**Minutes**

**COMMITTEE OF CERTIFICATION**

**July 16, 2019, 2:00 PM**

**Lake Charles Civic Center**

**900 Lakeshore Drive**

**Lake Charles, LA 70601**

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. Determination of Quorum.

Committee Members in attendance: Camille Mize – Chairman, Ronald Turner, Barbara Featherston, Joanne Massony, Amanda Ames, Patrick Edmond, Michael Baudoin

Committee Members Absent: Vern Breland – Vice-Chairman,

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others: Beth Jones – Louisiana Conference, Doil Nelson, Jr. – Peoples Water

LDH personnel in attendance: Tom Walton, Esteban Gonzalez

1. **MINUTES**

The minutes from the March 20, 2019 meeting was presented. Motion by Barbara Featherston, Second by Joanne Massony to approve meeting minutes as presented. Motion was approved.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Vern Breland and Joanne Massony were reappointed to the Committee. Patrick Edmond was appointed to the Committee. One vacant position on the Committee (to fill the vacancy of past chair, Dirk Barrios), to be recommended by the Louisiana Conference Chair.

1. **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Credit card payment is going well. Over 100 operators have used this method to renew their certificates. We will be testing the credit card exam payment for new certificates. Once testing is complete, it will be made active.

Jamie Favor – (Missouri) Recommend Class 4 Certifications across the board.

Motion by Ronald Turner, Second by Barbara Featherston. Motion was approved.

Randall Butts – (Mississippi) Recommend all Class 3 Water Treatment and Production Certifications. Motion by Ronald Turner, Second by Barbara Featherston. Motion was approved.

Operator Joel Deville would like an oral certification exam. All paperwork provided was from the 1970’s and 1980’s. State attorney said that we could request updated information before making a decision. Mr. Deville stated he does not have the money to get an update at this time.

Operators can now apply for their certificates on-line. We will still need the High School Diploma or GED, and the 16 question Law & Rule Exam.

The Administrator noted that other information will be discussed in the Old and New Business.

1. **TRAINING OFFICER’S REPORT**

Handed out exam reports (January to June) listing how many students took each exam, locations and if the exams were open or closed. Discussion on test results. Hours report will be updated by the end of the month.

All Class 1 and 2 exams and the Class 3 Water Distribution have been rewritten. All new 100 question exams will be coming out at the same time. Four answers to pick from instead of the current five.

Low passing at Delgado CC May 17th due to mostly High School students also taking exam. Operator for the Nunez CC exam were from St Bernard (some were engineers).

There will be about 630 operators testing this Friday (LRWA Conference).

People that registered on-line should be getting a confirmation e-mail but they are not. That is a safety for the operators letting them know that they have signed up for the exam. We will be getting with LAI to correct the problem.

1. **SECRETARY’S REPORT**

2019 Legislation Session there was a bill that will have an impact on LDH is one that provided for a lead panel being developed for lead contamination in the drinking water. Looking at levels.

Two Federal Acts that will have an impact on water systems, America’s Water Infrastructure Act 2018 (AWIA). Will required water system to do CCR’s twice a year and vulnerability assessment and emergency response plans. Direct contact between water systems and the EPA. Discussion on some grants that may be available.

 **7.) ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

**Louisiana Conference** – Beth Jones reported that the Northeast Region have 8 hour classes in October and November scheduled. Next Year’s conference will be March 16-19, 2020, exams on the 20th. Will be located at the Shreveport Convention Center.

**LRWA –** No report

**LWEA –** No report

**8.) OLD BUSINESS**

Operator Justin Perkins, terminated from his job for falsifying Chlorine Residual samples. He had been requested twice to attend the Committee of Certification meetings and is not here today for the second meeting. Remove all of his certifications and he must wait 1-year before testing again. He must come before the Committee to request examinations. Motion made by Amanda Ames, second by Camille Mize, motion passed.

We are also looking at operator Jordon Savoy that was accused of falsifying LDEQ records. He settled out of court. He attended additional training and reimbursed LDEQ $3,000.00 for the cost of their investigation. Motion to proceed with the investigation process by Joanne Massony, second by Michael Baudoin, motion passed.

Note for the Committee that one operator at the last Alexandria exam had a cell phone go off during testing. We gave the operator zero’s (0) on all five of his exams. We sent him a letter stating that he could appeal our decision to the Committee. One of his supervisor told him not to appeal the decision.

 **9.) NEW BUSINESS**

Aaron Boudreau sent in a falsified GED (we did not know this at the time). We issued him a certificate. When it was brought to our attention that the GED was purchased off the internet (fakehighschooldiploma.com), we inactivated his WD1 certificate, wrote him and his company a letter stating that we inactivated his certificate and will bring it before the Committee.

Motion made to invite Mr. Boudreau to the next Committee meeting. Motion by Michael Baudoin, Second by Barbara Featherston. Motion passed.

We have an operator complaint on Ms Eddie Jackson the operator for Powhatan Water System. She was invited to today’s meeting but said she is not going to attend today’s meeting. Said she had no way to get there. Motion to proceed with the investigation process by Barbara Featherston, second by Amanda Ames. Motion passed.

The September 27th exam is officially changed from Addis to Reserve.

**10.) COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

 None

**11.) NEXT MEETING DATE**

TBA - September 25, 2019, 10:00am, LDH Office Downtown, room 173, Baton Rouge

**12.) ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Camille Mize to adjourn, Second by Barbara Featherston. Motion passed.