



Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – January 25, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Attending: Chris Albert, Tom Canfield, Bruce Fillmore, Jim Hanna, Carl Hagstrom, Larry Maznek, Chris Kent, Gary Spaulding, Aaron Wechsler **Absent:** Micah Denner **Staff:** Matt Gatzke, Mike Dennehy

Meeting started at 4:37pm.

Guest Speaker : Rob Tardif

-Rene Pelletier appointed director of the Water Division.

- Legislation: HB1043 (same as 1312): committee regarding small business that sell food. If bill passes, they are asking for DES input about grease trap regulations which leads to HB 1312 and waste disposal rules. Refers to Intl. Plumbing Code. SSB not regulated or subject to that code. Hearing next Monday in afternoon. Seeking GOWA opinion on the issues. Larry has been working with Rob on this with input from NHASH. Without proper greasetraps, makes an issue for pumpers at wastewater plants. Rep. claiming SSB rules can't be tougher than Intl. code. Other food production causes issues and regular residential wastewater already showing high levels. DES testimony to HB 1312 asks to form a committee and get input from stakeholders. Perhaps those businesses need to contract for routine clean out. Tank is getting used like a greasetrap. Larry was asked about his perspective on the issue. He was sending NHASH a draft letter. The greasetraps are needed. Both onsite septic and on municipal systems. Often the greasetraps are undersized so grease gets into the tank. Not enough retention time to solidify in the traps. It is a matter of fairness when operating on a city sewer. Impacts others uses.

-Tiny house bill (HB1068) language relative to DES is identical to previous bill. Can't support holding tanks for tiny house. A conflict to rules.

-Pollinator bill (HB1517) was mentioned. Larger solar fields, would require methods to kill weed seed and replant with wildflowers.

-HB1293: Update on removing the homeowner design option. GOWA writing letters of support.

-SB44: Two issues were in our realm, converting existing structures to ADU but left out protected shoreland, have to meet rules and remove condo conveyance from subdivision rules. Small cabin colony to be sold but won't buy it if it can't be condo converted. Does not meet lot loading, so no subdivision approval. Dept. testified. No real sense of its direction.

Chris asked for board member comment on action to take on HB1293. Chris will attend hearing. Spot on DES website where there are letters of support. Rob to send copies of letters related to legislation to Chris and he will share with the board.

Minutes of November 30, 2021 Board Meetings: Motion was made and seconded, No discussion and approved (three abstained due to not at the last meeting)

Review of December 31, 2021 Financial Report: In absence of the treasurer, Matt gave brief review of financials. Year-end came in near where it was estimated to be, in the negative. Need to get a new budget going. Motion made, seconded and no further discussion. Motion carried.

Programs and Conference Update: Draft of conference flyer was reviewed. Still waiting to hear about state approval. We are going out with the promotion regardless. Annual meeting was discussed. One spot open on the board. Walked through planned sessions. Discussed how credits will be tracked. Chris K. asked that we have separate area for non-members to pick up their packets so they could be talked to about membership. Some talk about COVID awareness for those who are concerned. Masks are always an option, but not required. Chris addressed diversity on the board and need to check in with some possible people to be on nominating committee.

Legislative and Rules:

Vice Chairman Reports (Designers): Carl commented that people who are evaluators are calling water tables and telling homeowners where they can or cannot place a field. They are also calling systems as failed. Only designers are allowed to make that call. Evaluators often put in the place of making that determination when hired for a real estate transfer. Tom asked where is it in rule that only designers or health officers can call a system in failure? Sense is that it is implied but not spelled out. Gary quoted Env-Wq 1004.20 (C) all applications for the purpose to correct a failure must have statement from health officers or permitted designer that the system is in failure. Their license does not allow them to call water tables. Homeowners are not the ones complaining, it is more other designers who are hired to replace the system and then feel the system is not actually in failure.

Vice Chairman Report (Installers): Price of pipe has drastically increased. Issues with using 26 pipe vs 40 due both availability and the price. Don't over-design the pipe needed. Fittings an issue. Electricians also have problems getting conduit. Pump issue related to matters of siphoning. Want a check valve or air-bleed to prevent backflow. SEW-Air vent needed. Prefer not to use check-valve. Siphoning back out of d-box. Chamber needs to be sized to the flowback. Also look at dosing rates. Designer had a site with a water table that seems to change, possibly due to blasting for foundation. Pipe shortage likely to go on into summer months. People buying surplus product. Plastic manufacturing plants just now getting back to operation, though labor shortage. Have tried to get waivers to use different pipe. Risers have also gone up in cost.

Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers): Larry discussed HB1185. He testified on his own behalf. Treatment plants requiring that discharge to be tested for PFAs. Two weeks to get a test. If the load was hot for PFAs, the plant could turn the hauler away. We need to watch out for these bills which with testing requirements would require visiting a location twice. So many constraints and considerations. HB1134: A committee to study flushable wipes and get rid of claims that the wipes are flushable when they are not.

Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators): No report from Micah. Staff is getting calls and emails about a future class. Chris K. commented about need to review class content and exam parity. Larry asked about new system for EDA...GST. Is there any information about how to evaluate them? Bruce has interest in

training evaluators on the new system. Matter of time before the systems appear more commonly. System has inspection ports but concerns about homeowners removing them or covering them.

New Business: Bruce brought the matter of hiring a lobbyist. Would require a separate agreement to track legislation. Hard to determine what the cost would be as the number of bills and the amount of work to track them. Concerned about the longer term picture. What if something gets missed? Need to increase revenues through membership.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 6:17 pm. Motion carried.