



## **Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – December 19, 2023**

**Attending: (All on Zoom)** Chris Albert, Bruce Fillmore, Tom Canfield, Larry Maznek, Kevin Kent, Carl Hagstrom, Jim Hanna, Aaron Wechsler **Absent:** Kevin Kent, Micah Denner **Staff:** Matt Gatzke, Mike Dennehy, Phil Trowbridge, Scott Hazelton, Delilah Smith

**Meeting started at 4:32 p.m.**

**Guest Delilah Smith:** Delilah presented powerpoint of an Apprenticeship program they have used with another industry that could be tailored to the septic industry with industry input. They would create the training modules and seek to match curriculum to be able to learn the trade and take the state exams. Would require buy-in and commitment by GSOWA members as there are mileposts and goals for participants in the apprentice program. (Her slides were shared with all board members after the meeting. To be reviewed and discussed at next board meeting.)

**Guests Scott Hazelton and Phil Trowbridge:** They are finalizing the rule package that will address legislative changes. Other “fixes” to final draft of rules still being made. February is when rules review should take place. We will see initial draft sometime after that. Still seeking at least one inspector position to be filled. General discussion was held concerning several pieces of legislation but HB 1142 took the majority of discussion as there were comments about inherent issues with the current designer and installers exam. Arguments are that the test itself is in rough shape and asks question unrelated to ones specific permitted practice (designers vs installers). Others feel that test takers are simply not prepared and have not done any reading of rules or preparation. Members concerned because not all can afford to hire people just to have them gain experience, such as with an apprenticeship type of program. Scott very interested in apprenticeship program proposed by Delilah’s organization.

**Minutes of November 28, 2023 Board Meeting:** Tom made the motion seconded by Jim. Motion was approved with amendments to be made to the minutes.

**Review of November 30 Financial Reports:** Dues notices have gone out and we have had a good response and no one has had issues or questions with the change in fiscal year. Matt reported a balance of \$69,159.81. Anticipate a much larger AR report next month until members pay their dues. Carl made a motion to approve with Bruce offering a second. No further discussion. Motion was approved.

**Education/Conference Recap:** Vendors booth sales are moving along. Have sold lanyards and totebags. Scale rules have been ordered for giveaway at show. Matt continuing to work on speaker contacts. Slow process with few returning emails or calls in a timely manner. Some date conflicts. Still need ideas for session speakers. Lots of general discussion but no names were offered.

**Legislative and Rules:** Chris referenced that most of the legislation was discussed with Phil and Scott, but additional comments were made about the bill which would reduce separation from seasonal high water table for stone and pipe systems. Long time in coming. Where did the 48” separation rule come from? All of the bills we have been watching were assigned to committee and will be introduced when the new House session takes place on January 3, 2024. Committee hearing dates to be announced likely in late January.

**Old Business:** Matt to move ahead with hats made in Bangladesh.

Matt has created promotion for ski event sponsors and we have sold several already. Also getting the skier promotion out to attract members, family and friends.

**New Business:** None heard.

**Vice Chairman Reports (Designers):** Carl and locals in his area working with DES to host a program offering 3 hours (OSHA 2 hrs. and DES 1 hr.) He also reports that things are not working out as intended with Water Well Board and SSB not working together. Driller are still not putting well location on plans. Creating issues during inspections. Not meeting setbacks. They are also not recording the wells. It is as if nothing has changed.

**Vice Chairman Report (Installers):** Jim commented on supply issues and pricing as it applies to septic pipe. Designers need to see what is available before specifying a certain kind of pipe on the plans. Pipe from the house to the tank...SDR 26 or better, but it is hard to find. SDR -21 is more popular but only in 20' sections. Many suppliers out of that. Chris mentioned supply-chain issues (piping for example) as a possible conference topic. Kyle from EJP a possible speaker. Product substitutions also could be discussed.

**Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers):** No specific report given but Jim voiced concerns mentioned before about how installers would be able to work with apprentices who are looking to pass state exam but them set out on their own. Some other discussion about where the 48" separation issues came from.

**Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators):** Larry commented that evaluators still have issues with exams. Some discussion about penalties possible for not recognizing system errors in an inspection. Continuing to advocate for riser above all filters. Need to get the rules to better reflect what evaluators and pumpers are running into out in the field. Lack of risers created challenges in terms of weather and access to tank components. Evaluators would benefit from a Geomat session out in the field.

**Meeting Adjournment:** Motion was made by Chris and seconded by several to adjourn meeting at 6:29 p.m.