

Minutes
Louisiana Committee of Certification
December 4, 2014
Best Western Hotel
Alexandria, Louisiana

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM.

ROLL CALL:

A. Determination of Quorum.

Committee Members in attendance were: Dirk Barrios, Chairman, Dennis McGehee (10:10), Vice-Chairman, Mayor Vern Breland, Tom Owens, Tom Walton, Greg Shelden, Camille Mize, and Jake Causey.

Absent member was Grant Magnon.

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others:

Visitors in attendance: Rusty Reeves, Prosper Toups, Jerry Taylor, Kyle Gray, Rhonda Lovewell, J.W. Hellums, Todd Guidry, Curtis Davis.

DHH staff in attendance: David McCay, Laurie Jewell, Steve Hoss, and Jim Mooring.

B. Announcements: There were no announcements.

MINUTES:

The minutes from the October 31, 2014 meeting were distributed and reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes with a correction to amend the second paragraph on page two to read "Mr. Causey advised him that flushing a tap for numerous hours prior to taking a Bac-T sample for the sole purpose of raising the chlorine residual for that sample is not at all appropriate, as the sample is supposed to be representative of the system; however, flushing a line to maintain a chlorine residual is appropriate." was made by Jake Causey and seconded by Tom Walton. The motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

No report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Dr. Mooring stated that he had sent a letter to LMA requesting three nominees with biographic information to replace Mr. Magnon but had received nothing. He met Toyce Taylor from LMA and was advised to direct the request to Mr. Taylor. This was done on 11/18/14 with no response to date. Also, he had not received any nominees regarding the seats held by Mr. Shelden and Mr. McGehee. Tom Walton said he expects to provide this soon.

A legal opinion approving reciprocity for Lawrence Lewallen from Georgia, received by reciprocity from Florida where he passed the examination, has been received and the certificates have been issued.

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Committee reviewed exam statistics presented by Mr. Hoss. The stats from all 2014 exams were provided along with exam totals from 2009 to date. He stated that it is the Program's intention to increase the number of regulatory questions on the water exams. Mr. Walton requested that staff inform the trainers of this.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No report.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

Louisiana Conference: Mr. Tom Walton reported that the 2015 Short Course will be held in Alexandria in conjunction with LWEA on March 9 through 13. He also stated that the website has been updated to reflect this. There will be two, special, two day tracks for LWEA. Training classes as per the contract with DHH are to be scheduled soon.

LELAA: Steve Hoss reported that two people tested in November but did not pass.

LETA: Jim Mooring advised that staff would try to hold a train the trainer class in 2015.

LRWA: Rusty Reeves said the Conference will be held in July in Lake Charles and that they were hoping to return to Alexandria in the future. Training classes are being conducted and DHH Regional staff are being included.

LWEA: Tom Walton informed the Committee that David Hawley was not present but that LWEA was working with LA Conference concerning the Short Course.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Kyle Gray and Mr. Jerry Taylor were present in response to the letter sent to Mr. Gray advising him that the Committee was considering disciplinary action against him. A copy of the letter along with his response to Mr. Barrios, was provided to the Committee. Copies were provided to Mr. Gray and Mr. Taylor. Both gentlemen stated that Mr. Gray has never been the operator for Dixie Garden Water Supply but he is the operator for TWM Mobile Home Community and for the Wildwood South Water System. They stated Patrick Henagan is the operator for Dixie Garden. They also stated that the 2010, 2011, and 2012 violations preceded his employment with TWM. In Mr. Gray's letter to Mr. Barrios he claimed to be the operator of Dixie Garden and TWM. Mr. Gray stated that he made a mistake and he apologized for the mistake. Mr. Causey recommended that Regional staff be consulted to determine that Mr. Gray's has never represented himself as an operator for Dixie Garden. Mr. Taylor stated that Mr. Gray has talked to Jennifer Kihlken, Regional Engineer, many times. Mr. Causey asked if he spoke with her as an operator for the system. Mr. Gray stated that Mr. Henagan's schedule doesn't allow him to meet with Jennifer Kihlken on a regular basis so Mr. Gray has made himself available to meet with her. Mr. Taylor stated that he and Mr. Henagan are owners of Dixie Gardens. He also stated that there is no connection between the Taylor Water Management, Dixie Gardens, and Wildwood South systems.

The Committee focused their attention on TWM. Mr. Gray said he became the operator for this system in March of 2013. Mr. Causey discussed each of the violations in 2013 and 2014 with Mr. Gray. Mr. Gray admitted that he was not aware all of the samples and forms that were to be submitted but that he had done most of the sampling. Mr. Taylor admitted that he had hired a couple of different people to work under Kyle's certificates but they did not perform satisfactorily. Mr. Taylor said he would never allow anyone to work under

another's certification. Mr. Causey noticed that Mr. Gray does not have Water Distribution certificate. Program staff verified that he does not have a Distribution certificate.

Mr. Causey summarized the case with TWM: Mr. Gray took over as operator of the system in March of 2013; subordinates were hired to work under Mr. Gray's certification but they did not perform adequately, both Mr. Gray and Mr. Taylor state that DBP monitoring was done in 2013 and the first quarter of 2014 so it is unclear whether the DBP monitoring in 2013 and 2014 was done at the correct time with the correct results; there were some coliform issues in 2014; lack of Public Notice twice in 2013; all of this is under Mr. Gray's purview as the certified operator; some changes have been made in that these subordinates have been let go but other issues have come up. Mr. Causey stated that DHH staff will gather and review all this information. Next he asked Mr. Gray to provide staff with copies of what sampling had been done concerning the monitoring violations in 2013 and 2014 and concerning the public notice violations in 2013. A determination concerning how to proceed will then be made.

Mr. Causey stated that it is the legal department's opinion that the position statement regarding Minimum Educational Requirement, which had been approved at the 10/31/2014 meeting, should be reflected in the Rule. Ms. Mize made the motion to proceed with changing the rule to reflect the Committee's Policy. The motion, seconded by Mr. McGehee, carried.

Copies of a letter written by Mr. Brandon Dardeau and a letter from LRWA regarding Mr. Dardeau and the Grand Prairie Water System were distributed to the Committee. Mr. Causey believes that Mr. Dardeau needs to sign the letter and add a sentence acknowledging his responsibility for the sampling. A copy of the letter with the added sentence was given to Mr. Reeves to bring to Mr. Dardeau. Mr. Causey stated that once the letter has been received and approved by the Program, a recommendation will be made to Dr. Guidry placing Mr. Dardeau on two years' probation requiring him to receive 32 hours of training in addition to the 16 hours required to renew his certifications. The 32 hours must be approved by the chairman as addressing the rules and sampling issues.

Mr. Reeves reported that he had addressed the difference between flushing for sampling purposes and flushing for maintenance purposes with Mr. Dardeau. LRWA recommended that the system use automatic flushers on the areas of concern. LRWA also recommended that Mr. Dardeau be in better communication with the sampling contractor.

A motion to approve Mr. Dardeau's signed letter to the Committee with the amendment suggested by Mr. Causey was made by Mr. Walton and seconded by Ms. Mize. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A letter from Mr. James Hislop along with a copy of a completion certificate for the "Operation and Maintenance of a Wastewater Collection System, Volume 1" California Manual was presented to the Committee. The letter was written to Mr. Barrios requesting that the 90 hours from this course be applied to all five of his certifications. The Program has approved this course of renewal credit for wastewater collection certificates only.

A motion to uphold Program's decision and to provide a letter to Mr. Hislop informing him of this decision and reminding him that renewal hours are due by 12/31/15 was made by Mr. Causey and seconded by Ms. Mize. The motion carried.

Dr. Mooring informed the Committee that during the November 21, 2014 exam Ms. Anika Hubert had been seen by Sally Collins, DHH Engineering staff member, in the restroom with papers. Soon after that Valenscia Walker, a Program staff member, found practice tests for water distribution and Part 12 of the Sanitary Code. The Water Distribution 1 exam packet, which Ms. Hubert had given to DHH staff while going to the restroom, and the practice tests were obtained and secured by the administrator. Ms. Hubert was given a grade of zero. Ms. Hubert holds a Class 1 Wastewater Collection certificate. Mr. Causey made the motion to send Ms. Hubert a letter informing her that the Committee is considering disciplinary action against her. Tom Walton seconded the motion which was approved.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Mr. Curtis Davis said that he has heard a complaint that the Water Distribution 4 exams contain Treatment questions. Mr. Hoss stated that he has reviewed these exam questions and does not believe that is accurate. He believes that questions related to disinfection may be confused as related to treatment only. There is also a dosage question which is due to many systems feeding chemicals within the distribution system.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next scheduled meeting will be held at 10:30 AM on January 16, 2015 at the Bienville Building in Baton Rouge.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn by Mr. Walton was seconded by Mr. Owens and was approved.