

# **NOWRA 2018 – 2021 Elections Candidate Profile**

**Candidate: Jessica Wood**

**Category: Service Provider**

## **Candidate Statement/Bio**

I have worked in the service industry of the onsite wastewater field for 23 years. I am currently the Vice President of Operations for Residential Sewage Treatment Company, Inc. located in Grandview, Missouri. We are a small family owned business, but we are committed to being a large presence in the onsite wastewater industry. I am a Past President and former board member on the Kansas Small Flows Association. I served as the Executive Secretary for the Kansas Small Flows Association for 2 years. I currently serve on the Missouri Small Flows Board of directors and I am on the Investment Committee.

## **Statements**

### **What specific area of interest do you desire to work with the NOWRA Board on industry issues and how you will make a contribution?**

I am open to serve the board in any area that is needed. My expertise is the maintenance and repair side of the industry, but I am also versed in Word, Excel, and Publisher. I love working with Vendors and helping with the Roe-D-Hoe®. These two areas are where I have the most experience is at conferences. However, if there is something that needs to be done in any area I am willing to do what I can to get the job done.

### **Why you are willing to serve on NOWRA's Board as a leader in the onsite industry?**

I am ready to make a commitment to the NOWRA organization and take on all responsibilities, expectations, and roles required to help continue moving this organization forward. I look forward to working toward NOWRA's goals which I believe are in the best interests of our industry and our environment.

### **What is your perspective(s) on the directions that NOWRA as an organization should consider in order to increase its leadership role in the industry?**

I believe serving on the NOWRA Board will help our state associations stay up on all current issues, education, and technology. Being able to take advantage of networking with others in our industry is invaluable,

### **What are the critical issues that NOWRA's Board should be addressing on behalf of its members?**

I am very excited about the lobbying efforts and the work being done with the EPA. I have read the International Private Sewage Disposal Code and I am very excited that NOWRA is working to improve the code. NOWRA has a great group behind the wheel and I love that it is always looking for ways to provide benefit to its members. I look forward to being a part of all of this and the future of NOWRA.

# NOWRA 2018 – 2021 Elections

## Candidate Profile

**Candidate: Chris Kumnick**

**Category: Regulator**

### **Candidate Statement/Bio**

I graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science/Microbiology. After working as a microbiologist at ConAgra Foods I started my Public Health career in Environmental Health 17 years ago. I have since served public health at the County, District and State levels. For the last 9 years, as the Georgia Department of Public Health's (DPH) Land Use Program Director, I have managed the implementation and operation of both the On-site Sewage Management (OSSMS) and Non-Public Water Supply Programs. My current position is responsible for the implementation of statewide Rules and Regulations for OSSMS including interpretation and technical assistance. DPH Land Use Program also includes Portable Sanitation Rules and the credentialing of Georgia's Soil Classifiers, Health Inspectors, Contractors, and Maintenance Providers. Through the cooperation of an established Technical Review Committee the Department maintains product approvals, performance evaluations, and OSSMS installation standards

### **Statements**

#### **What specific area of interest do you desire to work with the NOWRA Board on industry issues and how you will make a contribution?**

If I have the opportunity to serve as a board member, I would like to emphasize workforce development. As current workers are aging and the nation is seeing strong growth in the building sectors our industry needs reinvestment. Meeting this new labor demand with a qualified workforce requires tools for recruitment, credentialing, and focused training opportunities.

#### **Why you are willing to serve on NOWRA's Board as a leader in the onsite industry?**

As a regulator, I recognize the importance of "assessment, policy and assurance" in our programs for the protection of public and environmental health. Georgia has developed programs to monitor outcomes, educate workforce and most importantly mobilize partnerships. However, to truly keep up with industry advancements and fully recognize the value that decentralized systems are to my state I would like to assist where I can join in the larger conversation. I'm hoping by contributing as a board member I will be able to truly represent a regulator's perspective but also bring useful solutions home for implementation. Georgia has 1.7 million septic systems, 40% of all residential development throughout the state is dependent on a decentralized system. Georgia is a home rule state; having 159 county Boards of Health which have all adopted and enforce statewide Onsite Rules and Regulations. Over the last 15 years we have averaged 22,000 new installation a year.

#### **What are the critical issues that NOWRA's Board should be addressing on behalf of its members?**

I would also like to assist in the national conversation raising awareness for the federal funding for decentralized infrastructure. Minimally, I would like to demonstrate the need for creating grants and low and at cost loans for OSSMS owners to help maintain and repair their systems.

# NOWRA 2018 – 2021 Elections Candidate Profile

**Candidate: Bruce Stowe**

**Category: Vendor/Manufacturer**

## **Candidate Statement/Bio**

I have spent ten plus years now working for what originally was known as Fralo Plastech and what has become Roth North America. Although a small company, (<50 employees) Roth as a group of people has provided a fertile learning environment to gain a formidable body of practical knowledge as it applies to the “tank end” of the onsite/decentralized industry. I currently serve as the Technical & Regulatory Affairs Manager for Roth North America which involves responsibility for products furnished to the onsite industry as well as 2-3 other industries and product families. I am neither an engineer by training or education but have been involved with some form of “engineering malpractice” for most of my murky, bloody professional past (CV attached). I have little to offer this position in terms of accolades or credentials besides my time, interest and curiosity.

## **What specific area of interest do you desire to work with the NOWRA Board on industry issues and how you will make a contribution?**

My home state (NYS) does not have a NOWRA affiliate organization. I would love to learn more about the process of establishing one and perhaps leverage my board position to influence potential stakeholders and members in NY towards establishing one.

As Vice-Chair of NOWRA’s Lobbying Board of Governors, I plan to support NOWRA’s lobbying activities in Washington, as I do believe in trickle-down economics in this context and thusly believe that these efforts will benefit the State affiliates in a significant way moving forward and thereby the entire organization.

Continued relationship building with the affiliated onsite and decentralized organizations, NEHA, SORA-COI and NAWT to name just three. I personally have a soft spot in my heart for the SORA-COI organization. In ten plus years of work in the regulatory sector of this industry, I have gained a sincere appreciation for the work and the working environments of regulators in the state environmental health offices focusing on the onsite and decentralized industry. In the face of ever tightening budgets, associated staff cuts and growing workloads, they face a lopsided battle. Most if not all of these folks are genuinely committed to supporting this industry to enhance environmental quality and the communities that they serve.

## **Why you are willing to serve on NOWRA’s Board as a leader in the onsite industry?**

“I have way too much going on to consider this position”. I believe that in most of life’s situations, the busy ones are best fit to serve. Sometimes it is necessary to serve simply because we are asked.

## **What is your perspective(s) on the directions that NOWRA as an organization should consider in order to increase its leadership role in the industry?**

## **NOWRA 2018 – 2021 Elections Candidate Profile**

As a relative newbie to the NOWRA organization, I firmly believe from what I currently understand, that much of the agenda and direction for further growth in industry leadership is already being worked on. From the manufacturer's perspective, I can identify members of the industry sales channel i.e. wholesale distribution partners, that may not participate in the organization in any significant capacity and it may benefit them and us if they did.

### **What are the critical issues that NOWRA's Board should be addressing on behalf of its members?**

Communication is always the top of this list.

Also, continue to build NOWRA's reputation as the leader in supporting professional growth for all practitioners in the Onsite and Decentralized Industry. I feel that the initiatives taken by the association in the area of training and education are vital to building the reputation and viability of the industry as a whole. This includes all stakeholders from installers and service providers to engineers/designers and those involved with supplying products and technology to the market that this industry creates. From a "greedy" internal motivation, the manufacturer always benefits from a better informed, engaged and educated marketplace.

Continue to support NOWRA's lobbying activities in drafting, introducing and supporting legislation at the federal level to benefit the industry in terms of governmental recognition and funding support for this industry.

I personally have a soft spot in my heart for the SORA-COI organization. In ten plus years of work in the regulatory sector of this industry, I have gained a sincere appreciation for the work and the working environments of regulators in the state environmental health offices focusing on the onsite and decentralized industry. In the face of ever tightening budgets, associated staff cuts and growing workloads, they face a lopsided battle. Most if not all of these folks are genuinely committed to supporting this industry to enhance environmental quality and the communities that they serve. To support them in helping to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and information, a chance to meet with their colleagues, and to recognize the balance of the industry as a source of encouragement is critical to the industry itself. I therefore believe it is important for NOWRA to support this sister organization in particular in any practical way we can.

# NOWRA 2018 – 2021 Elections Candidate Profile

**Candidate: Jeff Kerr**

**Category: Installer/Contractor**

## **Candidate Statement/Bio**

Before returning to the family business, I had a career teaching, recording and performing as a violinist with symphony orchestras up and down the East coast. After deciding to settle down back in North Carolina, I started working with small businesses to improve their marketing and overall digital strategy. When an opportunity presented itself to work in the onsite industry, I took every opportunity to educate myself I could find, traveling to events across the country including from Indianapolis to Florida and was inspired to grow a business that works to change the perception of this industry and decentralized systems in Central North Carolina. I currently serve on the board of directors for the North Carolina Septic Tank Association and am a member of the Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, The National Association of Wastewater Technicians and make an effort to attend as many education events across the country as possible.

## **Statements**

### **What specific area of interest do you desire to work with the NOWRA Board on industry issues and how you will make a contribution?**

The education I received from NOWRA is one of the primary reasons I chose to make this a career and have dedicated my time to promoting decentralized wastewater through education, fostering professionalism in the industry, sourcing quality materials, utilizing innovative technology, providing a consistently high quality of service. It would be an honor to serve on your board of directors and to get involved with your committees and task forces.

### **Why you are willing to serve on NOWRA's Board as a leader in the onsite industry?**

I have been extremely interested in participating in the organization since attending a NOWRA Mega-Conference. One of the speakers on opening day discussed the economic, environmental and public health benefits of a shift back to decentralized systems. This idea that a properly managed onsite system could actually be the way of the future and not just a stepping stone toward city sewer completely shifted the way I thought about the industry and solidified my interest in growing a family business my grandfather started in 1968.