



Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – July 25, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Attending: (All on Zoom) Chris Albert, Bruce Fillmore, Tom Canfield, Larry Maznek, Aaron Wechsler, Jim Hanna **Absent:** Carl Hagstrom, Micah Denner, Kevin Kent **Staff:** Matt Gatzke, Dee Rainville **Guests:** Phil Trowbridge, Scott Hazelton, Rob Tardif

Meeting started at 4:34 p.m.

Report from Phil Trowbridge: Both Phil and Scott Hazelton participated via Zoom to introduce Scott to the board members. He is still learning the ropes at DES and is looking forward to working with our industry. Scott spoke briefly of his past work experience as a designer and in various town roles which have connected him to the septic industry. He brings with relevant work history and he looks forward to meeting more designers and installer. Phil updated all on the ongoing efforts to institute the changes necessary to bring both HB 247 (well radius and encroachment waivers) and SB 229 (repair and replacement in kind) which were both signed by Gov. Sununu into practice. Will require changes to the Envq-W 1000 rules. They are taking steps to proceed now and anticipate that they will have an initial draft proposal they will share with us in the fall. In the meantime, we should watch for some guidance on how all should proceed. As was stated last month, they will work on the changes in batches. All thanked Phil and Scott (and Rob) who departed Zoom by 4:50 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting Began @ 4:51 p.m)

Minutes of June 27, 2023 Board Meeting: Jim made a motion with Tom offering a second. Bruce asked for correction to Rick Treiss's name. Motion was approved.

Review of June 30, 2023 Financial Report: Reviewed Balance Sheet with a balance of \$94,406. AR report remains static as we have not had much activity. Dee reported two outstanding invoices from conference are now paid. Bruce made a motion and Jim seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.

T-Bill Investment Proposal: Matt explained structure of a motion for the board to consider to allow Mike Dennehy, treasurer and chairman to work together on Mike's idea of a T-Bill ladder to invest some of the association's reserves at current interest rates around 5%. Interest rates have gone up across the board for CDs and other investment tools. Chris asked about how much might be invested. Matt gave example of another client group that limited the amount to be "up to \$50K." Bruce suggested a range between \$40K not to exceed \$50K. Would have quick liquidity if needed (such as legislative action) and there would be a series of bills of differing value so as not to have all tied up in one instrument. Larry made a motion to allow the chair, treasurer and executive director to invest the amount of \$40K not to exceed \$50K into CDs or other similar instruments. Tom seconded. The motion was approved. Matt to let Mike know and set up a meeting as needed to move forward.

Dues Renewal Discussion: Matt introduced the need to come up with language to inform the membership of the board's decision to switch the dues renewal cycle to be in synch with the association's fiscal year (calendar). Also need to determine how much to charge members for the last quarter of the current calendar year. Dee provided input as to the process we have been doing vs. what we will need to do moving forward. Matt had sent out Dee's scenarios and she shared them online and walked us through them. Options were to charge last quarter of 2023 plus 2024 full year, not to charge anything for last quarter or charge all \$25. Dee suggested \$25 option. Dues will need to be paid before the conference in order to get the member price. Would bill December 15 at the latest. Chris suggested the third option (\$25). Will need to come up with programs for the last quarter to make sure people know about well changes and other

law changes. Bruce made a motion to adopt option #3 as our dues plan. Larry seconded the motion. No further discussion. The motion was approved.

Education/Conference Recap: Matt has been in touch with John Buchanan from Univ. of TN about speaking at the April 2024 conference and would like to be there. He came recommended by Sara Heger. Curious about any new or alternative systems out there to have someone speak on at the conference. Bruce suggested speaker on nitrate reduction for designers. The need to entice installers remains. Starting in September the conference committee will begin to meet. Would be ideal to get promo out when dues are due too. Also, need to reach back out to past members.

Legislative and Rules: This topic was covered in report from Phil Trowbridge and Scott Hazelton. No additional information to be reported.

New Business: Chris reported the NOWRA national conference in VA in October. Will post information on our website once received from Tom Groves. Benefits to being a member of the organization in terms of board education, training for members. We should add a line to next year's budget to allow for a professional membership for the association. Still need to consider GSOWA joining as there is a potential revenue stream on education programs.

Bruce asked if anyone had issues with email approvals not being received. No one reported it as a problem.

Old Business: On topic of a board retreat or outing, Matt reported that pricing for any of the lake cruises was upwards of \$1,000 an hour. Matt investigated Lagos as a possible place to host a dinner. Asked board who are we trying to attract...members or just the board. Locked in the Aug. 22 date. Could bring it to Concord or Manchester. The decision was to go with the Lago location if a reservation can be made and the association to cover the cost. Have never compensated the board in any manner since we stopped meeting in person pre-covid.

Vice Chairman Reports (Designers): Carl not present.

Vice Chairman Report (Installers): Jim article in a new Cole Publishing online article about flooded system remediation and intervention. Should we send out the article about flooded systems to all members given VT situation and in a few isolated areas in NH. Jim will still reach out to Phil Trowbridge about problems with plan reviews and will share with the board before sending it off. Chris cited issues in working with a local official on review of plans. People reviewing plans that have no working knowledge.

Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers): Larry did not have anything else to report as they do not meet in July-August. He has an issue for evaluators to encourage that state require all tanks to have risers to bring them to grade, especially multiple tanks. Only required if a filter is present, but there could be other tanks. Concerns about aging members of the pumping industry and the need for lots of digging. It is also an issue during winter with frozen ground. Also, any time a new EDA is suggested, they should be required to provide how to properly evaluate the new system. Tom commented that it can take 5-10 years for a new system to age and show how it would perform and be evaluated, but it is a good idea to ask. Some systems require monitoring tubes since you can't dig into them directly.

Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators): No report given.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made by Tom and Larry seconded to adjourn meeting at 5:46 p.m.