



Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association – Approved Board Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2024

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

Informational Meeting started at 4:35 p.m. which included an update from Scott Hazleton from SSB. Offered comments on status of the rules and in particular those sections that were impacted by most recent law changes.

Official Meeting started at 4:57 p.m.

Minutes of June 25, 2024 Board Meeting: Jim made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tom seconded. No discussion heard. Motion was approved.

Minutes of August 13, 2024 Emergency Board Meeting: Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tom seconded. No discussion heard. Motion was approved.

Review of June and July Financial Reports: Matt reviewed balance sheet of July with a balance of \$112,974.54. Will be voiding out past due invoices for dues and a few other aging invoices. Gould Water will be blocked from registering for future events until he pays. Hamm Septic Service was sold. Agreement was that we should do no past notice and void at September meeting. No further questions. Bruce made motion to approve the reports. Seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

Education/Conference Recap: Matt will try to schedule a planning meeting before the board meeting in September. State may be trying to pull together some programs that would feature various alternative/advance treatment systems. Might need to find a homeowner or small business. Need manufacturers to inspect installations.

Legislative and Rules: Sept. 11 is water council meeting at 8:30 a.m. Asking to get a look at the rules before JLCAR. Rules to be seen by the water council at its meeting.

Old Business: Brief overview of prior emergency meeting. GSOWA has retained Sheehan Phinney to represent the association in contesting infringement claims and to help negotiate the best terms if unsuccessful in getting the claim dropped. Mike Dennehy will sign the agreement and the retainer will be sent. We were granted two different extensions by Higbee law firm. \$1,000 retainer is also to get Sheehan Phinney on board as an attorney.

New Business: Matt to create and send out an update to members on the new law addressing evaluations of systems within the shoreland boundaries. Will give a link to the new language and also mention that guidance is coming from SSB on the 24" separation law change. Will have impacts on need to do test pits. Issues related to pre-89 were discussed. Issues for evaluators when realtors get angry. Pre-89 systems on lots around lakes causing issues -- phosphorous breakthrough. Ongoing topic of a strategic planning meeting was discussed. Perhaps once copyright issue is addressed by Burack's firm, we will to have Tom propose a scope of work for a planning effort. We need to find ways to engage our members more.

Bruce brought up the issue of how many passed the recent exams. Chris reported that 10% of designers passed and 25% of installers passed. Concern still that we do not get the exams back to find out where you had trouble. What is the margin for error? Some questions can have more than one answer. We are teaching to the book, but now they are including construction practices. How can you teach for the business side of things? Chris has had people who are licensed in related professions with lots of experience and they could not pass the exam. Who determined what the questions would be? Are they from within the industry? They have a bar graph of how people did in each section of the

exam. Still waiting for SSB to get back to us about it. Took almost two months to get the results back. Presby system (plain/standard) with new 24" water table, people will go with stone and pipe. If you have a tough footprint you would still do the Enviro. They need to rewrite their manual to remove perc rates for commercial installs. They will also need to update their manual about 24" separation. If you get the reduced size, you have mounding count to consider. That too would change with new reduction in separation. We need to conduct soils field days to emphasis the need for better knowledge of pits now that we are at 24". Tom asked if the state still has test pits open and use them for training programs. Need to involve member to dig pits and find enough certified soil scientists. Maybe in Concord area. Team up with NHAHRS (Como, Balcius, etc.). State property. Need area with diversity and multiple types of soils.

Vice Chairman Reports (Designers): Carl was not present so no specific report was given.

Vice Chairman Report (Installers): Jim was present but did not have anything specific of concerns for the membership. Plastic pipe prices still all over the map. Have had to have inspectors from Keene come over to do an inspection, so state is moving them around to cover as needed. Presby system (plain/standard) with new 24" water table, people will go with stone and pipe. If you have a tough footprint you would still do the Enviro. They need to rewrite their manual to remove perc rates for commercial installs. They will also need to update their manual about 24" separation. If you get the reduced size, you have mounding count to consider. That too would change with new reduction in separation. We need to conduct soils field days to emphasis the need for better knowledge of pits now that we are at 24". Tom asked if the state still has test pits open and use them for training programs. Need to involve member to dig pits and find enough certified soil scientists. Maybe in Concord area. Team up with NHAHRS (Como, Balcius, etc.). State property. Need area with diversity and multiple types of soils.

Vice Chairman Report (Pumpers): Kevin mentioned that the Allenstown water treatment plant was having issue with grease loads.

Vice Chairman Report (Evaluators): Chris commented that we do not yet know if Larry was selected to be on the evaluator board. Matt read the list from the OPLC website. Mike Charbonneau on the evaluator board now.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made by Tom and seconded by Bruce to adjourn meeting at 5:47 p.m.