Call for Abstracts

2021 Onsite Wastewater MEGA-CONFERENCE
Essential Work in the Lone Star State

NOWRA · NAWT · SORA · TOWA

We are pleased to announce that the 2021 Onsite Mega-Conference will be held in San Marcos, Texas. It is a combined effort between the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA), the National Association of Wastewater Technicians (NAWT), the State Onsite Regulators Association (SORA), and the Texas Onsite Wastewater Association (TOWA). The Mega-Conference is the largest event of its kind and offers decentralized professionals the highest quality education and training available. The 2021 event will be held October 17-20 at the Embassy Suites San Marcos by Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, San Marcos, Texas. In-person and virtual education sessions will be held Oct 18-19, 2021 with field trips on the 20th. A virtual component of conference is being planned for those unable to travel to Texas, but we hope to see many of you there!

Paper and Presentation Options

Your abstract can fit into one of three categories. Please strongly consider writing a paper to serve as long-term documentation of the conference and progress made in the decentralized industry. However, all organizations involved wish to encourage speakers from all aspects of the industry and are offering the following three presentation options:

1. **Oral research-based presentations:** These may be related to new technologies, monitoring, extension education, field assessment, or any topic that are related to onsite wastewater treatment. A presentation could come with or without a paper.
2. **Oral non-research related presentations:** These presentations could be about any onsite wastewater treatment-related topic including installation, maintenance, science about onsite wastewater treatment, maintenance, environmental impacts, and related topics. Presentations must be clearly non-sales oriented. A presentation could come with or without a paper.
3. **Poster presentations:** These presentations could be on a research or non-research related topic about onsite wastewater treatment and recycling. The posters will be displayed during the conference in a prominent location.

Paper and Presentation Review

The presentation slides and paper to be included in the Conference Proceedings must comply with formatting requirements and will be reviewed by the NOWRA Education and Technical Practices Committees. ***The primary author of a presentation that includes a paper will receive a $50 registration discount.***

Important Dates

1. **June 18, 2021:** Abstract submittals are due. Beginning April 1, abstracts can be submitted to the Mega-Conference Abstract Portal at: http://www.nawt.org/call_for_papers.html
2. **June 25, 2021:** Authors will be notified of the Education Committee's selection and provided with instructions regarding paper, presentation, and poster criteria and format.
3. **August 27, 2021:** Draft paper manuscripts due for review by the NOWRA Education Committee.
4. **September 10, 2021:** Draft presentations due.
5. **September 17, 2021:** Comments and/or edited papers returned to the author. If re-review is required, they will be due on September 24, 2020.
6. **October 1, 2021:** Final papers and presentations must be submitted in electronic format to be included in the proceedings and conference. If the paper and presentation is not received by this date, the topic and speaker will be

Instructions about the Abstract

The abstract can have a maximum of 250 words and ideally would include the following:

- A sentence or two to introduce the topic and briefly state why it is important.
- The objective(s) of the presentation/research.
- Around three sentences of methods or what has been done.
- Highlighted results and then end with a final statement.

Potential Topics

Most presentations will be allocated either a 25 or 50-minute presentations. When submitting your abstract please indicate which of these categories your topic fits (please specify as many as are applicable):

Technical	**Management/Maintenance**
Policy	**Installation**

Abstract Submittal Requirements

You will be required to submit the following information regarding your paper or presentation:

1. **Abstract Type:** Technical, Policy, Management, and/or Installation
2. **Presentation Format:** Presentation with a paper, presentation without a paper, or poster
3. **Title of Paper/Sessions**
4. **Brief Abstract:** 250-word maximum description of the proposed paper and presentation/session
5. **Author:** Name of lead author, and presenter including email and affiliation
6. **Speaker Bio:** A short bio of the lead presenter (250-word maximum) in paragraph form which includes education and relevant onsite/decentralized industry experience.
7. **Delivery Format:** You will be asked to indicate whether you can:
   a. only deliver a virtual recorded presentation,
   b. only deliver an in-person presentation, or
   c. deliver virtual recorded and an in-person presentation.

Questions about a Topic or Conference?

Please discuss questions about the applicability of topics for the conference with Education Committee Chair, Sergio Abit, by email at osusepticwater@okstate.edu.

Please send questions about the conference in general to NOWRA's Executive Director, Tom Groves, by email at executivedirector@nowra.org.

To submit an abstract for the 2021 Mega-Conference, please use the following link to submit your abstract(s) by June 18, 2021:

https://nawt.org/call_for_papers.html

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to seeing you in Texas in October!

All presenters MUST be registered for the conference and are responsible for covering their own registration and travel expenses to attend the conference.