



Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – April 28, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting started at 4:42 p.m.

Minutes of March 28, 2023 Board Meeting: Tom made motion with Larry offering second. Tom questioned what final vote was for the no refunds/credit vote. It was agreed it was 6-3. Motion carried.

Review of March 31, 2023 Financial Report: Reviewed Balance Sheet with a balance of \$102,669.65 with most conference bills paid. We adjusted budget figures shown to reflect the shift in the year from Sept. 1 to January 1. AR report has been culled of those who would not be renewing. A couple of board members made calls to seek renewals. \$5,1045.00 outstanding is the correct figure once we remove those invoices to be cancelled. The SEP program will bring in some revenue, but we need others income ideas. The revised budget anticipate a lower income this first year. Conference made about \$20,000. Bruce made motion with second by Tom. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Education/Conference Recap: Evaluator program has two people enrolled. OPLC will put it on their website. Matt has sent it out to those on waiting list. Expecting others very soon. Discussion on printing of the manuals as they have to be reproduced right away. No known changes to the manuals. Will check in with Micah before we print. When people register, Matt will send them the links for the evaluator admin rules. Given them the chance to read the rules before taking the class or exam. Tom commented we will reiterate the importance of the rules. Location in Hooksett set to go. Not a lot of use of the systems. Also checking on an approved system nearby. The former field site had five years of active use before we began training program. Kevin offered to locate nearby failed systems for contrast. Discussed needs for releases for participants. Tom highlighted that confusion still exists on the 25 evaluations factor in lieu of the field class. Tom and Chris to discuss differences in opinion over the 25 inspections issues.

On 2024, conference, Matt given the ok to move ahead with March 15 & 16, 2024. If anyone comes up with an idea for program let Matt know. Chris suggests a trek to the Lake of the Clouds hut to see the advanced treatment system. Are there other systems here in NH that might be of interest someday?

Legislative and Rules: Chris A. asked about any legislative news. It seems that the section of the proposed bills (HB2 and another) to get rid of several licensing and certifications boards has been tamed down to only address 4-5 board not impacting our field. In the future there may be more scrutiny on such boards though, so something to watch. HB 247 has crossed over to the Senate as ought to pass.

Old Business: The decision by the board made at the March meeting not to issue refunds to those who had requested them (as they did not make it to the second day) was the focus of a possible vote of reconsideration. Tom asked about credit for 2024 or offering to do something for them. Carl and Larry felt that getting money back is not needed. Majority on the Zoom supported the prior vote not to refund. No motion was heard to reconsider. Dee will send out Chris's letter.

NOWRA affiliates meeting coming up in May. Matt explained both board meetings and regional affiliates meetings. Chris will plan to take part in the May meeting.

New Business: Board retreat or strategic planning retreat came up in the context of Tom Burack asking us if we have an ethics policy. Matt mentioned idea of a moderator, such as Tom Burack. Chris will speak to him, though Chris is thinking

about a comprehensive session on bylaws, strategic plan. Summer retreat as more of a relaxing event. \$10,000 was cost for another organization to have a day-long work session. GSOWA needs a “facelift” on our operational documents. This exercise may be key to help ensure the future of the event.

Cancellation and No-Show policies already exist for our events, but we can create language for a weather cancellation policy.

Vice Chairman Reports (Designers): Carl asked about who will sign off on well releases. Will need to see what happens when the law is passed. All the steps we do will be gone. The well driller will be responsible for completing a well form.

Matt asked about when the rules committee will re-activate. Larry recalled that they were one-third of the way through reviewing the rules. Chris said that the Water Council has an attorney from the Attorney Generals office attend to talk about stakeholders being kept at bay during rule-making process. Chris will get with Gary Spaulding. State looking to make all systems be 24” from seasonal high-water table. Need to see what we can find out in terms of what state is proposing to change.

Vice Chairman Report (Installers): Jim reported that the poor or inconsistent quality of plans continues coming from designers. Numbers on profiles not matching those on the plans. Routinely have to redo someone’s plans and state not catching the issues. You have to continue to speak to the designer. The sense is that the reviewers are just too busy to take the time to catch everything.

Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers): Larry reported things are quite on the side of the pumpers. It was noted that Chris Kent can no longer be on the evaluator board since he moved to Vermont. Larry Maznek to apply as our rep. Evaluator board also still looking for a public sector member.

Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators): Micah not present so no report.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made by Tom and Larry seconded to adjourn meeting at 5:31 p.m.