

# **Highway Construction Materials Technician Certification Board**

## **Meeting Minutes**

January 1, 2006

Meeting was announced by posting at the ODOT Training Center and on the internet web site at  
<http://oktechcert.org/Meetings>.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Reynolds Toney. The following members/guests were present.

### **MEMBERS**

Reynolds Toney	ODOT
Scott Seiter	ODOT
Craig Parker	Silverstar
George Raymond	ODOT
Shawn Davis	ODOT
Karl Sirmons	ODOT
John Privrat	Duit
Robert Burton	OTA

### **GUESTS**

Bill Gamel	ODOT Consultant
John Benson	FHWA
Larry Patrick	Haskell Lemon Construction Co.
Deanna Loveland	OAPA
Danny Gierhart	ODOT

### **TRAINING CENTER STAFF**

Steve Sawyer	Program Director
Karla Irvin	Administrative Assistant

### **GENERAL COUNSEL**

Jan Preslar

1. Reynolds Toney determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.
2. Craig Parker moved to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2005 meeting. Seconded by Karl Sirmons. Approved unanimously.
3. The Chair moved to agenda item 6. Bill Gamel ask for opinions regarding the potential perception of a conflict of interest with companies that contracted to do QC/QA testing on Federally funded highway construction projects as well as training and evaluation for the certification program. The program director explained that there were measures in the evaluation process to address the issue. Contracts include a clause that forbids their company's personnel from evaluating technicians in their employ. ODOT is obligated to provide an evaluator for cases where a technician from the contractor's company is

attempting certification. General Counsel was of the opinion that the Board did not have the authority to create a code of ethics for technicians or contracting entities. The consensus of the Board was that the checks and balances currently in place were sufficient to address the issue of a perceived conflict of interest.

4. Addressing agenda item 7, Bill Gamel expressed concern about monitoring the performance of RHCMTs in the field. The Board recognized that not all technicians were performing procedures according to the publishing authority but that it is not currently practical to provide the kind of monitoring that would be necessary to identify individual violations. Split sample comparison testing continues to be the primary indicator of problems with sampling & testing procedures or equipment. Bill Gamel suggested that percent within limits specifications may exacerbate problems arising from what are currently perceived as minor discrepancies.
5. The Chair moved to agenda item 3.
  - a. The program director reported that enrollments were significantly higher than anticipated. Unsuccessful attempts at certification were also higher than any previous year.
  - b. An informal complaint/comment form has been added to the web site. The form will be modified to include a description of informal vs. formal complaints.
  - c. The Board reiterated the requirement for an RHCMT to affix a seal to the results of tests performed by apprentice technicians. Formal apprenticeship applications must be stamped by the mentor RHCMT and include the responsibilities of both apprentice and mentor.
6. Craig Parker asked the Board to consider the development of a Construction Inspector Training program. George Raymond agreed that the Board would have a relevant and pertinent role in the development and implementation of such a program for both public and private Inspectors. Scott Seiter pointed out the advantage of having such a program under the Board for providing continuity and consistency. Bill Gamel noted that it would require a change in the statute. Danny Gierhart gave an overview of the asphalt construction training manual on which he is working and expressed concern with the need to keep construction training programs current and active. Considerable discussion followed concerning the availability and format of the information and resources that will be required. The Chair appointed a committee to review the topic and make a formal recommendation to the Board at the next meeting or a special meeting if necessary. Committee members: Reynolds Toney, Craig Parker, Shawn Davis, John Privrat, Bill Gamel.
7. Craig Parker proposed the addition of an Asphalt Mix Design module. Danny Gierhart briefed the Board on the recent history of mix designing in Oklahoma and the need for improvement in current design methods and expertise in the industry. The Chair asked the committee assigned to the Inspector Training issue to also review this issue and make a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting. George Raymond reminded members that the addition of a mix design module for training and/or certification would not require a change to the rules or statute.
8. There was no new business.
9. Motion to adjourn by George Raymond. Seconded by Shawn Davis. Meeting adjourned.