



Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – May 28, 2024

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

Meeting started at 4:40 p.m.

Minutes of February 26, 2024 Board Meeting: Bruce made the motion seconded by Kevin. No discussion heard. Motion was approved.

Review of February 29, 2024 Financial Reports: Matt highlighted a balance sheet total of \$115,901.43 which reflects receipt of more dues renewals and vendor income. Reviewed items on the AR report. Bruce made a motion to approve with Larry offering a second. No further discussion. Motion was approved. Matt presented final draft of 2024 budget which was first reviewed at a previous meeting when the dues renewal date was switched to a calendar year. Larry made a motion to accept the budget as presented. Carl offered a second. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Education/Conference Recap: Matt walked board through the program and asked for room hosts and people to stamp credit sheets. Speakers and rooms were assigned for the entire program and we discussed how to handle stamping of the forms. Reviewed who is getting a free booth, NH Lakes and DES. Matt talked about last-minute marketing efforts as we expect late registrations along with a few new members to come out of the event.

Legislative and Rules: All bills we were following are awaiting crossover to the Senate or the House as applicable so no action going on right now. HB1142 (homeowner install) was adopted with an amendment. HB 1113 still in committee concerning site assessments. Chris suggested we do need to work with a 20-year cut-off after which a new permit is needed and not use the pre-89 rules. Bill about reduction of separation is moving along. HB 1291 (ADUs) was deemed out to pass with an amendment. Chris recapped meeting with him and Gary over at DES. They are not willing to change much of anything on the designer or installers exam. Soils part was often the hardest part of the test. Concern is that even seasoned professionals will have issues passing the exams. No real change in the opinion of DES staff. Pushing the apprenticeship bill. All OPLC exams are multiple choice. Was reported that the readability and copy quality of the exams has been improved by Dave Aiten. Still concerns over not being able to learn what questions you got wrong. Recognition was made to the fact that there are some designers and installers who are not well-trained based on the work they produce.

Old Business: Discussion about Apprenticeship program again as someone recently asked if had such a program. Matt asked if we could inform the membership about the current program being suggested by the team from NHTI. Post link on our website. May wait until HB 1142 is voted in and we learn what it really requires in terms of how an apprenticeship would need to be structured.

New Business: Matt reminded board of terms that are expiring and that we need new people to come forward to serve. Staff suggested that we try asking for potential board members at the conference. Need younger people with experience. We can hold the election electronically once we know who is interested in serving on the board. Should move forward with a meaningful plan and develop a slate of those willing to serve. Mike Surette might be a potential candidate. Need to learn what Micah's plans are regarding board service. Need someone else to also help out with legislative committee. Chris commented that the rules package is coming and we need to be ready.

Vice Chairman Reports (Designers): Carl reported that professionals are still reporting issues with well drillers and the forms not being properly handled. Seems to still be differences of opinion between SSB and Well Water Board and distances. The new rules will hopefully clear things up.

Vice Chairman Report (Installers): Jim reported that installers are busy and working and have not brought forth any complaints.

Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers): Larry said there was nothing new in terms of NHASH. Matt commented that Anthony Drouin's presentation will have several topics of interest to the pumper community.

Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators): Matt reported that the new Army Reserve Training Center would not be available to us. DES had been using the space since their auditorium is closed for abatement. Program will be May 14 & 18 at Kent Clean Septic. Matt will check things out at the site and will stop by to see the training space. He will update promotional piece and have available at the conference. Matt asked if any recent people have taken the evaluator exam. Kevin had three people take the exam without any issues. NH Board of Septic Evaluators is not giving 6 hours for each day. They will approve up to 4 hours only. Chris said he would be bringing this up at the next evaluator board meeting.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made by Tom and seconded by Bruce to adjourn meeting at 5:30 p.m.