Call for Abstracts

We are pleased to announce that the **2022 Onsite Mega-Conference** will be held this fall in Springfield, Missouri. The theme for this year's conference is ***Promoting Health and Protecting Our Resources***. The Mega-Conference 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 Missouri Smallflows Organization (MSO). The Mega-Conference is the largest event of its kind and offers decentralized professionals the highest quality education and training available. **The 2022 event will be held October 30 – November 2 at the University Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Springfield, Missouri.** Sessions will be held October 31 – November 1 with optional field trips on November 2. A limited virtual component of the conference is being planned for those unable to travel to Missouri, but we hope to see many of you there!

Paper, Presentation, and Poster Options

Your abstract can fit into one of six categories (as shown below in "Potential Topics"). 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 is 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. ***A special poster contest for Emerging Professionals will be held as part of the conference.***

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.

Important Dates

1. **June 17, 2022:** Abstract submittals are due. Beginning March 1, abstracts can be submitted to the Mega-Conference Abstract Portal at: http://www.nawt.org/call_for_abstracts.html
2. **June 24, 2022:** Authors will be notified of the Education Committee's selection and provided with instructions regarding paper, presentation, and poster criteria and format.
3. **August 26, 2022:** Draft paper manuscripts due for review by the NOWRA Education Committee.
4. **September 9, 2022:** Draft presentations due.
5. **September 16, 2022:** Comments and/or edited papers returned to the author. If re-review is required, they will be due on September 23, 2022.
6. **September 30, 2022:** 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 removed from the agenda.

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 presentation. 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**
Inspections	**Soil Evaluations**

Abstract Submittal Requirements

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

1. **Abstract Type:** Technical, Policy, Management, Installation, Inspection, and/or Soil Evaluation
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:** Presentations will be in-person.

Questions about a Topic or Conference?

Please discuss questions about the applicability of topics for the conference with Education Committee Chair, Gary Hawkins, by email at ghawkins@uga.edu.

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

To submit an abstract for the 2022 Mega-Conference, please use the following link to submit your abstract(s) by June 17, 2022:

https://nawt.org/call_for_abstracts.html

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