment Class 4 and Water Production Class 4 certifications.

Motion to accept the administrator's recommendations by Camille Mize, second by Joanne Massony. Motion was approved.

Mr. Phillip Cheramie is requesting to be allowed to pay back his renewal fees to maintain his certifications. He notified the certification office in 2008 of his new address. His address was

never changed. He is asking that he be allowed to pay the back fees since DHH did not change his address. That was 3 renewal cycles ago and is just now asking about it. After discussion, Motion made by Camille Mize to deny Mr. Cheramie's request, second by Mayor Vern Breland. Motion was approved.

Ms. Anika C. Hubert is asking the Committee to allow her to start taking exams again. Ms Hubert lost her court appeal of the Committee's revocation of her license (Affirmed October 23, 2015). Motion by Barbara Featherston to have Ms. Hubert wait one year from the date the courts affirmed DHH's revocation, second by Camille Mize. Motion was approved.

Lamonze Robinson, active military, overseas for a year and a half during current renewal cycle, is requesting additional time to obtain his renewal hours. Motion by Camille Mize to allow Mr. Robinson an additional one year to obtain his renewal hours, second by Joanne Massony. Motion was approved.

Notified the Committee that an oral exam was given at the Reserve Exam, February 19, 2016. Poor eyesight by the applicant was the reason given. If we did not give her the oral exam then it was a violation of the ADA (DHH attorney agreed). The applicant passed her Class 1 Wastewater Treatment and Collection certifications.

5.) TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

Steve reported that at the February exam, 157 operators took 280 exams, 70% pass rate. Tom also found a small piece of paper that had a lot of notes on it for someone the cheat on the exam. For the exams this Friday, 3 people will be taking the Wastewater Lab 1 exam and 2 people will be taking the Water Lab 1 exam. Steve started that he has seating for 300 pre-qualified persons to take the exams, total of 360 seats available and 360 seats available for the walk-in side for Friday's exam.

6.) SECRETARY'S REPORT

No Secretary's report at this time.

7.) ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Louisiana Conference – Conference is going well. Opening session had over 300 people. Exhibits are downstairs this year.

LELAA – Given with the Training Officer's report.

LETA – Plan on trying to have another train-the-trainer class sometime this year.

LRWA – Spoke to Brandon Dardeau about obtaining his additional 32 hours of training as the Committee ruled, reminded him that LRWA went to bat for him. Mr. Dardeau attended one of LRWA classes after talking with LRWA. He is still a certified operator at this time. He has until December of this year to get his additional hours or he will lose his certifications.

The agenda for the LRWA Conference, July 18-21, 2016 in Lake Charles, is almost complete. Registrations are coming in and things are looking good for the conference. They are not sure where they will be next year. Pat went to Washington D.C. a few weeks ago asking them for

continued support for all of Louisiana. Check out the following bills, HB823 (changing secondary standards to primary standards), HB700 (fees and permits).

LWEA – No report.

8.) OLD BUSINESS

Anna Vollenweider – Failed to renew her certification so the additional 16 hours she was required to obtain by Oct. 29, 2017 is no longer valid.

Kevin Branch and Danielle Roussel will be invited to the next Committee of Certification meeting in Baton Rouge.

9.) NEW BUSINESS

Change the location for the October 21, 2016 from the Convention Center to the Best Western on McArthur Blvd. Motion by Mayor Vern Breland to move the exam location to the Best Western, Second by Camille Mize. Motion was approved.

10.) COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

None

11.)NEXT MEETING DATE

Pat Credeur offered to hold a space at the LRWA Conference for the Committee if they want to meet there. Next meeting will be June 23, 2016 (Thursday), 10:00am, in Baton Rouge.

12.)ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Vern Breland to adjourn, Second by Camille Mize. Motion was approved.