

**Minutes**  
**COMMITTEE OF CERTIFICATION**  
**October 29, 2015**  
**1:00 PM**  
**Bienville Building Room 671-673**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70821**

**1.) ROLL CALL**

A. Determination of Quorum.

Committee Members in attendance were: Dirk Barrios, Chairman, Tom Walton, Michael Baudoin, Joanne Massony and Amanda Laughlin.

Absent Members were: Mayor Vern Breland, Delos Williams, Barbara Featherston and Camille Mize.

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others: Cherree Carlson, Rusty Reeves, Dean Caldwell and Anna Vollenweider by phone.

DHH personnel in attendance: Steve Hoss and David McCay

B. Announcements: There were no announcements.

**2.) MINUTES**

The minutes from the August 27, 2015 meeting were not available.

**3.) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Dirk Barrios had no report

**4.) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

No Administrator at this time.

**5.) TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT**

Steve Hoss has about 300 people sign up for the November exam in Ruston. Awaiting commitment from DHH personnel to help with the exam. When asked if it was an open or closed exam, he said it was neither. But required a 30 day in advance approval in order to take exams. Always in November, north, south rotation. Next year the exam will be in Houma.

**6.) SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Amanda Laughlin said DHH had advertised for the Administrator position for Ops Cert.

## **7.) ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

**Louisiana Conference** – Joanne Massony is working on the 2016 Conference program being held, March 14-18, 2016 in Shreveport at the Shreveport Convention Center. The host hotel being the Hilton Shreveport. Discussion on DHH topics at Conference.

**LELAA** – Steve Hoss reported that one person is going to take a Level I water lab and Level I wastewater lab exam. This is his second try.

**LETA** – Tom Walton said that there is a Train-the-Trainer workshop tomorrow at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge. Approximately 50 students are registered.

**LRWA** – Rusty Reeves reported that the LRWA Conference will be held July 18-21, 2016. They are looking at another way to check operator hours at the Conference. LRWA said that for the October 21, 2016 exam, if DHH moves the exam to the Best Western Hotel that LRWA will cover the cost of the room. Will be brought up to the Committee at the next meeting for discussion and vote.

**LWEA** – Cherree Carlson said that LWEA will be holding another Conference during the same time period as the Louisiana Conference. She will be the representative for the Ops Challenge. There will be not Golf Tournament this year.

## **8.) OLD BUSINESS**

**Anna Vollenweider** – Steve Hoss said that Ms Vollenweider was sent two letters and additional documents. The letters were from Dr. Guidry and Dr. Mooring. Ms Vollenweider stated that she had the information when asked by David McCay. David McCay swore in Ms Vollenweider. The main complaint was you were acting as a certified operator for the wastewater treatment plant at LIGO in Livingston Parish when she only had a wastewater collection certification. She stated that the company she worked for was asked to operate and maintain the treatment plant on-site so she attended a training class and obtained her wastewater collection certification to learn more about wastewater. Her main job was to make sure that all the sampling and DMR's were completed. She did not actually work on the treatment plant. She said that it was her fault that she did not understand. They thought their company's environmental license covered the treatment plant when in fact it did not. Tom Walton asked Steve Hoss if Ms Vollenweider had attempted to take a wastewater treatment exam? Yes, but she failed the test. Ms Vollenweider went to the treatment plant every now and then. Their maintenance people took care of the operation and maintenance of the treatment plant. Her company had the contract not Ms Vollenweider. This is the only sewer treatment plant that her company has ever taken care of before and again, thought it was covered under their company's environmental license. Ms Vollenweider no longer works for that company and is now working in Texas. Amanda Laughlin asked Ms Vollenweider if she knew of anyone from her former company is seeking certification in wastewater treatment and collections. Ms Vollenweider said no, that is not something that the company does or seeks out work for. Someone else now has the contract to operate the facility. Joanne Massony asked Ms Vollenweider if during her training class if the instructor ever talk about the responsibilities of operators? When asked if she had any hours to renew her certification, she said no. She is waiting on the committee's decision. Amanda Laughlin asked her how long have they been operating the treatment facility – 3-years. Tom Walton asked Ms Vollenweider if she had ever taken the 15 question exam which covers the Op Cert Rule. She remembers taking the test. Motion by Tom Walton to place Ms Vollenweider on one year

probation, require an additional 16 hours of training concentrated on rules & regulations approved by the Administrator of Operator Certification or Dirk Barrios, Chair of the Committee of Certification. The additional hours must be obtained one year from this date or her certification will be revoked. Second by Amanda Laughlin. Motion passed. David McCay told Ms Vollenweider that the Committee makes a recommendation to Dr. Guidry and Dr. Guidry can accept or reject with the Committee's recommendation. Your letter will come from Dr. Guidry.

**St. John Parish Operators** – Letters to both Kevin Branch and Danielle Roussel were sent certified mail and regular mail asking for them to a Committee of Certification meeting. The green slips from the certified mail have been received. Required to have a hearing for both of them on their certifications. Neither one of them have responded to the letter. DHH to set up a meeting date. Tentative meeting date is December 1, 2016, 1PM.

**9.) NEW BUSINESS**

Dean Caldwell asked for re-certification hours for attending WEFTECH, AWWA, LRWA, etc. conferences totaling 64 hours. Tom Walton stated that should not be a question. It was decided in the past that as long as documentation is provided to prove that they have attended. The Committee restated their opinion at the last year's meeting in Lake Charles. Joanne Massony asked Dean if he was certified if that is why he wanted approval. Dean Caldwell's answer was yes, he is an operator for Caldwell Corporation. Approved, it has been allowed in the past with the proper documentation.

**10.) COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

None

**11.)NEXT MEETING DATE**

December 1, 2015, 1 PM, Bienville Building, Baton Rouge

**12.)ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Tom Walton, Second by Michael Baudoin , Motion Passed.