

# ARKANSAS DRINKING WATER ADVISORY AND OPERATOR LICENSING COMMITTEE

July 19, 2023, Meeting Minutes

A quarterly meeting of the Arkansas Drinking Water Advisory and Operator Licensing Committee (Committee) was held on July 19, 2023. The quarterly meeting was held at 10:00 am, at the Freeway Medical Tower, Little Rock, Arkansas with all members and guests attending in-person or utilizing virtual meeting software.

## Members present:

Lance McAvoy, Chair, Fort Smith Water Utilities	Brad Hammond, P.E., Olsson Engineering
Sharon Sweeney, Central Arkansas Water	Larry Lloyd, P.E., University of Arkansas
Jeff Ford, Kimzey Regional Water District	Bryan Smith, Grand Prairie Regional Water
	Lance Jones, P.E., Executive Secretary; ADH

## Department of Health (ADH) Staff & Guests present:

Reginald Rogers, Attorney, ADH	Heather Parker-Foster Training and Certification Officer, ADH
Brian Nichols, Attorney, ADH	Robin Lynch, Administrative Specialist III, ADH
Charles Thompson, Attorney, ADH	Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH
Paige Harris, ADH	Tressa Williams, Legal Service Specialist, ADH
Jim Philipp, Water Training Provider, ARWA	Hunter Campbell, Elkins
Dennis Watkins, Operator, Yellville	Deshawna Walker, Bald Knob
Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville	Anthony Pistone, Bald Knob
Lisa Higgs, Bald Knob	Brad Monday, Central Arkansas Water

## MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Jones

Meeting called to Order by Jones, Committee Chair.

## INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE, STAFF, AND GUESTS – Jones

Jones asked everyone present to introduce themselves and it was carried out by the Committee members, staff, and guests. (See above attendance notations.)

At this time, the election of the new Chair and Chair-Elect were voted on by the Committee. Motion for confirmation was received by Hammond and Ford providing a second for Lance McAvoy for Chair. Motion for confirmation for Chair-Elect position (Ford), a motion was received by Lloyd and Hammond.

## **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER ORIENTATION - Rogers**

ADH Legal asked for this to be moved this discussion to the end of the meeting. Motion was made by Lloyd and seconded by Hammond.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – McAvoy**

Boggs directed attention to the meeting minutes provided digitally prior to the meeting. He requested any corrections to the July 19, 2023, meeting minutes. The Committee had no corrections, Jones received a motion from Ford to approve minutes as presented, with Lloyd providing the second and the motion was passed by the Committee.

## **HIGH SCHOOL WAIVER REQUEST – McAvoy**

McAvoy noted three (3) high school waivers were listed in the agenda, with Parker-Foster confirming three school waiver applications were ready to be reviewed by the Committee. This will help clean up the standardization of high school waivers and make their files administratively complete.

Dennis Watkins and Mayor Shawn Lane answered questions about Yellville Waterworks pertaining to the process, expectations, and waiver request. Sweeney received a motion to approve the waiver, with Hammond providing the second and the motion was passed by the Committee to grant the high school waiver.

Hunter Campbell from Elkins answered questions about Yellville Waterworks pertaining to the process, expectations, and waiver request. McAvoy received a motion from Lloyd to deny the waiver, with Hammond providing the second, and the motion was passed by the Committee to not grant the high school waiver due to not being in the industry. There is a one-year period to get a GED.

Brad Monday answered questions about Central Arkansas Water pertaining to the process, expectations, and waiver request. McAvoy received a motion from Ford to approve the waiver, with Lloyd providing the second and the motion was passed by the Committee to grant the high school waiver.

## **CRIMINAL HISTORY WAIVER REQUEST – McAvoy**

McAvoy noted that two (2) criminal history waivers were listed on the agenda, with Parker-Foster confirming the criminal history waiver applications were ready to be reviewed by the Committee. Discussion about the 1 criminal history waivers and further submitted information, a determination was made to not hear the criminal waiver application request due 5 years after probation from the latest. A sealed copy of Deshawna Walker's paperwork was submitted to the Committee. The Committee will take no action on this application.

The Committee discussed the criminal history process with Rogers and Thompson pertaining to the 5-year criteria. ADH's legal team assists with determining if the criminal history information meets the criteria to come before the Committee and provides due diligence for out of state charges with other jurisdictions and legal details.

**OLD BUSINESS – McAvoy**

**New Committee Member- Rogers**

Bryan Smith, General Manager, Grand Prairie Regional Water was introduced to the Committee as an official member and duties required of this position.

**NEW BUSINESS – McAvoy**

**FY22 SDWA Operator Certification Report OpCert Guidelines Report – Parker-Foster**

Currently, the Licensing Program is working on the report for FY22 and will be submitted to the EPA by August 1, 2023 deadline.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS – McAvoy**

**Executive Secretary / Section Director’s Report – Jones**

Jones briefly updated the Committee of the varied new PWS funding available from the federal government to include SRF, Emerging Containment and Lead Service line. The Section is currently working to get a 1<sup>st</sup> year contract for providers to get their service lines inventories for smaller systems that are due Oct 24, 2024.

The Section has been busy with the regulation and implementation from EPA for several rules such as the Lead and Copper Rule (LCRR) and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), MDBP rule sweep for revisions by July 2024, and new rule revision for CCR, new proposed rule for 29 compounds of PFAS (2025), combined MCL/hazard index for PFOA/PFAS and cybersecurity.

**Training & Certification Officer’s Report –Parker-Foster**

Parker-Foster provided an exam report showing the Operator Licensing program administered 199 license exams between April 1, 2023, and June 30, 2023, with an overall 36 percent passage rate and 75 licenses certificates were issued.

Licensing administrative tasks, such as processing licensing exam results, licensing fees and license applications are proceeding ahead with above normal numbers. The license renewal period is from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023 with renewal invoices sent out after the first week in May 2023.

The enforcement report was made available to the Committee for this meeting. Eleven (11) systems were listed in Enforcement from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023. There was a concern about a system for the Committee that has gone before the Board of Health. It was suggested that this item to be brought before the next Committee meeting.

**Arkansas Environmental Training Academy (AETA) Report – McAvoy**

Rowe provided a written report for the Committee, stating that the AETA was fully staffed but looking for OSHA instructor. Act 605 Retail Water Provider Board Member Training through traditional in-person, Zoom Video Conferencing, and self-paced online training classes. Training numbers were provided to the Committee for the 1st quarter of 2023 with 95 students and 105 participants trained over 15 classroom sessions.

**Arkansas Rural Water Association (ARWA) Report – McAvoy**

Philipp provided a written report for the Committee, stating that ARWA in January – June 2023, provided 240 hours of water classes, with 464 training hours with 1,961 student class days taught to water operators.

**OTHER BUSINESS – McAvoy**

No other business was brought forward.

**CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE – McAvoy**

McAvoy requested a motion to set the date for the next Committee meeting. The Committee discussed alternative dates. McAvoy concluded the discussion, scheduling the next meeting date for October 12, 2023, at Freeway Medical Tower in Little Rock, AR. McAvoy appreciated his time and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Committee.

**ADJOURN – McAvoy**

McAvoy adjourned the meeting.

End