

A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is a state government agency, housed in Austin, the capital of the state.

- **For the most part, the players at the state level lack training and experience, yet feel fully emboldened to operate the state program. (There's ONE exception.)**
- **They attempt to control some 300 jurisdictions across the state. They've pushed UNFUNDED MANDATES onto those jurisdictions, meaning that each local governmental group must FINANCE the program themselves, this to the angst of the County Judges & Commissioners Association of Texas.**
- **Most OSW jurisdictions are thus operating on a shoestring.**

The predictable result, at each jurisdiction, is that they hire people with neither training nor experience in OSW, send them to a 4-day introductory school and give them full power over trained, licensed and experienced septic professionals.

This, of course, is simply a recipe for disaster....and a disaster it IS.

Each of the 300 jurisdictions, under little scrutiny from the tiny state group, develops their own procedures and “in house” rules and regulations, all of which change with each change of inspectors (which happens often). They are usually “government job” driven, not OSW science or technology driven.

It’s a steady, 40 hrs./week job with health insurance and paid vacations.

The requirements for the job are relatively low.

While the Texas OSW structure is very poor, the saddest of all are the results in the field for the Texas septic owner. Poor designs, installations and maintenance plus the wrong types of systems are the order of the day. (Other states may be in a similar predicament.)



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What I'm proposing is that the ENTIRE state program be transferred from the bureaucracy to the American free-enterprise arena in the form of a Non-profit Organization.

The concept is simple. The OSW industry would be operated completely by OSW PROFESSIONALS IN A BUSINESS-LIKE SETTING WHERE, ODDLY ENOUGH, PLAYERS WOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS!!!

It's simply the CORRECT application of "AUTHORITY = RESPONSIBILITY," hitherto unheard of in Texas!

The **Texas Septic Systems Council**, as Non-profit Organization, intends to **CONTRACT** with the state.

All current septic regulations would remain in place, but the new targets will be as follows:

- A. The regulations would ACTUALLY BE APPLIED and done so CONSISTENTLY throughout the state. (This includes accurate site evaluations.)
- B. All designs will be **IN ACCORDANCE** with those regulations.
- C. All players will be **TRAINED** and **LICENSED**.
- D. All **INSTALLATIONS/REPAIRS** WILL BE HELD TO THE HIGH STANDARDS OF THE REGULATIONS.

The desired target is that the change will represent an **ENORMOUS BENEFIT TO THE END USER**....

ALL DESIGNS would be submitted ONLINE, across the state, using templated forms. They would include almost every type of system or combination of collection, treatment and maintenance systems.

Then, they would be SPEEDILY reviewed by PROFESSIONAL OSW personnel, this over 7 days/week, any hour.

FIELD INSPECTIONS, done on any day, any hour by a PROFESSIONAL OSW PERSON.

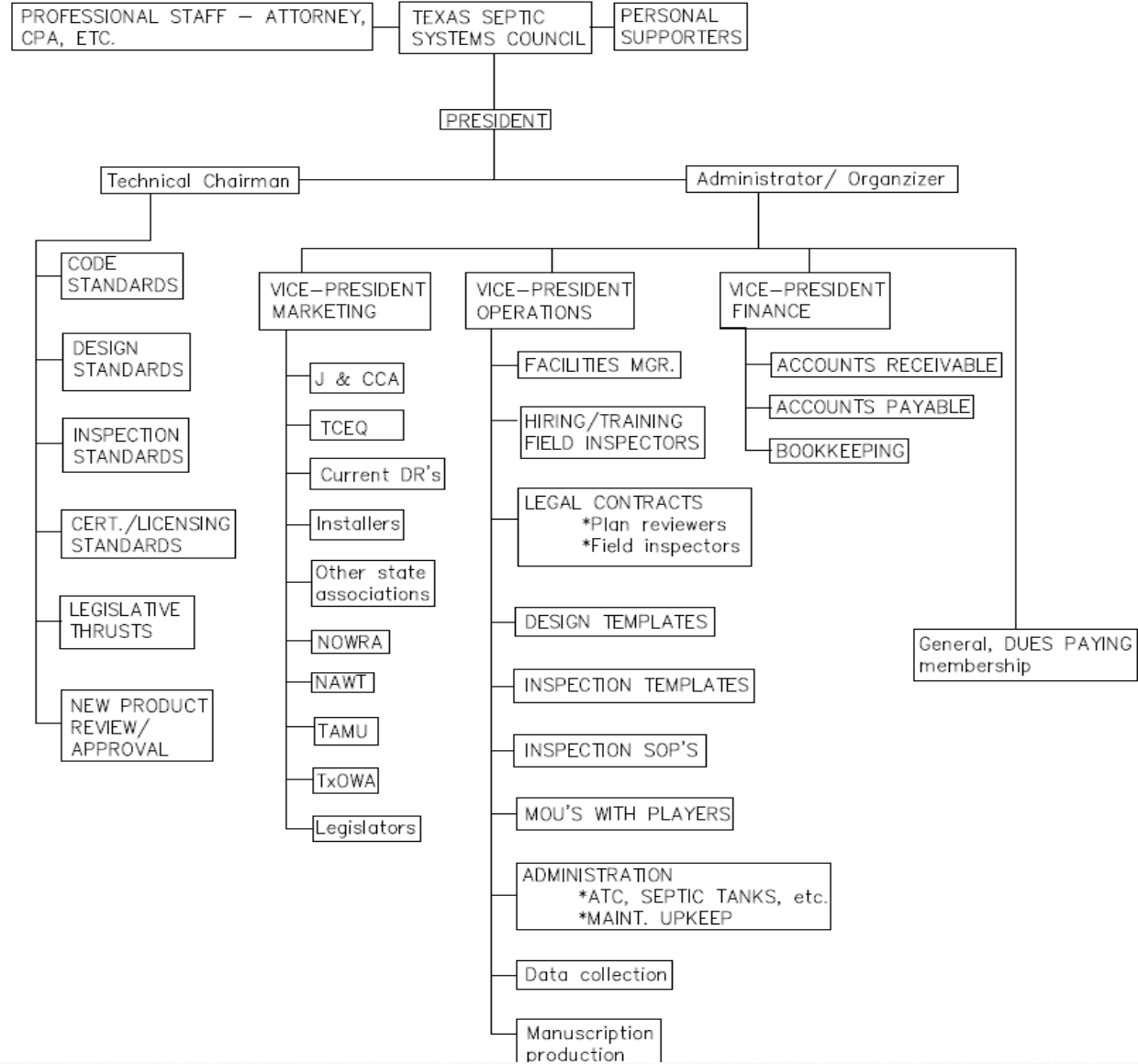
PERMANENT MAINTENANCE of each system will be monitored by the office, ensuring that the maintenance is being properly done and on a timely schedule. Again, licensed maintenance personnel will do the work.

The MAIN OFFICE will issue the PERMIT TO INSTALL. It would also put it on a rotating file to follow up FOREVER on the maintenance of the unit.

Acting as a BUSINESS, instead of a bureaucracy, it would collect fees from property owners (sending a small portion to the state) and pay all working personnel in the organization.

(All current government regulators of the program would be reassigned to other duties by their employers.)

The existing [Texas Onsite Wastewater Association](#) is doing an excellent job of EDUCATING OSW players, BUT WILL NEED TO BE EXPANDED TO SUPPORT AND INCLUDE THE CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THIS PROGRAM.





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Note: All comments are but the author's opinion.