



Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association –June 28, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting started at 4:35 p.m.

Update from Phil Trowbridge. Phil reported the Rob's position will be filled but will remove the PE requirement to increase pool of applicants. Some delay due to retirement system rules. Should advertise in July and make offer in August. DES thinking of a Water Division gathering for multiples retirees as new DES building on Silk Farm Road. Have an open-house and cookout. Many people retired in the last two years. Details to come. GSOWA offered to donate items as needed (ice, beverages, etc.). Getting to meet designers and installers via phone interaction. On legislative front: HB1293 ended up with lots of ins and outs. Many things got added to the original goal of removing homeowner designs, then encroachment waivers got added, committee of conference felt too many changes being made; issue from AG offices and the statute for requests for more information letters and timeframes. Added second amendment related to that. Original bill removing homeowner designs and amendment with admin timeframe issues. Encroachment matters did not pass. For encroachment waivers, Rep. McConkey will submit a new bill this up in next session. Will efforts be made to remove homeowner installs? DES has considered it but may be need to rely on GSOWA pushing for it to be removed. Very political issue. Installs by homeowners only of if it is their primary domicile, but DES finding out some locations are not their homes. Chris A. asked if we should seek two separate bills. Separate the issues next time around. Carl told by state inspectors that homeowner inspections require multiple call-backs due to improper installation of components. We need to deal with pre-89-related requirements. They are the biggest challenge for designers. More important than the installers issue for many. HB1312 was sent to interim study regarding grease traps. Originated from smaller stores or ice cream stands that were upset that they had to comply with grease trap requirements. DES being told that state rules should not be more strict than Intl. Plumbing Code but it is DES approval that those rules do not protect septic systems. BOD load (food service waste) without trap you will need a larger tank and leachfield. Plumbing Board believes their jurisdiction extends all the way to the tank. Plumbing code is what they go by and it conflicts with DES rules say. Working with Building Code Review Board to iron out those issues. Need to see studies about how well smaller, under-sink devices remove grease. Have until September to report back on the issues. Chris K. argued that the indoor traps are a health and sanitation issue within the building. Traps belong outside. The plumbing licensing stops 5' from the facility, but the plumbing code says "until you convey the water to a septic system." We need to get past the jurisdictional matters and focus on the environmental aspects. Chris A. asked to be invited to the DES taskforce on this issue. Next meeting is on Tuesday, July 26 at 1:00 p.m. at DES. (Food Licensing, Fire Marshal's office, SSB and Plumbing board). Chris K. asked about cesspools and the need to get a letter drafted about outlawing them. Cesspools are illegal and there was some opinion that they ought to be called "in failure" as they do not provide treatment. Something to review with Dawn and Kevin. Carl H. was contacted by installer who got a letter from SSB inspectors to Do Not Backfill because screws were secured on the AOS covers and they could not inspect the system. It is a matter of who is responsible if screws are removed from the cover to conduct the inspection and then something happens afterwards, such as a personal injury. Phil asked for case # and will review with inspectors. Phil will try to attend next board meeting.

Minutes of May 31, 2022 Board Meetings: Motion was made and seconded. Motion approved.

Review of May 31, 2022 Financial Report and Budget Approval: Matt commented that financial are now being produced through online version of QuickBooks. More refinements of new reports needed. Micah did review the current report. Matt reviewed balance sheet and P & L. Bottom line will go up once dues notices are sent out in late summer. There are two people from the conference who owe money. Matt will connect with board member about following up with them. Motion was made, seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Evaluator Program Update: Matt asked if anyone has heard any feedback about pass/fail rate for class participants. So far people seemed to be given the information they needed to know to pass. Matt reported getting calls and emails from a few who were questioning the need for 25 evaluations. They can either take the field training and pass our exam or participate in 25 inspections through their own company. Reminded Tom to get W-9 back to us so Sarah can send stipends to instructors.

Legislative and Rules: Most issues related were addressed during conversation with Phil Trowbridge. Matt reported that Mike and Alex at DB were to come up with costs and thoughts about providing GR services.

Old Business: None heard.

New Business: We will wait and see about what DES does for Rob. Some discussion about costs or a gift.

Vice Chairman Reports (Designers): Carl reported that LaMarre Concrete and likely other suppliers are starting to add surcharges for diesel for tanks and other deliveries.

Vice Chairman Report (Installers): Jim commented that the lid issue is a problem because not all inspectors have drills or bits to loosen the cover screws. Issue with live loading during a replacement prior to the final inspection. We need to make it easier for state inspectors. Jim takes photos of baffles to show inspectors. Do need to have some accountability by state inspectors to come equipped to loosen them. Safety is most important issue.

Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers): Chris reported that all prices have gone up due to fuel costs.

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

Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 5:37 p.m.