



## Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association –August 23, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**Attending:** (All on Zoom except where noted) Chris Albert, Bruce Fillmore, Tom Canfield, Carl Hagstrom, Chris Kent (in-person), Jim Hanna, Larry Maznek, Micah Denner, **Absent:** Aaron Wechsler, Gary Spaulding **Guest:** Phil Trowbridge  
**Staff:** Matt Gatzke

Meeting started at 4:30 p.m.

**Update from Phil Trowbridge.** Phil reported the Rob's position remain open and it has been posted and announced to GSOWA members. Two vacancies for field inspectors, including Lakes Region and Southern NH.

HB1312 – Working with building code review board for a study committee related to grease interceptors. They raised issue of overlap between DES rules and the building code. DES had said their jurisdiction was within 5' of building. 1,000 gal. size for gravity grease interceptors was at issue. After a few meetings, group feels we can resolve with admin rule changes and changes to building code instead of legislation. Code board will change their jurisdiction to be within 5' of building or to first fitting. DES will consider adding rule to allow hydrdo-mechanic grease interceptor for smaller establishments. Must have very limited reason to pass grease thru to waste system. Have a list of criteria they must meet to avoid the 1,000 gal. situation. Question about standalone ice cream stands or coffee stands without seating and no other cooking. They will keep 1,000 gal. when an interceptor is needed. Chris Kent suggested need to make it a rule to have a riser on inlet cover for ease of accessing and maintaining grease traps. Safety of the septage hauler. Easier to talk customer into risers at the time of design and installation. Phil will flag grease trap section about risers. Also consider adding risers to residential systems.

HB1293: Working out issues unaddressed by passing of bill. Need to consider banning homeowner installation. Even with language about primary domicile, DES is still seeing issues. Chris asked if GSOWA should be lead on this issue. Phil felt it is more something for GSOWA to pursue vs DES. Also working to get grandfathering of well language. Well waivers and releases still an issue. Difficulties with language on this issue.

Chris asked if the DOT Program for water quality can be approved for designers and installers? Phil will check in with Dawn, though he believes it has more to do with road construction. Phil departed meeting at approximately 5:00pm.

**Minutes of June 28, 2022 Board Meetings:** Motion was made and seconded. Motion approved.

**Conference and Future Training:** Matt offered that we need to consider reworking and reconfiguring the hotel room space that we have for March 2023. Should we get rid of school -room seating and flip all to theater seating to hold more in each room? Need to address rooms being too crowded and uncomfortable.

Regarding future SEP training, need to consider options to replace Homemaker's space for future evaluator training. Chris Kent reminded that his new system built at his ship in Hooksett will have multiple components which we could use. Tom was to meet with Chris about it. May not have a lot of flow. No idea when the septic system at Homemakers would be abandoned and connection made to city sewer. SEP class does not need to show system flooded or failed. Aim is to find systems, how to open and inspect them, etc.

General concern that training needed as people are missing basics and failing the designer's exam. Gets into the idea of apprentices, journeyman type of training. 15 passing out of 100 is not good. Same issues with SEP class and people needing to learn the rules. The rules are covered by the exam and our class is not teaching them. More emphasis on the 1,000 rules, but people need to read them before taking the exam. Micah wants to see more GST information included

in training and he and Tom need to consider reworking parts of the training program. Micah suggested that we expand the training to address the rules or perhaps have a rules review session before the training. The state exam for evaluators will be proctored by an outside company.

**Review of June 30, 2022 Financial Report:** Matt reported that all dues invoices will go out via QuickBooks with clickable payment link. Getting dues income will start to be reflected on the reports. Micah had no questions on the June report. Motion was made, seconded and approved. July 31 report to be tabled to next meeting.

**Legislative and Rules:** Matt asked the group what is exactly would GSOWA like a lobbyist to be doing for you. Chris to put together a scope of service and get it to Alex and Mike.

**Old Business:** None heard.

**New Business:** Chris commented meeting tomorrow for residuals rules. Pumpers should be aware of the meeting. Darlene Johnson to attend on behalf of NHASH.

**Vice Chairman Reports (Designers):** Carl reported that clients are concerned about higher costs of designs and installations. People are not reading the plans. They are forgetting to put in a coated tank if it is less than 75' from the well. Some are just installing coated tanks whenever it is close. For both wells and surface water is a monolithic tank wrapped at the tank a substitute for a coated tank? If you can't get a monolithic tank you have to coat other tank instead. They would accept this.

**Vice Chairman Report (Installers):** Jim spoke of a job with tight tolerance related to wells. Eric Thomas and Dawn Buker suggested waivers to remedy the situation. Hearing about unpublished waivers. More and more poor-quality plans causing installers having to redo things. Problems with bad benchmarks and ties. Problems with designs including wrong elevations and rechecking the math needed. State reviewers also not catching things. Chris has had installers hire him to resolve issues with designer plans. Jim spoke of card that installers can send to designers to provide comments or feedback on the designs. Carl commented on various state waivers for setbacks that are unofficial. 25' to running water, 35' to a lake and 25' to an onsite well that does not require a hardship waiver. Jim asked about party for Rob but it won't be just for Rob event at DES at new Fish and Game Building

**Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers):** No pumpers meeting, no report.

**Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators):** No further report.

Bruce asked about 2<sup>nd</sup> requests for information. Chris reported that due to new state law, DES is following up on RFIs. State has issues with seasonal conversion for full-time use. Applicant was told to allow state up to five months to review the plan. The amount of documentation they require to prove pre-1989 takes a long time to track down.

**Meeting Adjournment:** Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 6:15 p.m.