

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
WATER UTILITY OPERATOR LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 14, 2002
10:00 a.m.

TNRCC
12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. A, Rm. 257
Austin, Texas

M I N U T E S

Members Attending

Larry Bell
Clark Benson
Richard Harbuck
Cathy Henderson
Todd Henry
Debbie McReynolds
Mike Moreno
Mauro Perez
Bobby Jean Porcher
Fernando Rico
Curtis Smalley

Members Absent

Craig Sherwood

Others Attending

James Fischer, Texas Water Utilities Association
Noreen Helmle, TNRCC Operator Licensing
Susan Hier, TNRCC Operator Licensing
Alex Hinz, TNRCC Operator Licensing
Joe Linger, Texas Water Utilities Association
Juanita Lopez, TNRCC Operator Licensing
Paul Muraca, Texas Engineering Extension Service
Robert Stewart, Texas Rural Water Association
Robert Tinstman, TNRCC Operator Licensing

The meeting was called to order by Debbie McReynolds, Chair, at 10:00 a.m. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Non-members in attendance were introduced.

The Minutes of the March 4, 2002 Meeting were approved.

Susan Hier distributed copies of the “Recommendations for Minimum Process Control Tests.” She requested that the Committee review the document and submit their comments, changes or revisions by June 24, 2002. A copy is with the original Minutes.

Debbie McReynolds led a discussion regarding whether or not the ex-officio members of the Committee should be changed to voting members. No decision was reached. Juanita and Debbie will discuss this before the next meeting and offer some guidance to the Committee.

Debbie informed the Committee that due to Dan Allen’s death, there was now a vacant position on the Committee. James Fisher is the Acting Director of TWUA and he will attend the committee meetings until a new Executive Director is hired.

Debbie reminded the committee members of the attendance requirements and copies of TAC 30, Chapter 5, were distributed.

Bob Tinstman summarized the progress of the development of the two surface water operator training courses. TRWA and TEEEX have, for the most part, completed their work on the Surface Water I course. The issue of hands-on training is still in active negotiation. The length of the course and the speed of the development of the second course, which remains incomplete, was also discussed.

Bob distributed copies of a letter to California State University that revised the TNRCC designation of its correspondence course from “equivalent to training required for surface water operators” to “general training credit.” A copy is with the original Minutes.

He summarized the status of the wastewater job analysis, saying that a survey had recently been mailed to facilities employing over 2,000 operators, and that over 1,300 responses had been received to date. A copy of the survey is with the original Minutes.

Bob informed the Committee that he would be reviewing the recommendations that arose from the two previous job analyses, surface water and groundwater. A copy of the Review is with the original Minutes. He would identify any common themes that were addressed and any significant recommendations that might affect the licensing rules. Debbie McReynolds and Craig Sherwood volunteered to assist him.

He told the Committee that TNRCC was revising RG-373 and distributed a copy of a document describing those changes. A copy is with the original Minutes.

Alex Hinz gave an update on Surface Water licensing requirements. Surface Water I is available, but Surface Water II will not be available for some time. Operators can take Basic Water, Surface Water I and an elective course to obtain a Surface Water license. Water Laboratory is the recommended elective course.

Noreen Helmle reported on the status of the EPA Expense Reimbursement Grant. The final work plan and application was sent to EPA on May 31, 2002, for review and approval. No response from EPA has been received yet. EPA has 60 days to review the Work Plan.

Noreen distributed copies of the revised Advisory Committee web page.

She announced that the TNRCC Water Utility Operator Instructor Seminar was scheduled to be held in Austin, July 1-3, 2002.

Larry Bell distributed a copy of the sample language for a “quick start” certification for the Committee to review. A copy is with the original Minutes. He asked for comments. Several members and the TNRCC staff were not ready to accept and implement this since it may be affecting the anti-backsliding provisions of the EPA Operator Certification Guidelines.

The date of the next meeting was set for September 20, 2002, 10:00 a.m., at TNRCC.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.