

## TOM GROVES

---

**From:** info@nowra.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2009 5:36 PM  
**To:** TOM GROVES  
**Subject:** NOWRA March 2009 e-News



National Onsite Wastewater  
Recycling Association

3540 SOQUEL AVE., SUITE A // SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062  
P 800.966.2942 (831.464.4884) // F 831.464.4881

Make sure your NOWRA emails always go straight to your inbox. Add [info@nowra.org](mailto:info@nowra.org) to your address book.  
Questions or comments? [Contact NOWRA](#)

## March 2009 e-News

### NOWRA e-News - March 2009

It has been a busy month since our inaugural newsletter. Many thank to all who contributed stories and ideas. This member communication belongs to each of us, so keep the news and ideas coming.

- [This Month's Focus - NOWRA & the Stimulus Package](#)
- [Bookmark the NOWRA Press Release Web Page](#)
- [On-line Resource Library & Volunteer Opportunity](#)
- [NOWRA at the Pumper Show](#)
- [New NOWRA Board Member](#)
- [Annual Conference Reminder & Early Bird Registration Deadline](#)
- [News From the Finance Front](#)
- ["What Do You Think?"](#)
- [Putting NOWRA's Model Code to Work For You](#)
- [Septic Locator & Your Bottom Line](#)
- [Technical Practices Committee - Water Softeners & Onsite Systems](#)
- [Future Conference Plans Include NEHA & SORA](#)

---

#### This Month's Focus - NOWRA & the Stimulus Package

---

In a NOWRA e-mail blast, we reported that the EPA has issued guidance for the stimulus funding, which includes decentralized systems. EPA conducted a briefing last week on this issue with NOWRA and our other EPA MOU partners during the bimonthly MOU Partners conference call. Information on funding for decentralized projects can be found within the Clean Water State Revolving Fund & Drinking Water Revolving Fund section.

Go to <http://www.epa.gov/recovery>. Once there select the "EPA Plans and Reports" link for state allotments and eligible projects for state capitalization grants, select the "EPA Plans and Reports."

Decentralized systems are also considered as eligible projects under the 20% set aside for "green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements or other environmentally innovative activities".

### Septic Locator

NOWRA's Septic Locator will connect you with a wastewater professional in your area and our membership list.

[Begin Here!](#)

### Conferences



18th Annual NOWRA  
Technical Conference & Expo  
April 6 - 9, 2009  
[Milwaukee, WI](#)

[Top of the Document](#)

---

**Bookmark the NOWRA Press Release Web Page**

---

We encourage you to visit and bookmark the **Press Release** web page for more information on the work being done by NOWRA on your behalf to secure Stimulus funds for decentralized wastewater projects and other great information and announcements. You will find posted information from current and past topics here in an easy-to-find format.

[http://www.nowra.org/news\\_releases.html](http://www.nowra.org/news_releases.html)

[Top of the Document](#)

---

**On-line Resource Library & Volunteer Opportunity**

---

In December 2008, the NOWRA Executive Committee appointed a Task Force to develop an on-line **Resource Library** concerning onsite and decentralized wastewater treatment. This project was included in the 2008 NOWRA Strategic Plan as an essential service that NOWRA will provide to members and affiliate groups. The library was requested both by the affiliates to find articles to utilize in their publications as well as manufacturers who are looking for case studies and research.

We envision that the NOWRA Resource Library will become the "go-to" web site for onsite/decentralized information. The Library will include NOWRA conference materials, presentations, and white papers and other available research and case study materials as well as links to other information such as NOWRA affiliate newsletters, state/local regulations and informational/educational web sites, homeowner educational materials, training opportunities and manuals, septage disposal information, university resource materials, and national and regional EPA onsite information.

We need your help to make this Resource Library a reality.

First, we want to hear from you what you would like to see included in the Resource Library.

Second, we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us in the following areas:

- 1) Define and develop the overall concept and outline of the site, including deciding and approving what materials we want to include and participating in the design of the organizational framework for the library materials.
- 2) Identify links to information that could be included on the web site (we will seek approval for all links before we add them to the site).
- 3) Provide informational and educational resources that could be directly included on the web site (with consideration of copyright laws).

Please send your input on what you would like to see included in the Library to Judy Sims, Task Force Chair, at [<jlsims2014@gmail.com>](mailto:jsims2014@gmail.com).

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer member of the Task Force, please let Judy know, and indicate the area(s) in which you would like to participate.

[Top of the Document](#)

---

**NOWRA at the Pumper Show**

---

The recent Pumper Show in Louisville featured NOWRA team members giving presentations to hundreds of participants.

Ted Loudon and Mark Hooks conducted a full day of education that included:

- Wastewater Chemistry & Biology
- Soil & Site Evaluation
- Septic Tanks: Function, Inspection, and Troubleshooting

- Aerobic Treatment Units & Media Filters
- Pumps & Controls: Function & Troubleshooting
- Operation & Maintenance of Systems



With hundreds of attendees at each of the presentations, not only did Ted and Mark provide the kinds of education that people were looking for, they helped make the Pumper Show a success for Cole Publishing, an active supporter of NOWRA.

Many thanks to Ted and Mark for the outstanding job they did and the hard work they put into this education.

[Top of the Document](#)

---

New NOWRA Board Member

NOWRA President Tom Groves recently announced the appointment of Doug Jatcko of Front Range Precast Concrete, Inc., Boulder, Colorado, to fill the rest of the Board term vacated by Al Schnitkey. Al had to resign from the Board in January due to a change in his employment.

Doug will finish Al's term in the Manufacturer/Supplier category which is due to expire December 2009.

We wish Al all of the best, thank him for his contributions, and are pleased that Doug comes to the Board with energy, fresh ideas, and a can-do attitude. Please congratulate Doug when you see him!

[Top of the Document](#)

---

#### Annual Conference Reminder & Early Bird Registration Deadline

Scheduled for April 6-9 in Milwaukee, WI and co-hosted by the **Wisconsin Onsite Water Recycling Association (WOWRA)** the conference promises to offer important information that will directly benefit you and your company.

We have an excellent response from exhibitors for the expo portion of the conference, and you can pre-register at the early-bird rate until March 20.

Don't miss the opportunity to catch-up on the latest equipment, research, techniques and tips.

To learn more and to register, please visit [http://www.nowra.org/annual\\_conference.html](http://www.nowra.org/annual_conference.html)

[Top of the Document](#)

---

#### News From the Finance Front

Greg Graves, Chair of the Finance Committee reports that NOWRA finished the year in the "black." This is an impressive feat considering the economic circumstances. When the Executive Committee saw troubled waters ahead, they implemented cost-cutting measures to protect the organization. With revenue that was behind budget by over 17%, and revenue that was over 24% behind 2007, it is even more remarkable.

To ensure the viability of NOWRA, and to protect our financial future, it is very important that the Annual Conference in Milwaukee be successful. Much hard work has gone into developing an informative conference that can help each member's business in these troubled times. We look forward to your participation and attendance.

A complete financial report will be made during the NOWRA Business Meeting session at the

Annual Conference in Milwaukee.

[Top of the Document](#)

---

#### **What Do You Think?**

---

In this first article by NOWRA's Vice President, Dick Otis, Ph. D and P.E. explores, "**Can Decentralized be Taken Seriously? – Fighting for Parity.**"

*"...The failure of our industry's value to be acknowledged hammers home to me once again that we have a long way to go to before we gain parity with traditional centralized wastewater facilities. The products of our labors are not seriously considered as part of the continuum of wastewater treatment systems. We are seldom sought out for what we have to offer for larger public facilities. It is though our industry has been given tacit approval by those who know better to provide services to those "unfortunate" homeowners who are beyond the reach of sewers as long as we don't get into trouble..."*

Want to read the entire article? Want to respond to Dick with your thoughts? Go to <http://www.nowra.org/whattothink.html>

[Top of the Document](#)

---

#### **Putting NOWRA's Model Code to Work for You**

---

One of the most important national roles NOWRA has played is in support of the expanded use of onsite/decentralized through the NOWRA Model CodeFramework. It was developed to serve as a guide to assist states and localities in addressing existing conflicts with the permitting and use of decentralized systems.

The upcoming Annual Conference has an entire day devoted to a Midwest Regional Code Forum. We encourage you to attend the forum as well as to research the work that has been done in support of codes that are blind of state and county lines.

Visit <http://www.modelcode.org/> to learn more.

[Top of the Document](#)

---

#### **Septic Locator and Your Bottom Line**

---

A common question we hear is, "What do I get for my NOWRA dues?" While there are many tangible and intangible benefits to membership, one of the best is **Septic Locator**. As a member of NOWRA, access to Septic Locator is free. Set-up of your information is easy, and once complete, you are now on one of the web's most popular sites for onsite searches. Simply put, if you get one additional job from Septic Locator, the odds are that it just paid your dues. From the second lead on, belonging to NOWRA just became a profit center. And when you couple all that with being able to upgrade your message, isn't this the best (and easiest) way to ensure today's web-savvy customers find you?

At a time when a quarter-page Yellow Page ad costs over \$1,300 (remember, that is \$1,300 you have "leftover" after all your other costs), doesn't it make sense to make sure your information on Septic Locator is up-to-date so you can be contacted? We think so. Why not visit now?

<http://www.septiclocator.com>

[Top of the Document](#)

---

#### **Technical Practices Committee - Water Softeners and Onsite Systems**

---

The Technical Practices Committee reviewed and released to the Board of Directors a guidance document dealing with Water Softeners and Onsite System use at the same address. Both water softening/conditioning and onsite wastewater treatment systems are commonly used together, and in the majority of these cases, no problems are indicated. However, there have

been sporadic, mostly anecdotal reports of issues related to the use of both kinds of equipment at some sites. Experts in both fields are working together on this task force to better understand the interactions involved between water softeners and onsite wastewater systems. The Water Quality Association (WQA) and NOWRA collaborated to offer advice based on available knowledge which is found in this soon to be released guidance document. The NOWRA Board approved this document at their February meeting. We will let you know in a future edition of **e-News** when and where it is available.

[Top of the Document](#)

---

#### Future Conference Plans Include NEHA and SORA

---

Board members of NEHA, SORA and NOWRA are in discussions about hosting a joint 'super-conference' in 2011. With all three organizations members of the EPA MOU Partnership, bringing their broad memberships and strengths together is an exciting opportunity that could afford members a great chance to see and learn about what the other organizations are doing.

NOWRA President Tom Groves says that while plans are still in the preliminary stage, interest to consolidate around a joint conference is high. Stay tuned.

[Top of the Document](#)

#### About NOWRA

The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) is the largest organization within the U.S. dedicated solely to educating and representing members within the onsite and decentralized industry. NOWRA headquarters are located in Santa Cruz, California, with constituent local groups throughout the U.S. and Canada.

This e-mail was sent by: **NOWRA**  
3540 Soquel Avenue, Ste. A., Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Copyright 2009 NOWRA

Please note that NOWRA does not rent, sell, or exchange any of your personal information with any third parties.

To change your email address [click here](#). If you received this email in error, or would like to be removed from our list, please [click here](#)

The articles in this newsletter are the opinion of the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA)