

*Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment
Division of Environmental Quality
Location: Microsoft Teams*

MINUTES

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 24, 2025

Time: 10:00 A.M.

I. Call Meeting to Order by the Chairman

II. Roll Call: **10:03**

- A. Lance McAvoyn, City of Fort Smith, Chairman *Present*
- B. Jeff Ford, Kimzey Regional Water District, Vice-Chairman *Present*
- C. Doug Ford, Pollution Management Inc. *Present 10:04*
- D. Wen Zhang, PhD., University of Arkansas, Fayetteville *Present*
- E. Austin Ramsfield, Jacobs Engineering *Present*
- F. Heath Ward, Springdale Water Utilities *Present 10:14*
- G. Andrew Rike, Harbor Environmental, Inc. *Present 10:19*
- H. Sarah Pierce, Executive Secretary, DEQ *Present*

Colby Ungerank – DEQ SEEK Supervisor, James Robertson ARWA WW Trainer, Randy Haper AETA

III. Approval of the November 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes – Mr. Jeff Ford motioned to accept the minutes; Dr. Wen Zhang seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Old Business: None

V. New Business: Pierce

A. Reappointment:

Heath Ward, 1st term expires on 02/28/2025, would like to request that the Committee make a recommendation to reappoint Mr. Ward for a 2nd term, which would expire on 02/28/2028. - Mr. Jeff Ford motioned to reappoint Mr. Ward for a 2nd term; Mr. Austin Ramsfield seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Reciprocity Requests:

1. Randall Scott Green, Class IV in Louisiana requesting a Class IV. Mr. Jeff Ford motioned to grant a Class III wastewater license and Mr. Green may sit for a Class IV at any time. Dr. Wen Zhang seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr. Doug Ford made the motion that Mr. Green will need to complete training hours to be able to renew the license. Dr. Wen Zhang seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - a) License expires on 12/31/2025.
 - b) State standard/administered exam.
 - c) Louisiana reciprocates with states that reciprocate with Louisiana.
 - d) Issued a Class IV license on 09/06/2012.
 - e) Employed in Arkansas.

2. Charles Slagter, Class IV in California, requesting a Class IV. Mr. Austin Ramsfield motioned to grant a Class III wastewater license and Mr. Slagter may sit for a Class IV at any time. Mr. Heath Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - a) License expires on 06/30/2026.
 - b) State standard/administered exam.
 - c) California reciprocates with Arkansas upon review.
 - d) Issued a Class IV license on 08/30/2007.
 - e) Employment – waiting to see if reciprocity is granted.

3. Kelsy Bonhivert, from Indiana, requesting Class II and Basic Industrial. Mr. Heath Ward motioned to grant a Class I wastewater license and Advanced Industrial wastewater license. Dr. Wen Zhang seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - a) Municipal Review -
 - i. Licensed in Indiana as a Class I not Class II.
 - ii. License expires on 06/30/2027.
 - iii. State standard/administered exam.
 - iv. Indiana reciprocates with states that reciprocate with Indiana.
 - v. Issued a Class I license on 02/06/2015.
 - vi. When issued the license IN required 1 year experience.
 - vii. Employed in Arkansas.
 - b) Industrial Review
 - i. Licensed in Indiana as a Class C, which is equivalent Advanced Industrial.
 - ii. State standard/administered exam.
 - iii. License expires on 06/30/2026
 - iv. Issued Class C (Advanced) License on 01/05/2021.
 - v. When issued IN required 3 years experience and 2 years in Direct Responsible Charge of a Class II or higher facility.

VI. OWQ Updates:

- A. *Financial Report – Pierce – No comments*
- B. *Licensing Report – Pierce – Comments on the trend of licenses still going up.*
- C. *Seek update – Pierce – Migration testing was discussed. Renewal forms would be available by April 1st after the migration was complete.*
- D. *Future Meetings – Pierce – Mr. Heath Ward discussed the cyber security track that will be at AWW&WEA Conference. Training available for new operators.*

VII. Public Comments

- A. *Training Updates*
 1. Arkansas Environmental Training Academy – Mr. Randy Harper gave the training update.
 2. Arkansas Rural Water Association – Mr. James Robertson gave the training update.

- B. *Open for Public Comment – Mr. Heath Ward brought up the Senate Bill 265 that reduces the committee from 8 to 5 members. Discussion on the Senate Bill.*

VIII. Adjourn – Mr. Austin Ramsfield motioned to adjourn; Mr. Heath Ward seconded the motion.

The motion passed. Adjourned at 10:52.

2025/2026 Committee Meeting Dates scheduled:

April 29 @ AWW&WEA Conference, Hot Springs, Room 208 9:45

Sept 8 or 9 @ ARWA Technical Conference, Hot Springs

Jan 2026