

*Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment  
Division of Environmental Quality  
Location: Hot Springs Convention Center Room 209*

**MINUTES**

ARKANSAS WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: September 9, 2025

Time: 10:00 A.M.

- I. Call Meeting to Order by the Chairman *10:31 am*
- II. Roll Call:
  - A. Lance McAvoy, City of Fort Smith, Chairman *Present*
  - B. Jeff Ford, Kimzey Regional Water District, Vice-Chairman *Present*
  - C. Heath Ward, Springdale Water Utilities *Absent*
  - D. Andrew Rike, Harbor Environmental, Inc. *Absent*
  - E. Sarah Pierce, Executive Secretary, DEQ *Present*
- III. Approval of the June 2025 Committee Meeting Minutes – *Mr. Ford motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Pierce seconded the motion. The motion passed.*
- IV. Old Business: None
- V. New Business: Pierce
  - A. Request recommendations for new Vice Chair
  - B. Reciprocity:
    1. Quintin Winters, Class A in Texas, requests a Class IV.
      - a) License expires on 08/04/2028.
      - b) State standard/administered exam.
      - c) Texas reciprocates with Arkansas upon review.
      - d) Issued a Class IV license in 2025.
      - e) Lives in Arkansas.

*Mr. Ford motioned to grant a Class III license and allow him to sit for a Class IV at any time. Ms. Pierce seconded the motion. The motion passed.*
    2. David Wallace, Wastewater III in Mississippi, requests a Class III.
      - a) License expires on 10/01/2027
      - b) WPI/ABC exam.
      - c) Mississippi reciprocates with Arkansas upon review.
      - d) Issued Class III license in 2024.
      - e) Lives in Arkansas.

*Mr. Ford motioned to grant a Class III. Ms. Pierce seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

VI. OWQ Updates:

- A. *Financial Report – Pierce – No Comments*
- B. *Licensing Report – Pierce – No Comments*
- C. *Associate Director Update – Wassell – Needing nominations for a new committee member. Mr. Ford motioned to have nominations for a new committee member. Ms. Pierce seconded the motion. Ms. Wassell asked the committee to recommend moving away from ABC/WPI Class IV exams. Mr. Ford made a motion to go back to State based Class IV. Ms. Pierce seconded the motion. Mr. Lance opened the discussion to the floor. Ms. Talkington agreed that it would be best to have a state based exam. No other comments. Motion passed. New policy with guidelines for virtual meetings due to the updated FIOA requirements.*
- D. *Future Meetings – Pierce – No Comments*

VII. Public Comments

A. *Training Updates*

1. Arkansas Environmental Training Academy – Kenneth Robertson - *Mr. Robertson gave the report.*
2. Arkansas Rural Water Association – Chris Harris - *Mr. Ches Jackson gave the report.*

B. *Open for Public Comment – Mr. McAvoy made a request to have the January meeting be in person as we are bringing on a new committee member. Mr. Ford motioned for in person meeting at DEQ. Ms. Pierce seconded the motion. The motion passed.*

VIII. *Adjourn – Mr. Ford motioned to adjourn; Ms. Pierce seconded the motion. Adjourned at 10:54 am.*

2026 Committee Meeting Dates:

January 20 Teams? – *Date to be set at a later time.*

April 28 @ AWW&WEA Conference, Hot Springs Room/Time TBD

September 2 @ ARWA Conference, Hot Springs Room/Time TBD