

Minutes
COMMITTEE OF CERTIFICATION
June 23, 2016
10:00 AM
Crowne Plaza Executive Center
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

1.) ROLL CALL

A. Determination of Quorum.

Committee Members in attendance were: Dirk Barrios, Chairman, Mayor Vern Breland, Vice-Chair, Joanne Massony, Camille Mize, Michael Baudoin and Barbara Featherston.

Absent Members were: Delos Williams and Amanda Laughlin.

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others: None

DHH personnel in attendance: Tom Walton and Steve Hoss.

B. Announcements: There were no announcements.

2.) MINUTES

The minutes from the March 15, 2016 meeting was presented. Motion by Camille Mize, Second by Barbara Featherston to approve meeting minutes. Motion was approved.

3.) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dirk Barrios reported on HB995 (\$3.20 to \$12.00 safe drinking water fee, per connection, beginning January 1, 2017). Discussion on HB995.

4.) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Tom reported that the DHH name has been changed to DH. Official name is now Louisiana Department of Health.

The administrator had 3 reciprocity request and recommended approval of the following operators and certification levels. In accordance with the rule, the Committee of Certification must make the final approval on all reciprocity request.

Mr. Dwight Deckard, Indiana, qualifies for Wastewater Treatment and Collection Class 1 certifications.

Ms. Shannon Bianca Johnson, Texas, qualifies for Water Production and Distribution Class 2 certifications.

Mr. Stanley Dean Miller, Oregon, qualifies for Wastewater Treatment Class 4 certification.

Question by Committee member Mr. Michael Baudoin if operator certification does any background checking on individuals seeking reciprocity with Louisiana. Tom explained that part of the process is that the state operator certification unit the individual is coming from supplies information, separate from the operator, on the requesting operator such as; if he/she is in good standing, are their certifications valid and if they are under suspension.

Motion to accept the administrator's recommendations by Camille Mize, second by Barbara Featherston. Motion was approved.

The Administrator would like the Committee to concur with a policy that would allow operators attending a certification classes to take exams at a lower level, same category, as the certification class they are attending. This will allow operators to advance faster if they had failed previous exams at the lower levels.

Motion to concur with operator certification policy allowing operators to take exams at a lower level than the certification class which they are attending by Camille Mize, second by C. Motion was approved.

The Administrator gave an update on the operator certification renewals, ID cards and new certificates being processed.

5.) TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

Steve reported that he gave an exam in Ruston last Friday (June 17, 2016) 49 people were prequalified but a third of the people never showed up.

6.) SECRETARY'S REPORT

No Secretary's report at this time.

7.) ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Louisiana Conference – Joanne Massony reported that they are working on next year's program and meeting again at the Crowne Plaza at 1:00pm today. First meeting was on May 26, 2016. They have a lot of new officers this year. The new Executive Secretary is Mr. Steve Hoss.

LELAA – Two requests to take a lab exam in Lake Charles.

LETA – Hope to have another train-the-trainer class later on this year.

LRWA – Pat said that were not going to be able to attend today's meeting because they were at the national NRWA conference this week. The LRWA Conference is scheduled July 18-21, 2016 in Lake Charles, exam is on July 22, 2016. The numbers for pre-approval for exams is high. Booth space is almost full (per e-mail).

LWEA – No report.

8.) OLD BUSINESS

Kevin Branch and Danielle Roussel were invited to the Committee of Certification meeting in Baton Rouge. We have not received the green card back. Since this has been going on for such a long time, May 27, 2015, we have not been able to talk with David McCay about this, but I

would like to tell them that their certifications have been removed and they have two years from the date of the court closing date of May 27, 2015, before they are allowed to take certification exams again (if approved by David McCay). Motion by Camille Mize, second Joanne Massony. Motion passed.

Ms. Anika C. Hubert lost her court appeal of the Committee's revocation of her license (Affirmed October 23, 2015). Her next test date that she will be able to test is November 18, 2016 in Houma. Did not have the date the court affirmed the revocation of her license at the last meeting.

9.) NEW BUSINESS

Discussed the 2017 Exam schedule. Removed the June exam from the schedule. We will offer nine (9) exams in 2017. Note all exams require pre-approval, no walk-ins allowed at any of the exam sites. Motion by Camille Mize to remove the June exam and approve the 9 exam schedule, Second by Barbara Featherston. Motion was approved.

Operator certification office is looking at pre-paying for exams, including the cost of the certificates. If they fail, no reimbursements. We will be checking with legal to see if this is an option.

5 MINUTE RECESS

DRAFT changes to Operator Certification Rule discussed. Committee members to review DRAFT changes and discuss at next meeting(s).

10.) COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

None

11.) NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting will be August 25, 2016 (Thursday), 10:00am, at the Shreveport Hilton, Shreveport, LA.

12.) ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Camille Mize to adjourn, Second by Barbara Featherston. Motion was approved.