

**Minutes of the  
Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission Meeting  
April 2, 2021**

The teleconference meeting of the Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission was held Friday, April 2, 2021 at 9:00 AM

Commissioners in attendance: Vice-Chairman David Gilbert; Executive Secretary, Bruce Holland; Commissioners Lance Jones, David Washington, and Ernest Pender.

Absent: Chairman Mike McDermott and Commissioner Tom Hunt

Natural Resources Division staff in attendance included: General Counsel Wade Hodge; Associate General Counsel, Mike Bynum; Deputy Chief Fiscal Officer, Shelia Watts; Natural Resources Division Geologist Supervisor Jim Battreal; and Administrative Analyst, Jackie Broach.

Vice Chairman Gilbert called the meeting of the Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission to order.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice Chairman Gilbert presented the February 5, 2021 Commission Minutes. Commissioner Washington made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented, seconded by Executive Secretary Bruce Holland.

Executive Secretary Report:

Executive Secretary Holland reported that nothing has been debated or passed during this session of the Arkansas Legislature that would affect our agency. He also reported the agency employees are getting vaccinated against Covid-19.

Financial Report:

Sheila Watts, CPA, Deputy Chief Fiscal Officer, reported YTD Revenues of \$72,926.21; YTD Expenses of \$66,466.32; YTD Net Revenue of \$6,459.89; and Cash Summary total Cash \$475,458.36; Investments \$38,271.74; combined Total Cash Summary \$513,730.10. There were no refunds.

Commissioner Pender made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Commissioner Washington. Motion carried.

Legal Report:

Department Managing Attorney Bynum reported that legal staff have drafted a proposed rule clarifying rule 3.2, which governs supervision at work sites, to require that a registered driller, pump installer, or apprentice be on site at all times.

Commissioner Pender made a motion to approve this clarification and initiate rulemaking with a second from Commissioner Washington. Motion carried.

Mr. Bynum stated that the next step would be that the rule would be published for a 30-day comment period. If there are any public comments, they would be summarized and given to the Commission. The Commission will be able to make changes to the proposed rule based on comments if it so chooses. He would then recommend a motion to vote based on the final proposed rule. After this, it would go to the Governor, then to the legislature for approval.

Consideration of Applicants:

Jackie Broach, Administrative Analyst, presented the following applicants for approval:

**STATUS OF THOSE ALREADY APPROVED**

	<u>EMPLOYER NAME</u>	<u>CITY/STATE</u>	<u>EXAM</u>
Charles Hutton	All About Wells and Service	Texarkana, TX	(D) Passed
Michael Barro	Madison County Hardware	Huntsville, AR	(PI) Passed
Joshawa Thacker	Madison County Hardware	Huntsville, AR	(PI) Passed
Brandon Jackson	Arkansas Filtration Solutions	England, AR	(PI) Passed
Cliff McCollum	Layne Christensen Company	Stuttgart, AR	(D) Re-Test

**NEW DRILLER APPLICANT**

	<u>EMPLOYER NAME</u>	<u>CITY/STATE</u>
Paul Feld	Environmental Works, Inc.	Springfield, MO
Tracy Burba	Summit Holdings dba Oklahoma Environmental Services	Oklahoma City, OK

**NEW PUMP INSTALLER APPLICANT**

	<u>EMPLOYER NAME</u>	<u>CITY/STATE</u>
Jacob D. Chambers	Hardwick Well Supply Inc.	Wheatley, AR
Josiah D. Smith	Ruffin and Sons Well Drilling LLC	DeWitt, AR
Charles D. Hutton	All About Wells & Service LLC	Texarkana, TX
Bradley D. Dauphin	Beaver Lake Pump Service, Inc.	Garfield, AR

Commissioner Washington made a motion to approve these applicants as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried.

**NEW DRILLER APPRENTICE APPLICANT**

	<u>EMPLOYER NAME</u>	<u>CITY/STATE</u>
Joseph L. Moore	M & M Well Drilling, LLC	Biggers, AR

**NEW PUMP INSTALLER APPRENTICE APPLICANT**

	<u>EMPLOYER NAME</u>	<u>CITY/STATE</u>
Cole D. Fowler	Hardwick Well Supply Inc.	Wheatley, AR
Bradley T. Moore	Hardwick Well Supply Inc.	Wheatley, AR
Spencer R. Hutchins	Ruffin and Sons Well Drilling LLC	DeWitt, AR
Rolando D. Valdez	W.E. Pender & Sons Inc.	Texarkana, TX
Felipe C. Diaz	Cart Well Company, Inc.	Weiner, AR

Commissioner Washington made a motion to approve these applicants as presented, seconded by Commissioner Pender. Motion carried.

Inspectors Report:

- 8 NWA well abandonments: These are at a new construction site where the wells are no longer needed.
- 2 reports of possible unlicensed pump installers (Clark & Faulkner counties). These are in the process of being investigated.

Water well Database reporting

2021 New well construction reports entered by contractors: 154

Staff: 47

Total: 201

Old well reports entered by intern : 952

We answered 35 calls and emails from the public and contractors on rules, regulation, and database searches for well information since the last meeting.

Inspector Jacob Harvey stated that the Groundwater Division would be doing well data collection with USGS and NRCS. He stated that he would also be making contractor visits during this time. He reported that there was a lot of new construction in Northwest Arkansas and Groundwater Supervisor Jim Battreal would be checking in on them in the following weeks.

Inspector Harvey also stated that would be investigating unlicensed pump installers in a couple counties.

Commissioner Pender suggested using an app called Land Glide as a useful tool in locating wells. Groundwater Supervisor Battreal responded that USGS is working to have a hand-held device in the field that the contractor could enter data directly into their phones. Commissioner Pender responded that hand-held devices are very accurate

Inspectors Report was approved as presented.

Other Business:

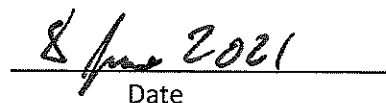
None

Adjourn:

Commissioner Washington made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pender. Motion carried.



Bruce Holland  
Director, Natural Resources Division



8 June 2021  
Date