



## **Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – April 26, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Attending:** Chris Albert, Tom Canfield, Bruce Fillmore, Jim Hanna, Carl Hagstrom, Larry Maznek, Micah Denner, Gary Spauding **Absent:** Chris Kent, Aaron Wechsler **Guest:** John Downing **Staff:** Matt Gatzke

Meeting started at 4:30 pm.

**Minutes of March 29, 2022 Board Meetings:** Motion was made and seconded. Motion approved. One abstention.

**Review of March 31 Financial Report and Budget Approval:** Matt gave highlights of financial report. All conference expenses in and just a few who still owe some registration fees. All vendors paid. Gary asked about 60-90 day people on AR report. Directed to write off all past members and affiliates to remove from AR report going forward. Any members who did not rejoin should be written off. Any affiliates should be flagged that if they attempt to come to conferences in future, they must pay back balance. Motion was made to approve writing off the past-due members and flag past affiliates. Motion was seconded and approved. On budget, Matt and Micah reviewed the budget. Based much of budget on actuals to date, but used 2019 figure too as they reflect a non-pandemic time. Matt asked what we should estimate for income on evaluator program? Was suggested to lower to \$10K from \$15K. Concerns that septic inspections are down much like home inspections. Seeing less demand. DB fees not increasing and board meetings have not had food in past two years. Also need to account for Zoom and placed it under board meetings line in budget. Allowed for modest education revenue. Suggested that income not be over-budgeted for newsletters as we still have issues to get published. Reviewed credit card fees as well. Pass on to the purchaser and increase fees as needed or only take checks. \$12,789.99 net income proposed. Motion was made to approve amended budget. Second. Was asked to remove information comparing with prior year. Question was asked about alternative way to bill for dues. More paid this year. Motion carried.

**Programs and Evaluator Program:** Matt working on the manuals and getting things set logistically. Tom also working on items for onsite session. Discussed the GST system because it is so new will need to add info on how to inspect it. Showed stickers for GST systems. Discussion of ports to observe. General discussion about lenders and such and requirements for inspections. Larry and Micah are ready to go. Evaluating such new systems should be offered at 2023 spring conference for those who already took evaluator program. How do we rate them in terms of evaluating them? Need info on Geo-Mats.

**Legislative and Rules: HB1293** Bruce sent over comments on letter that was drafted. It was the subject of hearing this morning. Unclear what “no permit” really means in terms of preventing a homeowner from doing it themselves

**Old Business:** Reviewed the dry well letter to be sent which now includes comments from Bruce and Tom. Is anyone aware of staff enforcing height of drywell vs. height of excavated hole? Micah

comments on that in his suggested changes to the letter. He will be submitting a new design. The issue is creating policies when it puts you in opposition to the rules. Using water meter data is a good example. Get the letter out. Motion made to approve it and submit it. Seconded and carried.

**New Business:** John Downing asked how inspectors are reviewing GST system. Only a few installed since last year. Not aware any have transferred via real estate transfer. They do have two observation ports with height of liquid level visible. For ok to backfill, how is state inspecting them? State has a checklist and pictures are taken at various stages of installation. They get an installation report. Ports at end of each row. When an evaluator goes out, they only have one end of the system to inspect. Suggested that they add more ports into the design. Have to be careful not to damage the layers of the system. Difficult to dig into the system itself to inspect it.

**Vice Chairman Reports (Designers):** Carl has had four people say they want to call in a homeowner install for approval, but it is not their domicile so they cannot install it themselves. It may be a new house but it is not yet your primary house. Have to get someone else to call it in.

**Vice Chairman Report (Installers):** Jim commented that pipe prices and supply have moderated but now pumps are really hard to find and they have gone up in price. Discussion of collectors and ADU install process. Need to get that cleaned up in the rules.

John asked if a whole new design is needed what do you call it. A garage with an accessory unit. Issues of town zoning, setbacks, sizes, etc. Gave examples of unattached new building.

**Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers):** Larry commented DES asked pumpers if they have changes for the septage rules. Rules due to be reviewed and adopted by November 2023. Chris reminded that we are no longer seen as stakeholders. Gary asked permission to draft a letter asking documentation that we are no longer allowed to participate as a stakeholder. Nothing from the AG's office. Strongly agreed that Gary should send the letter. Agency used to say it was their attorney who was saying this. We want copy of the policy on this matter. Gary to send it to the legal department. Motion was made to authorize Gary to write the letter. Motion seconded and approved. Larry commented you have to take a CDL course to get your license. Chris felt it is a better process and costs more, but the class really helped them pass the exam. Need to come up with policy about who will pay for the CDL training program. Cost \$8K over two months. Four hours a day. Less expensive one in Concord.

Micah asked about collection of tie-ins. Collection tie-ins were for a sub-division where homes were built over time. Someone is using it for expansion on their plans. Is that the correct use of this? Existing system has to be approved for the flows. Extra flow is an issue. They are still approving pocket plans. One of his recent installs, they were replacing the house and expanding use of the garage. Were told a separate application was needed for the ADU all going to the same field. Was told if there is an ADU they have to do a separate application even if it is going to the same already approved tank. State is trying to cover their time for going out to conduct the inspection.

**Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators):** Nothing additional from items discussed above.

**Meeting Adjournment:** Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 5:54 p.m.