

## **NOWRA 2021 – 2024 Board Elections Candidate Profile**

**Candidate: Tricia Scott**

**Category: Regulator**

**Candidate Statement/Bio:**

I would like to formally declare my interest in applying for a position on the NOWRA Board as a representative of the regulatory community. I understand this three-year commitment means I will be required to attend at least one face to face meeting every year, attend monthly ZOOM meetings, and to read and review printed materials submitted to the board prior to meetings. Additionally, I will be a point of contact for other state regulators, as well as serving as a representative voice and mentor for the regulatory community in NOWRA matters.

I am a lifelong resident of Nebraska who grew up in a small town very close to the Wyoming border. I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in geology. After college, I started working for the State of Nebraska in the Division of Weights and Measures. In 2014, I took a position with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in their Field Services and Assistance Division. In 2016, I moved to the Onsite Wastewater Section, where I worked as a Staff Assistant until being promoted to an Onsite Wastewater Program Specialist in 2019. I have 17 years of experience working in state regulatory agencies, and five years of experience working in onsite wastewater regulation. I am currently employed as an Onsite Wastewater Program Specialist for the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. In my free time, I enjoy writing, reading, and riding my moped.

**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 very interested in learning more about how other states regulate onsite wastewater, as well as how other stakeholders, including service providers and installers, view and respond to their specific state's regulations. Being able to consult with and hear from leaders in all areas of the industry will help Nebraska build a better, stronger Onsite Wastewater program in every aspect. Of chief concern in Nebraska is an aging, rural community who live on fixed incomes and have failing systems they cannot afford to replace. I would like to find out how other agencies handle these funding issues, as well as helping to demonstrate a need for better onsite funding sources throughout all levels of government while working towards establishing those kinds of funding.

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

Through various restructuring efforts and staffing changes, the Onsite Wastewater Section in Nebraska has a group of employees who have a relatively small amount of installation experience in the onsite wastewater industry. Because of this, we would like to make more connections nationwide in order to learn as much as we can to better serve the public. Taking a position on NOWRA's Board will allow Nebraska to achieve this goal and establish a nationwide network of leaders and professionals in the onsite industry to share knowledge and experience. Nebraska's Onsite Wastewater Section has experience developing an online system registration tool, working with local entities to achieve compliance, and resolving complex compliance issues.

**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 am a firm believer that outreach and education are some of the most important functions leaders can provide. Informed, educated members of an industry are better prepared to identify issues and enact solutions. Knowing that they have a knowledgeable and accessible group of various members of the onsite wastewater

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community makes it easier to work cooperatively to create balanced and appropriate regulations and guidelines for safe, effective, and efficient onsite wastewater treatment systems.

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

While I am not sure if this is a nationwide issue, in Nebraska the available pool of certified professionals who do onsite wastewater work is aging and retiring. The number of registered certified professionals has gone from stagnant to decreasing within the last four years. Many young people entering the workforce are unaware of the demand for onsite wastewater professionals and have little access to information about relative start up costs to build an onsite wastewater business. Training classes are difficult to access or non-existent, especially in rural areas with poor internet access.

As concerns grow about the quality and availability of potable water, groundwater quality is more important than ever. Onsite wastewater treatment via traditional systems is not always viable due to soil types, setback distances, and environmental factors. More and more companies are proposing alternative treatment systems that need to be evaluated for efficiency and effectiveness. While a one size fits all approach to evaluation isn't feasible or desirable, some standardized guidelines for evaluation would be helpful, especially for regulatory agencies who may not have such processes in place.

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**Candidate: Chris Chapman**  
**Category: Service Provider**

### **Candidate Statement/Bio**

I, Christopher Chapman, wish to be considered as a candidate for a potential position on the NOWRA Board of Directors. I understand the commitment this role requires and look forward to fulfilling the expectations as a Board Member. My interest specifically lies in the area of Service Provider. I can offer years of experience and knowledge in this specialty area.

I received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with emphasis in Management and Marketing from Columbia College, Columbia, MO in 2008. I then continued my education in Soil Sciences at the University of Missouri under the guidance of Dr. Randy Miles and am now one of the top Soil Onsite Soil Evaluators in the state of Missouri for Onsite Waste Water Applications. After finishing my schooling and state certifications I began my company, Show Me Soils, specializing in soil evaluations for onsite systems in Franklin County and surrounding counties. We have now been serving our clients for the last eleven years. Show Me Soils also offers clients onsite system inspections for real estate transactions and has become a licensed distributor for Norweco treatments systems since 2012.

I hold Missouri State Certifications as a Basic and Advanced Installer (Since 2008), Onsite Soil Evaluator and Inspector for Real Estate Transactions. I also hold Illinois State Certifications in Private Sewage Installation. We service approximately 1500 systems a year and this number continues to grow; we have recently started to precast our own concrete septic tanks. These sanctioned certifications and experience along with my background growing up installing Wastewater Systems in the family business has given me a well-rounded view of the process these systems involve. Overall, I would estimate my years in the Onsite Wastewater in some capacity to be 24 years.

### **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 desire is to work within the NOWRA Board on issues specific to the service aspect of systems. I feel I can bring valuable information, views and ideas that may contribute and benefit how the Board makes decisions going forward on industry issues. I daily interact with clients, realtors, and installers that are each experiencing a wide range of issues, from common to unique.

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

I am willing to serve on the NOWRA Board to assist the other members in continuing to move the wastewater industry forward.

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

I think the main goal is to become a voice that is respected on a national stage so that we may increase our funding and bring more respect and recognition to our industry as a whole.

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

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I think the main focus should be continuing to grow the industry as a whole but still find way to help the specific needs of members on the state organization level.

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**Candidate: Claude Goguen**

**Category: Supplier/Manufacturer**

### **Candidate Statement/Bio**

I appreciate the opportunity to apply for a position on the NOWRA Board of Directors. Since my first meeting at a NOWRA convention back in 2009, I have attended every convention since and have supported NOWRA on behalf of the National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA). I have gained great respect for NOWRA over the years it would be an honor to serve on its Board of Directors. My intent would be to serve in the supplier/manufacturer category. I am committed to fulfilling the expectations, roles & responsibilities of a NOWRA Board Member.

I am a civil engineer having worked in the concrete and construction industry for over 26 years. Since 2008, I have been working for the NPCA and currently serve as director of outreach and technical education. Shortly after starting with NPCA, I was asked to serve as liaison to our wastewater products committee and since then, I have been heavily involved in the onsite industry. I have presented numerous times to many state and county wastewater groups, as well as at national industry events organized by NOWRA, WWETT Show, NEHA and WEFTEC. I have served on committee related to onsite wastewater including ASTM Committee C27, NAWT Educational Committee and NOWRA Tech Practice Committee. As a result of this experience, I have learned a lot talking to people in this industry and have done my best to represent our NPCA members in supporting the onsite wastewater industry.

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

With my experience in training and outreach, I would like to help NOWRA enhance its training for professionals to ensure the latest best practices are included especially as it pertains to the structures. I also want to contribute to our outreach to policy makers to continue expanding our industry.

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

I enjoy contributing to strengthening and expanding the onsite industry. The experience of serving on the NOWRA Board would allow me to contribute while continuing to learn more about the association and the industry. This will better equip me to serve the onsite industry as well as our NPCA members of which a large portion supply to this industry.

### **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?**

We need to expand our outreach at state and regional onsite wastewater seminars and events to convey our role in the industry and increase awareness of NOWRA and its resources. We can also take these opportunities to listen and learn about local challenges in order to enhance our ability to help. We also need to create new partnerships and enhance existing ones in the industry and work with other organizations to expand NOWRA's reach.

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

I believe training is needed to spread awareness of current best practices and resources available so we can raise the quality of installations, inspections, and maintenance.

We also need to continue seeking funding for the onsite wastewater industry, especially for repair and replacement of failing systems.

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**Candidate: Ed Schloss**

**Category: Supplier/Manufacturer**

### **Candidate Statement/Bio**

I would like to be considered for the manufacturer's position on the NOWRA Board of Directors and I understand the commitment for fulfilling the expectations, roles, and responsibilities as member of the Board of Directors.

I have worked for Jet Inc., a long standing NOWRA supporter, for 13 plus years as a Territory Representative and now as Sales Manager. During that time I have been involved in developing new distributors and supporting our existing distributors by working with them, their installers and designers and also developing relationships with the regulators to gain product approvals and educating them on our products and confirming that our distributors and their customers are representing and installing our products professionally to the end users.

### **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 have been involved with NOWRA as the Chair of Corporate Membership for four or five years, along with the Board of Governors lobbying group. I would like to continue working as the Chair of Corporate Membership and also add a Co-Chair. I think this will broaden the outreach to entice more companies to join the NOWRA cause, a united force speaking for the onsite and decentralized industry. Adding more corporate members to our ranks give us a deeper talent pool and keeps the organization strong.

### **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 continues to be a cohesive voice (State Affiliates/Online Learning/BOG) in a very fragmented industry and this work needs to continue. Jet Inc and I want to be a part of that team.

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

The critical issues NOWRA needs to continue is the outreach to the State Affiliates to show that they hear their concerns on training and the need to attract new talent into the onsite industry.

## **NOWRA 2021 – 2024 Board Elections Candidate Profile**

**Candidate: Joshua Gunia**

**Category: Installer**

### **Candidate Statement/Bio**

As you will read in the below question you will see that I have a passion for onsite industry and have a long history of working with local, state, and national associations to advocate for our industry, consumer, and environment. My business has been built in such a way where I am able to fully commit time as needed to my duties and responsibilities that come with being the NOWRA installer Representative.

I am a Co-owner of A-Advanced Septic & Construction Services and current WOSSA Past President. I also currently sit as an Installer Representative on the NOWRA Board having being appointed to fill out a term. My Company provides septic pumping, operations, maintenance, installation of septic systems and construction services. We are also an O/M service provider, and I am currently licensed in all of these areas.

As you all know in the industry, we have all been directly affected by changing regulations, increasing economic pressures, and continuing technological change. Over the past decade I have worked directly with the Pierce County Health Department as a voice for not only small business interests but also homeowners who have been faced with the challenges of meeting these ever-changing regulations. As a WOSSA member I strongly support the efforts of WOSSA as a voice for our Industry. It has provided affordable training and forums to discuss the important issues facing all the professionals in our industry.

With over twenty years of experience, I have faced the same challenges all other maintenance providers have faced and needed to overcome. We provide pumping and O&M inspections under new regulations and already advise the health department where new programs potentially threaten all industry viability and the homeowners best interest. As your NOWRA installer representative I will continue to advocate these efforts to the wider On-Site community and with your support will encourage focus on business viability in this changing environment.

### **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 have two main areas that I believe that I can effect change and make a difference.

First, would be to work closely with our state associations. I have been a member of WOSSA for 20+ years and that has allowed me to serve in many areas of our association. I have been president, VP, O/M rep, installer rep and have served for the last five years as the director of our annual conference, Septic- Con. Working closely with our association I have helped contribute to our industry by combining knowledge from the past way of doing business with the new way of doing business. This not only has helped me but more importantly helped others understand our industry with the best knowledge of both the past and present. As Albert Einstein once said, "Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it."

I also have an incredible passion to see other state associations be successful. I have been a part of WOSSA since it was small association. As of today, it is one of the most respected and successful state associations. My wish would be to see all state associations have the same success.

The second area that I believe I can contribute in is our mega conference. I have 10 years of working on the WOSSA conference committee and the last 5 years been directly responsible for the success of Septic-Con.

Lastly, I believe that I can provide input and ideas that will benefit other committees in NOWRA.



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

I see a need to give back to the industry that has provided a great life and legacy for my family. I believe we have a responsibility to work with local, state, and national associations and public health to provide common sense policy that is cost effective.

### **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 NOWRA is continuing to be recognized as a leader in our industry. I see the need to invest in the next generation of people coming into the industry. We need to work with the up-and-coming generation so that the generation that will be retiring in the next ten years has an opportunity to pass along a lifetime of knowledge and insight on how as a industry we have gotten to this place.