15-day Compliance Inspection Report submission period clarified

By the MPCA

"...it's important to keep the inspection period for a particular SSTS as short as possible so there is little chance some aspect of the system changes in the meantime."

Questions have been raised about the 15-day requirement for SSTS inspectors to submit SSTS Compliance Inspection Forms/Reports to the system owner and local government. When does the clock start? Why is it so important? What can happen if you don't follow through with the reporting.

A few definitions will help explain how the rules have been interpreted by the MPCA and answer these questions.

Compliance inspection - an evaluation, investigation, inspection, or other such process for

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the purpose of completing

Compliance inspection form/report. Depending upon how this document is filled out by the inspector, the compliance inspection form/report becomes either a Certificate of Compliance (COC) or a Notice of Noncompliance (NON). There is one standard compliance inspection form/report for existing systems.

Compliance inspection form/reports for new or replacements systems will vary by local government.

Certificate of compliance (COC) – a completed compliance inspection form/report, written and signed by a certified inspector after a compliance inspection. It certifies that a system is in compliance with applicable requirements at the time of inspection.

Notice of Noncompliance (NON) - a completed compliance inspection form/report, written and signed by a certified inspector after a compliance inspection. It gives notice that a system is not in compliance with applicable requirements at the time of inspection.

Compliance reporting clarified, Continued on Page 7

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From MOWA's Executive Director

MOWA

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bernie@millerssewage.com 320-398-2705

By Pat Martyn, MOWA Executive Director

We are pleased to announce that our annual Summer Seminar will held on Friday, July 21st at Flygare Excavating in Annuale. Information on registration and sponsorship opportunities is available at Pages 4-5 of this publication. We will bringing back the same successful format we offered



last year of two daytime tracks. Track 1 will be the Soils Training, with a morning classroom session and an afternoon field session. Track 2 will feature a morning Sept-a-Thon followed by an afternoon onsite technology demonstration. The evening features a pork chop cookout with games, prizes, and fun. Sponsors will be on-hand at the MOWA-hosted lunch to exhibit their equipment and answer any questions you may have. Again this year, we offer a free seminar registration to anyone who becomes a new member between now and the seminar, so be sure to let your non-member colleagues know of this opportunity!

We are also pleased to announce the 2017 Tony Ruppert Scholarship. Each year, MOWA gives away up to \$5,000 in scholarship money to MOWA members, or a child, sibling, grandchild, or niece/nephew of a MOWA member. These funds are raised at the auction held at our Convention each winter and are available to high school graduates (as of June 2017) who will be enrolled as a full-time student in post-secondary undergraduate education during the 2017- 2018 school year. If you or someone in your family qualifies, we strongly encourage you to submit your application and essay by the August 15 deadline. Please see Pages 16-17 of this issue for details.

Our Convention Committee is already hard at work on 2018 Convention planning. One topic of discussion has been the potential opportunity to host a Mega-Conference in October 2018 in addition to our January 2018 Convention. The Mega-Conference would be held in conjunction with NOWRA, NAWT, and the State Onsite Regulators Alliance (SORA) at a venue in the Twin Cities. Surveys are going out via email to our membership regarding interest in this idea.

You will find elsewhere in this newsletter a listing of the Board Members. You are invited to pick up a phone or email any of them, and let them know how you feel about the organization. President Dean Flygare would appreciate it very much.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MOWA Events

July 21, 2017 - 2017 Summer Seminar at Flygare Excavating in Annandale. Visit our Website for details: www.mowa-mn.com.

Industry Events

October 22-25, 2017 - 2017 NOWRA/NAWT Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, Dover, Delaware. For more details regarding the conference as it becomes available, visit www.nowra.org/2017mega.

February 21 – 24, 2018 - Water & Wastewater Equipment, Treatment & Transport (WWETT) Show at the Indiana Convention Center (visit https://wwettshow.com/ for details).

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Marty Ferguson, FS3, Inc., Annandale, MN



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- 20" Riser Pan 3009-RP
- · 12" x 6" Riser 3017-R



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For more information call or visit our website today!

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Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association

2017 Summer Seminar - Annandale, MN

(visit our Web site updates @ www.mowa-mn.com)

Mail: MOWA

5021 Vernon Ave., So.

Suite 241

Edina, MN 55436 Fax: 952.487.4447

e-mail: mowacarla@aol.com

REGISTRATION FORM

One form per person. Please copy for additional registrants

Name		Organization		
Address				
Phone	Fax	Email		····
Friday	July 21, 20	17: Registration	n at 7:30 am 8:	:00 Start Time
		By: Flygare 7th St. NW ♦ Annar	`	g
		ing – AM: Classroon urs of Direct Soils Traini		eld Session d Inspectors & Designers*
	<u>-</u>	n – AM Onsite Tec ours of Direct and 2.0 h		
		Pork Chop Cookout and change; CEUs are anticip		proval
Check One:	_Track # 1 _OR		MOWA MEMBER	NON-MEMBER**
	THUCK # 1 OK-	TIGON #2	\$135 	\$205 \$
# 1 st Lunch/E	Evening Event Guest	(no CEUs or participa	tion) - FREE	\$ <u> </u>
# Add'l. Gues	st(s) @ \$25 each for	Lunch and/or Evening	Event	\$
Registration	Deadline: July 14, 2	2017 - Late Fee (\$25 aft	er 07/14/17)	\$
FREE Seminar reg	gistration for any new	MOWA members betwee	n now and the Seminar	Contact MOWA for details
PAYMENT:			тот	AL COST \$
		erials, breakfast, lunch, afte		-
	For information on be	ecoming a MOWA member,	please visit. www-mowa	-HIII.COH
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damage or expense from a	any incident that may arise		he 2017 Summer Soils Sem	ng from any and all liability, loss, inar. I authorize any photos taken of
Signature			Date	



Promote Your Company at the 2017 MOWA Summer Seminar!

Friday, July 21, 2017

◆ Flygare Excavating – 9595 67th St. NW, Annandale, MN◆

Sponsor I	Registrati	on Form	

Company Name:		(As it should appear on signage
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Phone:		
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Event Sponsor: Member - \$200 / Non-Member - \$300

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Event will be held rain or shine, so come prepared!

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☐ Credit Card: Fax to - (952) 487-4447 or Mail to - addre	ess above
Type of Card: □Visa □ MasterCard	Amount: \$
Credit Card #	Expire Date: / CVV:
Cardholder: Sig	nature:
	authorize MOWA to process fees pertaining to this MOWA event
I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Asso damage or expense from any incident that may arise while attending any poof me at this event to be published in MOWA's Little Digger and/or other MO	ortion of the 2017 Summer Soils Seminar. I authorize any photos taken
Signature:	Date:

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Course Design Input request to Onsite Professionals

MPCA planning "Minipumper" course for SSTS maintainers. You can help design it!

By the MPCA

The MPCA requires that SSTS maintainers follow the Code of Federal Regulation (503's) and Minnesota Rules 7080 through 7083. Recently, the MPCA has been asked to offer additional education specifically for maintainers to receive assistance with record keeping.

Based on that request, the MPCA is in the process of developing an education course called the "Minipumper" course. The course will include a Powerpoint slide show, which will contain the Federal 503 rules and an example site to walk through. At this course, MPCA staff will offer hands-on training that will include records walk through. Lastly, there will be time for Q & A.

In the near future, the MPCA will email a Snap survey to all certified maintainers. The survey will be anonymous, so please answer it honestly. The survey results will be used to help structure specific items the MPCA will cover at the Minipumper course.

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U of M instructor, Dave Gustafson, leads a group during field troubleshooting training this spring hosted at the Bee Center at the Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen

If you do not have an email address for us to send the survey to, please contact Steven Oscarson at 507-206-2604. He can provide instructions on how to access the survey on the internet.

MPCA completed three SSTS enforcement cases during first quarter

During the period of January - March, 2017, the MPCA completed 47 enforcement cases. Three of the 47 cases (6 percent) were SSTS related. They were located in Canby (\$3,450), Rochester (\$1,565, unlicensed work), and Mabel (\$500, straight pipe).



SSTS online search tool up, running again

The MPCA SSTS licensed business online search tool is working again. To find it Google the phrase "SSTS search tool" and the link should appear at the top of your search results.

SSTS Search

Substitute Sewage Restment System Located Business & Certified Individual Search

Licensed Business

Certified Individual

The SSTS Licensed Business Search is meant to be used by Local Program Administrators in order to verify licensure. If the city or county in which they are located. The results provided by this search are not intended to be used as Advanced Designers and/or Inspectors are authorized to conduct Intermediate and Basic Designer/Inspector duties, information: The Design and Inspection Spectrum and Specialty Areas for SSTS Professionals.

Compliance reporting clarified, Continued from Page 1

When does the clock start?

State rule requires inspectors to file a complete compliance inspection report within 15 days of completing a compliance inspection for any new, replacement, or existing system.

The general expectation is that an inspector will visit an SSTS site, conduct the inspection, complete the compliance inspection form/report including "system status date," and record the compliance determination.

Ideally, all this would take place on the day of the inspection or within a few days. The inspector then has 15 days from the "system status date" entered on the compliance inspection form/report to deliver the completed report to the system owner and local unit of government.

Of course, things don't always go as planned/expected and on occasion an inspector may arrive for an inspection only to discover that additional field work (such as getting a tank pumped) is required before he or she can positively confirm the system is or is not in compliance.

"The rule of thumb here is that an inspection is complete when all necessary field work has been done and you have all the information you need to make a valid determination of compliance without having to return to the site," says MPCA SSTS Manager Jim Ziegler. "At that point complete the compliance inspection form and enter the date." That's when the 15-day clock starts, Ziegler said.

Ziegler added that waiting for payment is not a valid reason to delay completing and dating the compliance inspection form/report.

Even in cases where inspectors find it necessary to bring in other professionals to help complete necessary field work, it's important to keep the inspection period for a particular SSTS as short as possible so there is little chance some aspect of the system changes in the meantime.

Why is the 15-day reporting rule so important?

One reason the compliance inspection is so narrowly defined as the act of issuing a COC or NON is that SSTS compliance status is tied to many land use and real property laws, decisions, and policies. As many SSTS inspectors know – when an SSTS inspection is triggered, time is almost always of the essence.

Good decisions are hinged on timely and accurate information. Once an inspection is triggered, it must be completed. Once it is completed, it must be reported. SSTS inspectors play an important role in providing necessary information to property owners, local governments, potential buyers, mortgage underwriters, and countless other members of the public with a vested interest in knowing how well our decentralized wastewater treatment infrastructure is performing. SSTS inspectors cannot unreasonably stretch out inspections or withhold reporting.

What can happen if I don't follow through with the reporting?

It is an inspector's obligation to submit inspection reports to the system owner and local government within 15 days of completing an inspection. Failure to do so can result in citations or other more severe enforcement actions. Avoid these consequences by completing inspections within a reasonable time and submitting inspection reports to the owner and local government within 15 days of determining a system's compliance status.

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MPCA Revamps Annual Report Data Collection

New online tool should make annual SSTS reporting a SNAP

By Cody Robinson, MPCA

The MPCA is working to develop a more efficient data collection process for the SSTS Annual Report. The goal is to use the SNAP® web-based survey software to cut down the time it takes to prepare, send, receive and consolidate data. This will allow the MPCA to focus more time developing the report content and obtain more accurate, representative data statewide.

What will the new format look like?

Surveys will be sent via email as usual, but instead of an attached spreadsheet, the email will contain a link to the web-based SNAP survey. When the link is selected, a survey, unique to your jurisdiction, will launch. SNAP has the ability to save your progress so you can complete the survey over time. Once you have completed the survey, you can print the report for your records and submit your data to the MPCA with the click of the mouse.

Will there be any significant changes?

Yes and no. The survey will mirror the look and functionality of the spreadsheets used in the past. Program-specific questions and numbers will be the same as before and in a similar order.

The biggest change you will notice, other than the look and nature of taking a web-based survey, is that certain questions must be answered in order to submit the survey. This is due to our continued effort to get more representative statewide data.

Another change will be the tank reporting process. You will be required to report tanks installed by license number and will not be able to see the business names as readily as before. To help ease this transition, there are a few annual report tips and recordkeeping suggestions below.

Is the Annual Report an annual headache?

As the SSTS Annual Report contact from the MPCA, I know there are multiple jurisdictions that experience difficulty with annual reporting requirements. As we head into the 2017 building season, please take note of the following SSTS reporting tips and suggestions to make the process go smoothly come next December:



Keep the MPCA informed when local contact information changes. Since we use emails to distribute the survey, it is important to keep us in the loop when staff changes; this allows us to send out the survey in a timely manner. Also, make sure you provide your local program information in the contact information section. We want to send the report to the local SSTS administrator as the primary contact, who can then distribute to an inspector or other party to complete the report, if necessary. We try to maintain a running contact list of all SSTS program administrators in the state.

Record license numbers when you issue building permits. Recording and tracking license numbers when permits are issued will be the best way to easily complete the tank report at the end of the year. Keep in mind that performance systems are only counted as one (1) tank per system. When each permit is issued, record the license number, e.g. L9999—note this is different from certification numbers, which are prefixed with the letter "C" instead of the letter "L", and number of tanks installed for that permit. Not only will this make tank reporting a breeze, but it may also prevent unlicensed work from taking place.

Use your current Annual Report spreadsheet to track your numbers throughout the year. Since the online survey is going to have the same questions as the spreadsheet, why not use the spreadsheet to keep a running total of your program numbers throughout the year? You may even use the tank report tab on the spreadsheet to keep track of common installers in your area. If you would like to receive a copy of your annual report spreadsheet unlocked, please feel free to ask.

I am eager to work with anybody experiencing issues with the SSTS Annual Report. Please feel free to contact me by phone at 651-757-2535 or email, cody.robinson@state.mm.us.

Moving? Changing jobs? Let the MPCA know

If you move, change jobs, or change your email address, make sure you notify the MPCA. It can be difficult tracking down operators when contact information changes. Notify Brenda Tischler (brenda.tischler@state.mn.us) or 651-757-2111 with any changes.



MPCA Rule Change; Don't miss SSTS at State Fair

Rule change: facilities can choose table or measured values to determine need for SDS permit

By the MPCA

The MPCA has been working with MOWA on a rule change related to when a facility is required to get a State Disposal System (SDS) permit vs. a local permit.

To help answer this question under existing rules, a facility could measure its actual wastewater flows or use "table values," values stated in rule for various types and sizes of facilities.

If a facility did not measure flows, they needed to use table values in determining the type of permit needed. If they did measure flows, they needed to use the greater of the two values to determine the type of permit required.

The most significant proposed change would change rule language to indicate a facility can choose to use either table values or measured values to determine the type of permit required.

The change is expected to be in place for the 2018 season.

SSTS at the State Fair

MPCA staff are hard at work on exhibits for the 2017 Minnesota State Fair Eco Experience. This year the Eco Experience will include an SSTS exhibit. It's still top



secret right now, but you won't want to miss it.

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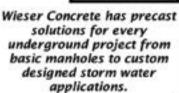


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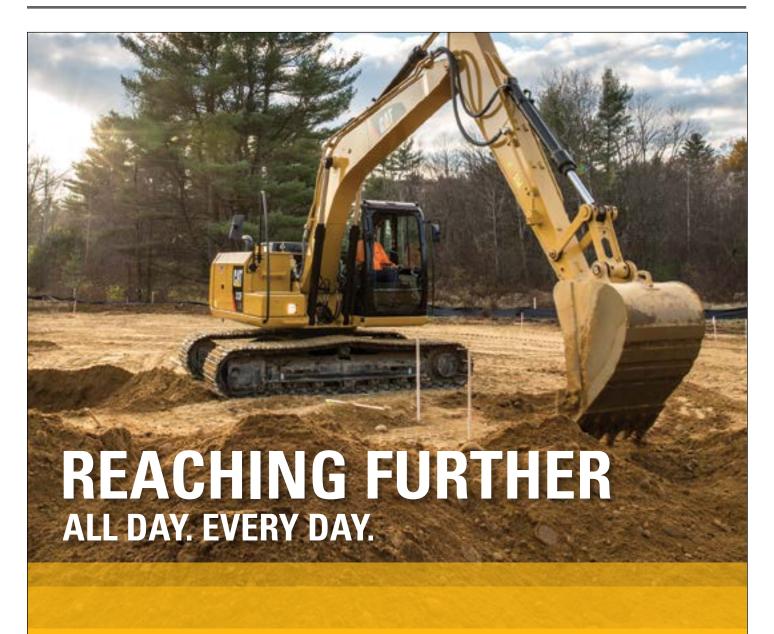
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National News: Upcoming Conferences; New Leadership

2017 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference is October 22-25, 2017

By Sara Heger, Ph.D., University of Minnesota OSTP

The 2017 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference is hosted by NOWRA and NAWT, with three state associations as co-hosts: DOWRA (Delaware), MOWPA (Maryland), and POWRA-PA (Pennsylvania). The conference will be held October 22 - 25 at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino in Dover, Delaware.



Attend this Conference for the Value— Networking, Education

Onsite wastewater industry professionals—contractors, engineers, designers, regulators, and educators—will benefit from attending this conference.

In addition to the educational sessions and the expo, "The great value of the conference is in the networking," said Mega-Conference Committee Chair Tammy Trantham, Missouri Small Flows Association.

"This is the place to bounce ideas off each other and to get together and look at solutions. Why reinvent the wheel if someone else has worked through the same obstacle," Trantham said.

Among issues to be discussed, the conference will examine nutrient management and removal, an especially critical issue on the East Coast said Trantham.

Many places along the East Coast have nutrient management and removal programs that other locations can emulate, Trantham said. Conference participants will be able to return home with solutions in mind for their own back yards.

Brian Carbaugh is president of the Delaware Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (DOWRA), one of the state affiliates co-hosting the 2017 conference. "We are happy to be here and to co-host the conference."

To do their jobs, onsite professionals must understand all aspects of nutrient management, including basic scientific principles, Carbaugh said. Attending the Mega-Conference is one-stop learning.

Dover Downs Hotel & Casino is located at 1131 N. DuPont Hwy, Dover, DE 19901.

 ${\bf Rates}$ - Room rates are \$125/night (single or double), plus 8% tax and a \$6/night resort fee.

Hotel rate deadline - Reservations must be made by September 20, 2017 to receive the reduced room rate. After that date regular room rates will apply.

Make a Reservation - To reserve your room, call 866-473-7378 and mention that you will be attending the NOWRA Mega-Conference. A link to reserve your room online will be available on the NOWRA website soon.

Meet Your Continuing Education Requirements

In most states, the conference curriculum will qualify for credit hours in licensing or professional certification programs. Attendees will learn from these opportunities:

- General Sessions with nationally known speakers
- Multiple concurrent sessions covering topics such as technology, case studies, regulation and policy, and topics of particular interest to onsite professionals on the East Coast
- Field trips to innovative and informative sites
- An expansive exposition with the latest technology and services
- Social events and other gatherings with great networking
- NOWRA National Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe®
- State Onsite Regulators Alliance (SORA) Annual Meeting

Location Enhances Value of Attending

"We have good, active state affiliates represented and are sure to have good conversations of value to attendees. You can never learn too much," Trantham said. "We expect a good turnout."

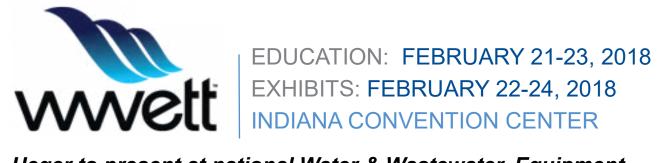
"This is the first time the conference has been held in the Northeast in several years. I urge members to take advantage of the location," Carbaugh said. "It's conveniently located to several states. We look forward to being part of the cooperative programs."

Delaware was an early adopter of some systems being used for onsite wastewater technology today. "Delaware has done a little bit of everything in wastewater treatment," Carbaugh said, "so attendees can talk with counterparts from the Mid-Atlantic and learn about the region's systems and technologies."

For more details regarding the conference as it becomes available, visit www.nowra.org/2017mega.

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National News: Upcoming Conferences; New Leadership



Heger to present at national Water & Wastewater, Equipment, Treatment & Transport Show in February 2018

The WWETT (Water & Wastewater, Equipment, Treatment & Transport) Show is the world's largest annual trade show for wastewater and environmental services professionals with 600 exhibiting companies, 110 conference sessions, and a schedule of great events.

The WWETT Show 2018 will be held at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, IN. The education schedule runs February 21-23, 2018, and the Marketplace Expo is open February 22-24, 2018.

Presenters for the *Comprehensive Installation Training* are Dr. Sara Heger, an engineer, researcher and instructor in the Onsite Sewage Treatment Program in the Water Resources Center and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering Department at the University of Minnesota and Dr. John R. Buchanan, an Associate Professor in the Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science Department at the University of Tennessee.

This Installer Training Program is designed to convey nationally focused best practice standards for onsite wastewater treatment system installation processes as identified by industry stakeholders through an intensive national review process. The sessions will include and Introduction to Onsite Systems, Safety, Soil and Site Concepts, Construction Materials and Techniques, Planning, Distribution, Watertight Piping and Tanks, Dosing Systems and Controls, Advanced Treatment and Soil Treatment Areas. The program promotes uniformity in practitioner training on installation practices and supports the credentialing of these professionals.

The Installer Training Program:

- Clarifies the responsibilities of professional installers.
- Familiarizes installers with standardized techniques and procedures for constructing or installing various onsite wastewater treatment system technologies.
- Promotes uniform communication between professional installers and their clientele through the use of standardized terminology.

- Establishes a benchmark for competency of installers and enhances the overall status of the onsite wastewater treatment profession.
- Supports initial credentialing and continued professional development of installation contractors.

Installation professionals who integrate best practice standards appropriately into their business models will have an advantage over their competition. This program serves as a mechanism to move the industry one step closer to the goal of uniform installation practices while raising the level of expertise and industry professionalism. At the conclusion of this presentation, the attendee will be able to:

- Function as a professional representative of the wastewater treatment industry.
- Conduct construction, installation, or alteration of a wastewater treatment system according to a design while meeting applicable safety and regulatory standards.
- Be able to evaluate site conditions relative to accuracy of system design and system constructability.
- Protect soil and site characteristics during construction to ensure that public and environmental health risks are minimized.
- Document and retain quality control/quality assurance records.
- Document completed installation via as-builts, sketches, and photos as appropriate (including alterations to the installation).
- Conduct site restoration according to regulatory and/or contractual provisions.
- Provide monitoring, operation, and maintenance guidelines and educational resources regarding system function and capacity to the system owner.
- Provide for proper abandonment of system components as necessary.

For more details, visit: www.wwettshow.com

National News: Upcoming Conferences; New Leadership

NOWRA seats new officers and Board of Directors members

Jim Bell took office as NOWRA Sustainability; Marketing Industry industry. He believes lobbying at the federal

January 1, 2017. Developing a sustainable future for NOWRA and the onsite industry is Bell's theme as President.

An engineer, Bell is Executive Vice-President, Bio-Microbics, Inc., Shawnee, KS. He holds degrees in sanitary engineering, business administration, and civil engineering. For many years, Bell has been a volunteer leader with organizations devoted to wastewater treatment, including NOWRA, NSF[®], Water Environment Federation, and more.

Carl Thompson became NOWRA Vice-President. He is also Vice-President of Sales & Marketing at Infiltrator Systems, Inc., Old Saybrook, Conn. Thompson has been working in the onsite industry for 17 years in technical, regulatory, marketing, and sales roles. Thompson has completed master's degrees in engineering and business and has been a licensed professional engineer (civil) for more than 20 years.

As Vice-President, Thompson wants to assist all commercial NOWRA members to grow their businesses through an effort to increase the overall market size of the onsite/decentralized

level will develop legislation or policies to position the onsite industry for growth.

Continuing as officers are treasurer, Curtis Moore, M&M Soil Consultants, Inc., Fredericksburg, Va. Gregory Graves moves into the Past President spot. He is General Manager, NORWECO, Inc., Norwalk, Ohio.

In addition to the officer changes, four onsite wastewater professionals were elected to the NOWRA Board for the first time. The following will serve for the 2016-2019 term:

- K.R. "Trapper" Davis, Coastal Plains Environmental Group, Providence Forge, VA.;
- Sara Heger, Adjunct Professor, Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering Department, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN;
- Joyce Hudson, Consultant, Hudson & Hudson Enterprises, Manassas, VA.; and
- Tony Mendes, Tony Mendes Excavating, Scottsbluff, NE.



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In D.C.: NOWRA Advocates for Restoration of Funding

Legislative Fly-In Brings Industry Message to Congressional Reps

Representatives of NOWRA brought an industry message to House and Senate members on May 2nd and 3rd in a series of meetings during the "Legislative-Fly-In. NOWRA is now asking onsite professionals to take action!

The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) is the onsite wastewater industry's largest national organization. Founded in 1992, NOWRA focuses its efforts in four areas:

- 1.) Representing the industry's interests in Washington, DC, both on Capitol Hill and with federal agencies;
- Educating homeowners and communities about the benefits of onsite and decentralized infrastructure and the need to manage it properly;
- 3.) Raising the level of professionalism in the industry through education and training; and
- 4.) Improving standards of practice.

In 2017 NOWRA has been, and will continue to be, involved in a number of activities and events which are intended to have a positive impact on our industry. Here is an update on just a few:

Washington DC "Legislative Fly-In"

On May 2nd and 3rd approximately two dozen NOWRA Board members and other industry professionals from all over the country travelled to Washington D.C. for what was promoted as the "Legislative Fly-In". The Fly-In provided onsite industry professionals with several opportunities to rub elbows with a number of members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives.

Face-to-face time with our elected officials at any level is invaluable, and NOWRA's national lobbying firm, which is located in D.C., ensured that the attendees representing our industry had ample opportunity to make their concerns and hopes known

NOWRA representatives held roughly 50 meetings. Most of them were with members of the House and Senate, including many with members of the four committees which regulate and provide funding for water and wastewater:

- the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee,
- the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and
- both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Several Fly-In attendees also participated in meetings with EPA's Office of Wastewater, USDA's Rural Utilities Service

(RUS), and the President's Council on Environmental Quality, which coordinates the President's Environmental Policy across all federal agencies.

NOWRA had several goals for its congressional visits:

- Get Congress to restore funding in the government's 2018 budget that supports our industry. While our industry does not get nearly enough funding relative to our needs, the President's budget eliminated the two primary sources of funding that we do receive —Section 319 funding from EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and water and sewer funding contained in USDA's Rural Utilities Service budget. Most offices visited by members were very supportive of restoring funding for these two important programs.
- 2. Ask US House Members to join the Decentralized Wastewater Recycling Caucus. Late last summer, NOWRA was successful in establishing this Caucus as an official body of the U.S. House of Representatives. While a Caucus is really just a group of Representatives who support our industry and its goals, it ensures that we have people we can approach who can introduce legislation, hold hearings, get answers from federal regulators, etc. Several offices committed to joining the Caucus during our visits.
- 3. Support NOWRA's proposed legislation which requires EPA to report to Congress on the successes and obstacles it faces funding decentralized wastewater treatment, and requires small communities to self-certify that they have considered all wastewater treatment options before making a decision about treatment.

Why is it important for NOWRA to represent our industry in Washington? In a word, fairness. Although Onsite/Decentralized wastewater treatment systems serve 85 million Americans—25% of the country and 30% of new construction—the industry is virtually ignored when it comes to helping to fix the infrastructure issues that confront us. Since 1990, Congress and the EPA have given states more than 100 billion dollars in grants and loans to address wastewater treatment issues, and 99.7% of this money has been directed to centralized (big pipe) sewage collection and treatment systems. Unless our industry educates Washington about this fundamentally unfair situation, it is unlikely to change.

NOWRA Advocacy, Continued on Page 15

NOWRA Advocacy, Continued from Page 14

Attendees at the Fly-In were focused on this subject when speaking with the legislators that participated. The Fly-In was considered to be a great success by those who attended.

Annual Conference – Dover, Delaware

NOWRA will hold its 3rd Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference October 22-25, 2017 in Dover, Delaware at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino. NOWRA is teaming with NAWT (National Association of Wastewater Technicians), DOWRA (Delaware Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association), MOWPA (Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association), POWRA-PA (Pennsylvania Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association) and SORA (State Onsite Regulators Association) to create what is being billed as the "Mega-Conference". If it is anything as successful as 2015's Mega-Conference held in Virginia Beach, Virginia, you will want to make the trip!

This conference will revolve around an expansive exhibition hall where virtually anything and everything related to the onsite industry in terms of services and products will be featured. More educational sessions than one can possibly absorb will be ongoing, and field trips to several sites will provide attendees with an opportunity to observe technologies while in actual use. Various social events will offer exceptional opportunities to mingle with others in

the business. And if you have not seen NOWRA's annual "National Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe® Competition", or better yet you feel that you are pretty good with a bucket, you really need to go to Dover in October. It's amazing! Visit www.nowra. org/2017mega for more details.

NOWRA To Co-Publish International Private Sewage Disposal Code With ICC

The International Code Council and NOWRA recently announced an agreement to co-publish the International Private Sewage Disposal Code (IPSDC). The IPSDC addresses the best practices and technologies to ensure the safety and welfare of communities, individuals, and businesses that utilize their own onsite wastewater solutions. The code is currently adopted within 17 states and by 102 jurisdictions, the U.S. territories of Guam and Puerto Rico, as well as in Abu Dhabi.

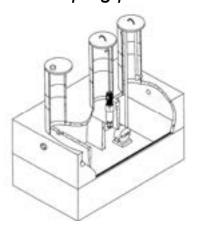
Through leveraging the combined expertise of ICC's and NOWRA's memberships, the collaborative effort on the IPSDC will facilitate the use of the latest science-based best practices and innovative technologies in safely handling onsite, decentralized wastewater, thereby reducing customers' costs. The IPSDC addresses inconsistencies

NOWRA Advocacy, Continued on Page 18

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Tony Ruppert Scholarship Deadline is August 15th

2017 Tony Ruppert Scholarship Application

The Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association (MOWA) is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the Tony Ruppert Scholarship Fund. Up to \$5,000 in scholarships are available to high school graduates (as of June 2017) who will be enrolled as a full-time student in post-secondary undergraduate education during the 2017- 2018 school year.

Applicants must be no more than 26 years old as of June 1, 2017 and be a MOWA member, or a child, sibling, grandchild, or niece/nephew of a MOWA member. Students may only win this scholarship once. Students must complete an application, write an essay, and provide certification of the relationship to a MOWA member or member's employee.

A complete application must include: (3 items)

sheet.) Please type or print clearly:	эа by tne student; you may use tnis forr	n or print all required items on a separate
Name:	Social Se	ecurity #:
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Curriculum you are/will be enrolled in:		
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Item 2: Essay. See Essay Content Ford	m	
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agree that the information contained in thi	is form is true and correct to the best of	· my knowledge:
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MOWA Member Signature:		Date:
Business Name and Address:		
All applications must be submitted to MOW members. Winners will be notified in Septe	/A no later than August 15, 2017. Applic	



Don't forget to register for the 2017 Summer Seminar!

See Pages 4-5 for registration materials!

Send the complete application (with essay in Word format) to: mowacarla@aol.com

The is a bi-monthly publication of the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association

Editor: Carla Tourin E-mail: MOWAcarla@aol.com

The articles printed in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this organization. Readers are encouraged to respond to the articles with their own points-of-view. We welcome industry-related comments or articles. Information or inquires should be sent to any of the following: MN Onsite Wastewater Association, MOWA, 5021 Vernon Ave, So., Suite 241, Edina, MN 55436

Phone: 612.801.5897 Fax: 952.487.4447

Website: www.mowa-mn.com

Tony Ruppert Scholarship Instructions & Tips

This essay is to be completed by the applicant. The applicant can choose a topic to write about that is related to the environment, water quality and quantity, and wastewater treatment. The sponsor of this scholarship is the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association (MOWA). MOWA is associated with the onsite/decentralized wastewater industry (a.k.a. septic systems). The sections of Introduction, Literature Review, Conclusions and References shall be included in the essay.

TITLE

AUTHOR

DATE

I. INTRODUCTION

What is the problem/issue? Keep the introduction brief, but do indicate the purpose of the paper as well as present appropriate background. Make sure that the reader knows enough to appreciate the relevance of the issue and why it is appropriate to ask the question that you will address with your paper. State what angle is going to be explored and arrange key issues that will be addressed in this review by answering questions that you have personally developed and are tailored to fit your topic.

Typical length 2-4 paragraphs.

II. LITERATURE REVIEWED

This section is a summary of information, references and research that has been published about your particular subject. It provides the reader with an idea about the current situation in terms of what has been done, and what we know. Sometimes it includes suggestions about what needs to be done to increase the knowledge and understanding of a particular problem.

This is the longest section of your essay and will range from one to several pages.



III. CONCLUSION

Effectively wraps up the review. Summarize the points of comparison or contrast among the works based on information and literature reviewed. It should also provide insight of relationship between the topic of the review and a larger area of study such as a specific discipline or profession

Typical length 2-4 paragraphs.

IV. LITERATURE CITED

Literature citations in the body of your paper should be in parentheses and contain only the author's last name and the date; for multiple authors include the last name of the first author, et al., and the date. If the author's name is used in the text then just the date in parentheses is sufficient. For example: (Monod, 1949) (Neidhardt et al., 1990) or Monod (1949) compared the reaction..... List all literature cited in your report in alphabetical order by the last name of the first author in a separate section. Use the proper form for citations. If the citation is to a specific page add the page number. For a technical paper you will need to review several sources.

For this essay a minimum of four citations is required. Examples:

For scientific papers:

Monod, J. 1949. The growth of bacterial cultures. *Annu. Rev. Microbiol.* 3:371-394.

<u>For a book</u>

Neidhardt, F.C, Ingraham, J.L. and. Schaechter, M. 1990. *Physiology of the Bacterial Cell*. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, MA.

For a newspaper article:

McKay, D. 2000. Arsenic: how much is safe? *Albuquerque Journal*. July 30, 2000, p. A1.

For a web site:

National Research Council. 1999. Arsenic in drinking water. Subcommittee on Arsenic in Drinking Water. http://www4.nationalacademies.org/news.nsf/isbn/030906337?OpenDocument. For a personal communication:

Sanchez, R. 1993. City of Socorro, Water Utilities Division, Socorro, NM. Personal communication.



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2017 OSTP Certification Course Descriptions and Offerings

Introduction to Onsite Systems (15 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$360 Exam: Yes

This 15-hour workshop is the foundation for all SSTS certification courses and is best completed prior to the other workshops. It prepares participants for the Basic exam and provides an overview of onsite treatment options and concepts. Enrollment in this workshop includes a copy of the Manual for SSTS Professionals in Minnesota.

Topics include:

- Treatment of wastewater
- Site evaluation
- Wastewater characteristics
- Soil treatment systems

10-3 St. Cloud - Moose Lodge

Deadline: 11/6/17 11/13-15/17

Installing Onsite Systems (12 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$265 Exam: Yes

This 12-hour workshop prepares attendees for the Installer exam and provides information about proper installation practices.

PREREQUISITE: Introduction to Onsite Systems

Topics include:

- Construction planning
- Tools for installing
- Construction practices
- Pipelayer certification

112-3 St. Cloud - Moose Lodge

11/16-17/17

Deadline: 11/9/17

Pipelayer Certification (2 Direct Credits, 1 Related Credit)

Course begins at 1:00PM Exam: Yes Fee: \$75 This 3-hour workshop is once again offered this year to accommodate a change in the Minnesota Plumbing Code that requires all septic system installers be either certified pipelayers, licensed plumbers, or registered apprentices in order to install sewer or water service pipes outside of a building in Minnesota.

Topics include:

- MN Plumbing Code
- Pipelaying
- Code compliance bond packet instruction

92-3 Grand Rapids - Sawmill Inn 11/30/17 Deadline: 11/23/17

Enroll online at: septic.umn.edu

OSTP, 173 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St Paul, MN 55108 Fax: 612-624-6434 Phone: 800-322-8642

General Continuing Education (12 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$265 Exam: No

This 12-hour workshop is designed to meet the continuing education requirement for SSTS professional registration. The topics will be varied to give a wide range of information for SSTS professionals.

Topics include:

- Rule change implications
- Pressure distribution
- Working on difficult sites
- MPCA update

60-3 Mankato - Morson-Ario VFW 60-4 St. Cloud - Moose Lodge

11/2-3/17 12/12-13/17 Deadline:10/26/17 Deadline: 12/5/17

Soils Continuing Education (6 Soils-Specific Direct Credits) Fee: \$240 or \$405 with Munsell Color Guide Exam: No

This 6-hour course couples classroom and field training to meet soils-specific MPCA continuing educational requirements for designers and inspectors. Munsell Color Guides are available for \$165 and Sand Cards for \$10.

Topics include:

- Regional geology and soils Local soil hydrology information

Deadline: 7/20/17

Deadline: 8/24/17

- Soils observations
- System siting and design

7/27/17

8/31/17

- 55-4 Cook VFW Post 1757 Alexandria - Douglas County Public Works Building
- Deadline: 8/1/17 8/8/17
- Lamberton SW Research and Outreach Center 55-7 Austin - Holiday Inn
- 9/19/17 Deadline: 9/12/17
- Installer Continuing Education (12 Direct Credits)

Exam: No Fee: \$265

This 12-hour workshop will meet the continuing education requirements for any certification but is specifically tailored for Installers. All information will be provided from the perspective of a system installer.

Topics Include:

- Construction safety
- Keys to proper installation
- Pumps and dosing
- Rule change implications
- 69-3 Grand Rapids Sawmill Inn 11/29-30/17
- Deadline: 11/22/17

NOWRA Advocacy, Continued from Page 15

within many regulations that dictate how decentralized systems can be designed, installed, and operated.

"Decentralized solutions are not only acceptable but, in many cases, the preferable means for effectively and efficiently handling wastewater," explained ICC Board of Directors President M. Dwayne Garriss. "These systems can sustainably serve single homes, neighborhoods, and entire communities, including commercial and industrial facilities."

"NOWRA is pleased to collaborate with ICC on development of the next version of the International Private IPSDC," said Jim Bell, NOWRA Board of Directors President. "This agreement will help local and state jurisdictions ensure that their own regulations encompass the greatest advances in the science and technology of onsite and decentralized wastewater treatment. We believe the IPSDC will speed up technology transfer and lower costs to the consumer by encouraging modernization and greater regulatory consistency between regulations at both the local and state levels."

The code development cycle for the 2018 IPSDC is complete and the latest issue will be available through the ICC and NOWRA websites in 2017. The 2021 ISPDC code development cycle will be the first where NOWRA members will be collaborators on the code. Communities looking for more information to adopt the IPSDC can contact Sara Yerkes, ICC Senior Vice President of Government Relations, at 1-888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233), ext. 6247 or by email at syerkes@iccsafe.org

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