



Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – May 31, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting started at 4:43 p.m.

Minutes of April 26, 2022 Board Meetings: Motion was made and seconded. Motion approved.

Review of April 30 Financial Report and Budget Approval: Matt and Micah reviewed a couple of items on the full report. Had more people in SEP program than expected so we had a bump in revenue. One item having to do with a prior accounting error, but it was adjusted off. Matt confirmed that the price we pay for the website is the lowest cost option. Website also include Constant Contact fee. Matt clarified that a few have paid for the conference at the incorrect rate on the form. Ninety percent of the time it is non-members. Micah concerned with the amount of time chasing down the money and it stays on the AR report. Matt to follow up with a board member who may know one of the people. Motion was made, seconded and approved with no additional questions.

Evaluator Program Update: Matt commented on this year training. Gave people links in advance to study admin rules from OPLC. We will know results soon enough with exams in early June. Planning, setup and execution went very well. Income is based on 18 people as one person paid in 2021 but had to cancel and we credited him for this year. Matt estimates we spent \$1,736 for food, hall rental and manual printing. Waiting for port-a-pots. \$11,400 profit so far, but stipends have not yet been disbursed to those involved. Tom reported that field day went great. There are a few items to consider for the field day and he created a list of items. Ron Sebastian got back to Tom about having him pump tanks at the Homemakers. About \$500 cost. Board agree GSOWA should pay for it and consider it to be a program expense for the SEP program. Ron to send bill to us. Matt sent out letters to all instructors/volunteers. Micah liked the addition of pumps which Larry's person conducted. Need to update some slides and reincorporate some things that were left out. Send out examples of what we are looking for before they do the inspections on the field day. We are hopeful that we were more helpful this year to prepare for the exam, including rules. Tom wants to create sequenced photos of an evaluation and modify standard form we give out to reflect evaluation inspection rules.

Phone Call with Rob: Rob Tardif offered some closing comments as he has departed DES. HB1293 (homeowner design bill) was thought to be done. Rep. Pauer shut the discussion down with questions. We lost all aspects (well encroachment waivers and procedural fix and homeowner design). Renee met next day the Senate and sat down with Reps. Dolan and Pauer and at least got the homeowner design and procedural part passed including encroachment waiver. Rep. McKonkey will introduce things in September. Chris to all Renee. Two amendments, first one relative to well radii was tabled. Second one was about the process. He believes it will pass. It was asked when a party would be held for him. No news yet. Rob's position being reviewed and may eliminate the PE requirement. No PE is going to leave private sector at this point due to economy, they may need to change this. He closed by thanking the group for their support and friendship over the years.

Legislative and Rules: HB1293 Chris to call Renee to see if we need to do anything based on Rob's comments. Well waivers have been a huge issue. Issues from abutters have created issues. Letter sent to DES on dry well position by GSOWA.

Old Business: Matt asked if we are doing anything for Rob Tardif. Peter O'Neill had called Micah that there might be plans for Rob's party.

New Business: Bruce commented that he had spoken to Gary Spaulding on this and that we need greater representation. Aaron commented that we had looked into full-time representation but the cost was prohibitive. Monitoring legislation alone was costly too. Chris asked Mike to put together a scope of work for GSOWA and what it would involve. Looping Alex in for monitoring? Mike suggested that it be done as carve out based on specific pieces of legislation. Need to have someone constantly on things such as HB1293. Would it be \$5K more? Give us some idea. Losing all the experience at DES to help us work through issues.

On Rob, do we move ahead with a July event for Rob? Private department event in July that would likely not include us. Consider cash bar but we pay for appetizers.

Vice Chairman Reports (Designers): Aaron offered that anyone doing designs in Hillsboro or Washington, Washington is now witnessing test pits. Call town office and a selectman will witness the pits. Hillsboro has always been doing that for test pits and bed bottoms in the Emerald Lake district but now it is a town-wide requirement. \$100 review fee and septic application. Get building inspector to review test pit and get town approval before sending to the state. A new requirement, not commonly known. Have to also put a note on the plans that you have to contact town for a bed-bottom inspection in Hillsboro. Have had selectman no show up.

Vice Chairman Report (Installers): Jim commented that pipe availability has improved but prices have increased. Seems like daily calls to check stock and prices. Inspections of job sites happening in a timely manner. Derek Clay now the person taking over for Jay Baas. Micah reported some delays in getting inspections scheduled. Once a request gets called in, it is routed to Derek Clay's phone. Larry asked about how a pumper can get an installer license. No known courses. Chris setting up a program at UNH for designers. May be GSOWA figures out how to create an installer or designer program but the age-old issue remains who will instruct it. Suggest that they get experience as an installer first.

Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers): Larry commented issues with some plants not taking septage. Creates a challenge for pumpers who now have to haul greater distances to off load. By law all towns are to have a pre-approved location to take it to, but it's not making any difference. Plants are having a problem getting their "NIFTYs" permit. Cutting back on out of town waste. All stakeholders need to let regulators know.

Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators): Micah added that the classroom included discussion of GST systems but that we need to add this to the field day portion at the site. Micah and Larry both commented that there has been an uptick in evaluations. Homebuyers are starting to shop around and may be returning to wanting inspections. Customers becoming more inpatient.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 5:53 p.m.