

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

WATER UTILITY OPERATOR LICENSING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 15, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: 12100 Park 35 Circle, F2210, Austin, Texas and
Virtual Meeting through Microsoft Teams

Members Attending

Larry Bell
Angel Bustamante
David Garza
David Harris
Melissa Loyd
Karen Menard
Joseph McDaniel
Cory Moose
Crystal Ybanez
Harold Burris

Members Absent

Robb Starr
Jake Hollingsworth
Raymond Perez

TCEQ Staff Attending

Jaya Zyman, Occupational Licensing and Registration Division (OLRD)
Tamara Calhoun, OLRD
Paul Munguia, OLRD
Benjamin Sakmar, OLRD
Samantha Royall, OLRD
Teresa Etheridge, OLRD
Cindy Alejo, OLRD
Madison Nickells (Intern), OLRD
Erika Crespo, WQD
Dorothy Young, WSD
Jason Robinson, SBLG

Visitors

Crystal Bowman
Fanta Bayo
Haddi Bayo
Jose Cardenas
Melissa Loyd
Madison Nickells
John Walden
Edward J Williams
Zachary Jackson
Katherine McGlaughlin
Tanny Busby
Adam Farguson
Russell Hamilton

Call to order:

Quorum check – quorum present.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 15, 2024, was made by David Harris and seconded by Larry Bell, all members approved.

Attendee introduction:

All current and new members introduced themselves.

Water Supply Division (WSD) Updates: Dorothy Young

- **Drinking Water Advisory Work Group** held July 16, 2024.
- **Drought and Hurricane Resiliency Workshop** in McAllen on July 24, 2024. (Registration through [Texas Rural Water Association](https://www.trwa.org), in person only) [TCEQ Drought & Hurricane Workshop: Water System Resiliency in the Rio Grande Valley - Texas Rural Water Association \(trwa.org\)](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/programs-and-services/water-quality/conservation-and-protection/drought-and-hurricane-resiliency-workshop)
- **Annual Drinking Water conference – Navigating Change** - August 6-7, 2024, both virtual and in person. Registration through [TCEQ website](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/programs-and-services/water-quality/conservation-and-protection/annual-drinking-water-conference) (CE credit available). [2024 Public Drinking Water Conference \(texas.gov\)](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/programs-and-services/water-quality/conservation-and-protection/annual-drinking-water-conference)

Water Quality Division (WQD) Updates: Erika Crespo

Wastewater: We are projecting an active hurricane season. Submit your Homeland Security contact information through our WQ EPS system in STEERS, so we can be prepared and know as much as we can about the facility should anything happen.

21st Annual CMOM Workshop will be held on August 5-6th, 2024.

Occupational Licensing (OL) Updates: Jaya Zyman, Tamara Calhoun

Teresa Etheridge presented the licensing statistics for 4th quarter of FY24 reviewed.

Revision of the Wastewater B Exam:

Revisions to the Wastewater B exam were recently implemented. We appreciate WUOLAC members who helped with these revisions. Historically, when an exam is revised, we see a decline in the pass rate.

Resiliency update:

Resiliency overview course: Individuals **cannot** repeat the overview course for resiliency credit, but if taken more than once, a person will receive continuing education credit hours. There are a lot of resiliency courses being offered in the state,

be sure the training provider states their training is approved for TCEQ resiliency credit, or is listed on the resiliency portion of the TCEQ [training website](#).

SETH Pilot Program

Fourteen students completed the training, 13 took the exam. Of the 13, 7 of those were for a provisional license since some have not graduated high school yet. Six of them were for the regular D (recent graduates). Out of the 7 provisional, 4 passed. Out of the 6 regular D, 3 passed.

TAWWA responded to student's feedback to improve the course. For example, they provided a printout of the PowerPoint slides so the students would not have to take extensive notes in real time.

- Our feedback to TAWWA was largely based on student's feedback. TAWWA will adopt some of our if not all our suggestions moving forward.
- Over 300 Independent School Districts have expressed interest in participating in this program.
- Karen Menard – Plan in place to have volunteers working for the program that will help the SME's stay in contact with ISD's regarding job availability for those students who pass and want to continue in the water field.
- Seeking WUOLAC member's input on upcoming retirees and those who will be joining the field. Any local information that could be shared to help in forecasting the rate of jobs being filled as well as those leaving or retiring.

DAM 13 TCEQ resiliency

Initial review is underway. This training is for an 8-hour day to be counted for resiliency overview & continuing education. TCEQ can schedule a date and time to come to facilities for this in-person training. We will investigate the possibility of recording this training in the future to be offered as self-paced training.

Water D Exam Revisions

We need to include resiliency questions now that resiliency is required. We are seeking WUOLAC volunteers to create a bank of resiliency questions we can use for exam.

Increase in Fingerprinting subscriptions

In the first quarter we had about 426 people subscribing, and now the number is up to 800. We have doubled our subscriptions.

Fingerprinting subscriptions feedback:

- Not having to resubmit their data repeatedly.
- Not having to worry about their criminal history at time of license renewal.
- More efficient and saving a lot of time.

Any questions regarding fingerprinting please email Licenses@tceq.texas.gov

Uptick in compromising of exams and falsifying applications

Please ask all attendees to stress the consequences of cheating and falsification of applications. Dire consequences for those who are caught.

For all supervisors, please be vigilant with the documents you are signing. Action could be taken against anyone who has signed off on false documents.

New/Reappointed of WUOLAC Members on 7/17 Commissioner's Agenda

Thank you to all the members who have served and those who have submitted applications to be reappointed.

Adjourn

Joseph McDaniel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Larry Bell. Meeting adjourned.

Contacts:

Tamara Calhoun: tamara.calhoun@tceq.texas.gov

Paul Munguia: paul.munguia@tceq.texas.gov

Dorothy Young: Dorothy.young@tceq.texas.gov

Adriana Thomas: Adriana.Thomas@tceq.texas.gov

Erika Crespo: Erika.Crespo@tceq.texas.gov

Jason Robinson: Jason.Robinson@tceq.texas.gov

TCEQ Licensing: licenses@tceq.texas.gov

TCEQ OL Training: oltraining@tceq.texas.gov