President's Message
2026 Mega Conference

Christopher W. LeClair, REHS
Director, Land & Resource Management
Otter Tail County, MN

NOWRA
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association



Thank You Sponsors!

eljen CORPORATION

Jet® Wastewater Treatment Solutions
Founded on Innovation. Anchored by Service.®

Infiltrator™ Water Technologies
Part of ADS

FujiClean

NAWT
National Association of Wastewater Technicians

TUF-TITE®

VALLEY PRECAST
COLORADO PRECAST

NPCA
NATIONAL PRECAST CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

Sponsors

- Infiltrator Water Technologies – Conference Tote Bags & Welcome Reception
- FujiClean USA– Conference Lanyards
- National Association of Wastewater Technologies – Conference USB Drives

Sponsors

- National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA) – Opening Session

- Valley Precast – Morning Breaks

- Tuf-Tite, Inc. – Afternoon Breaks

Sponsors

- Eljen, Corp. – Off-Site Social Event



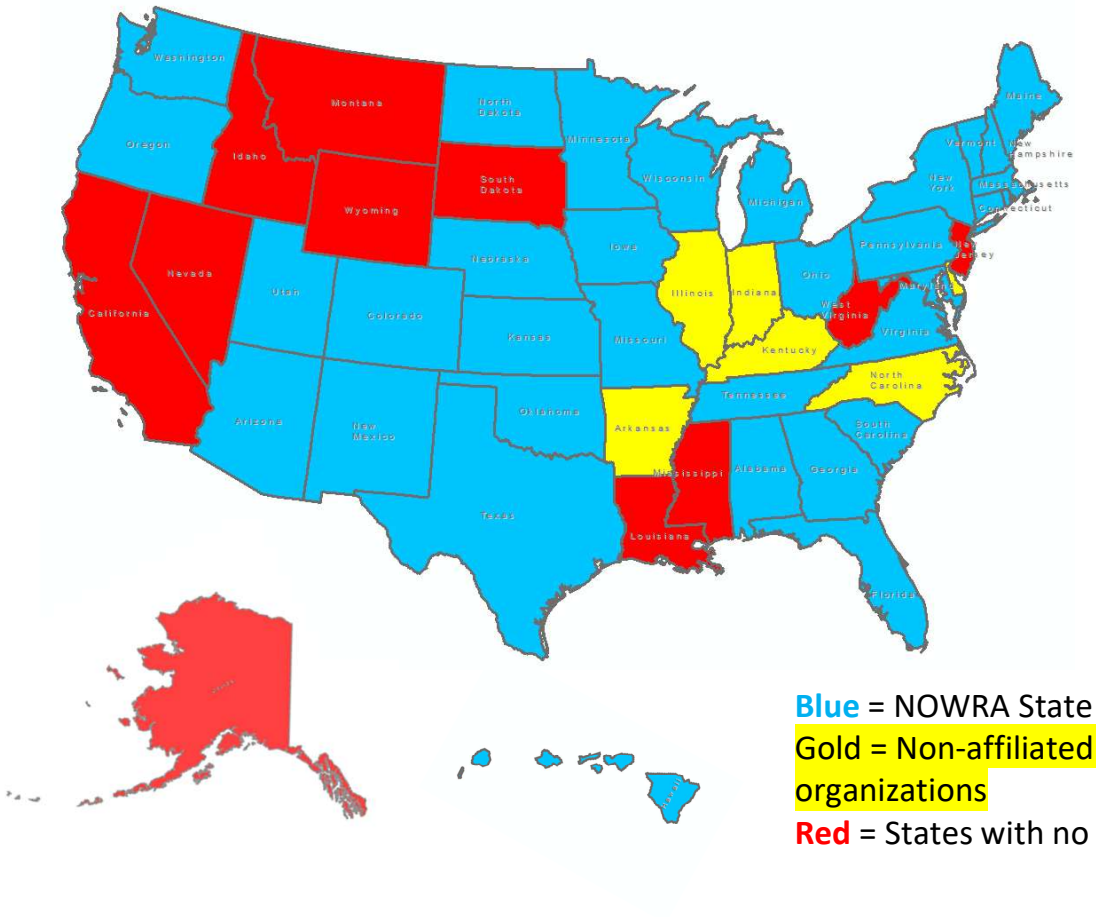
- Jet, Inc. – Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe Competition



- CWS Excavating – Providing the backhoe



NOWRA State Affiliates



- AzOWRA (Arizona)
- AOWA (Alabama)
- CPOW (Colorado)
- FOWA (Florida)
- GOWA (Georgia)
- GSOWA (New Hampshire)
- HOWRA (Hawaii)
- IOWWA (Iowa)
- KSFA (Kansas)
- MOWPA (Maryland)
- MOWRA (Michigan)
- MOWA (Minnesota)
- MSO (Missouri)
- NDOWRA (North Dakota)
- New York
- O2WA (Oregon)
- OOWA (Ohio)
- OOWA-OK (Oklahoma)
- POWRA-NM (New Mexico)
- POWRA-PA (Pennsylvania)
- SCOWA (S. Carolina)
- TOWA (Tenn)
- TxOWA (Texas)
- UOWA (Utah)
- VOWRA (Virginia)
- WOSSA (Washington)
- WOWRA (Wisconsin)
- YOWA (New England)

Blue = NOWRA State Affiliates
Gold = Non-affiliated state organizations
Red = States with no onsite association

5,500+ Members

30 states

26 affiliates

International Affiliates

- Australia – January 1, 2027



Current Executive Committee



Role	Member
Incoming VP	Kate Carney (CO)
Executive Director	Tom Groves (MA)
President	Chris LeClair (MN)
Secretary/Treasurer	Jim King (CT)
Vice President	Dwayne Jones (MD)

Volunteers

- NOWRA Board Members
- NOWRA Committee Chairs



Board Members

Wearing Trademutt shirts

TradeMutt is a social impact workwear brand created by tradies, for tradies. Known for its bold, eye-catching designs, TradeMutt uses workwear to spark conversations about mental health within the blue-collar community, making the invisible impossible to ignore.



2026 Board of Directors

Category	Board Member
Academic	Gary Hawkins (GA)
	Anish Jantrania (TX)
Engineer/Designer	Kate Carney (CO)
	Kwame Agyare (CA)
Installer	Brian Koski (MN)
	Brian Wakefield (TX)
Service Provider	Chris Chapman (M0)
	Zak Sherman (OH)
Regulator	Nicholas Huber (OK)
	Michael Broussard (NM)
Manufacturer	Claude Goguen (IN)
	Ashley Donnelly (CT)

Board of Directors Election

The 2026 election for NOWRA Board of Directors began on September 1, 2026 for the following positions:

The term will begin December 1, 2026 and run through November 30, 2029.

Candidate profiles and statements can be found



Candidate Profiles & Statements

- Academic – Robert Bair (CO) or Amal Bakchan (TX)
- Engineer/Designer – Jonathan Maass (TX) or Dawn Rohrs (OK)
- Regulator – Michael Broussard (NM) or Robin Mack (SC)
- Supplier/Manufacturer – Ashley Donnelly (CT), Cynthia Morton-Rolleston (ME), or Mike Vernon (TX)



Current Committees

Committee/Task Force	Chair	Vice Chair
Conference	Kate Carney	Tom Groves
Corporate Members	Ashley Donnelly	Brenda Faz
Education	Gary Hawkins	Andrew Lazur
Emerging Professionals	Jonathan Kaiser	Jilian Maxcy-Brown
Government Relations	Carl Thompson	Roxanne Groover
Marketing	Donna Fiorentino	Jenny Borgeson
Online Training	Sara Heger	
Onsite Journal	Robert Bair	
State Leaders	Jessi Wood	Tammy Trantham
Technical Practices	Chris Strycharz	(co) Mike Vernon

Staff

Name	Title
Tom Groves	Executive Director
Tricia Scott	Operations Coordinator

Program at a Glance

NOWRA and its State Affiliates, with USDA Rural Development support, deliver free, hands-on technical assistance to small rural communities facing onsite and decentralized wastewater challenges.

$2.30M

Total Award

USDA Rural Utilities Service FY26 Technical Assistance & Training (TAT) Grant ($2,297,737.71)

10

State Affiliate Sub-Awards

$145,798 each, delivering assistance on the ground

63%

Flows to the Affiliates

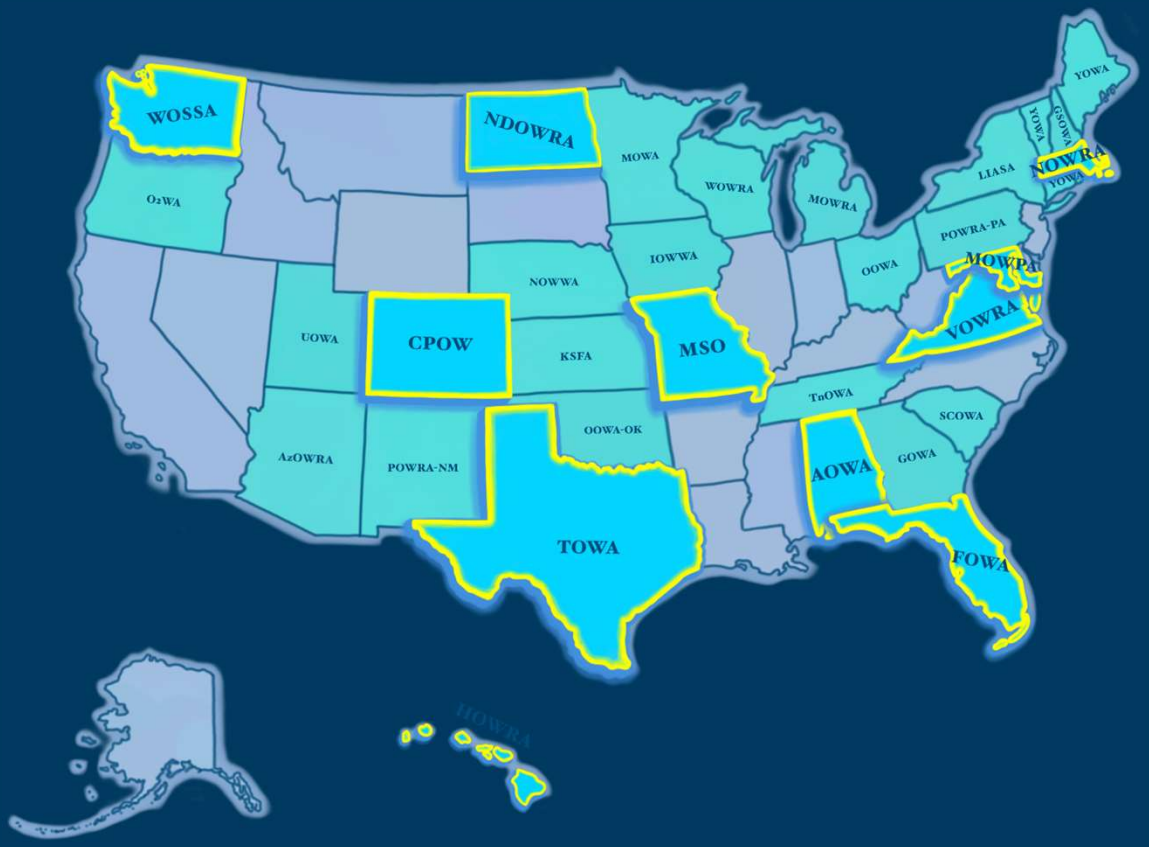
$1,457,980 goes directly to the Affiliates doing the work

Oct 1

Launched on Schedule

Grant term: Oct 1, 2026 – Sep 30, 2027

Our 10 State Affiliates



SUB-RECIPIENTS

Alabama AOWA / Auburn University
Colorado CPOW
Florida FOWA
Hawaii HOWRA
Maryland MOWPA
Missouri MSO
North Dakota NDOWRA
Texas TOWA
Virginia VOWRA
Washington WOSSA

$145,798 each | $1,457,980 total

Yellow outline: funded Affiliates and NOWRA (Massachusetts). Teal: other NOWRA State Affiliates.

Staff

Name	Title
Tom Groves	Executive Director
Tricia Scott	Operations Coordinator
Sara Heger	Director of Educational Grants
Vern Steel	Technical Assistance Program Manager
David Laughlin	Program Manager
Ashley Voight	Education and Program Specialist
Marcia Degen	Technical Specialist
Tom Fritts	Technical Specialist
Chris Edwards	Technical Specialist

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Yurie Shirakawa, Ph.D,
Japan Education Center of Environmental Sanitation



- Senior Researcher
  - Center for International Cooperation of Johkasou System

Dr. Bryan Brooks, Baylor University

- Distinguished Professor and Director
- Baylor Environment and Health Research Laboratory



Andrew Sawyers, U.S. EPA

- Director, Office of Wastewater Management



Federal Lobbying Updates
The Southern Group

- Tim Perrin
- Marissa Campbell





Emerging Professionals Scholarship

- Fundraising Efforts
  - **Cornhole ("Bags") Tournament**
    - Final Four in the Exhibit Hall at 4:45 today
- **Edge of Glory**: Cody Vigil and Lawrence Lambert
- **Todd**: Alex Ellison and partner
- **Guardians of the Galaxy**: Joe Fayan and Jim Bransfield
- **Septic Shooters**: Vern Steel and Tammy Talton

- Thank you to the sponsors:
  - Jones Pump Service
  - Wieser Concrete
  - Infiltrator
  - NOWRA
  - CPOW
- Thank you to the following donors
  - Eljen
  - VibraWaste
  - WWET Show
  - Valley Precast

Emerging Professionals 50/50 Raffle

PRICING:
1 Ticket for $5
Or
10 Tickets for $20

Flyers are posted with Venmo & PayPal QR Codes

Cash accepted at registration desk

Give Money, Get Money!

Starting amount is $500 and every ticket adds to it.

Winner keeps half of final total amount, and the other half goes to the

CPOW & NOWRA Scholarship Funds

Every Registrant gets a ticket and a chance to win!
Additional purchased tickets can be retrieved at the registration desk.

Drawing will occur during Lunch on Tuesday, Oct 27th.

WINNER MUST BE PRESENT TO CLAIM PRIZE.

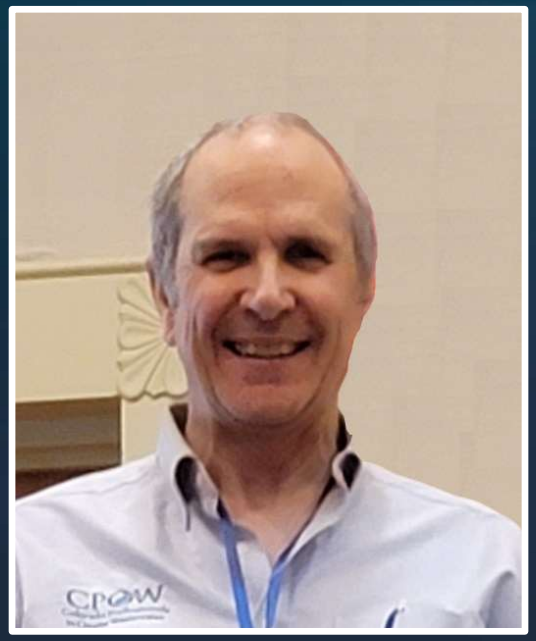
NOWRA
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association

CPOW
Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater

2026 NOWRA & 2027 CPOW

Scholarship Recipients

2027 Warren Brown Scholarship



- Avid CPOW Member
- Educator

CPOW
Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater



2026 ONSITE WASTEWATER MEGA CONFERENCE
Westminster, Colorado

2027 Warren Brown Scholarship Recipient :

Sierra Nordwald

Undergraduate Student
Civil Engineering
Colorado State University

During her internship at 285 Engineering, Sierra developed a strong passion for onsite wastewater systems and geotechnical engineering. She aspires to build a career in geotechnical engineering, focusing on designing safe, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure for communities across Colorado and beyond.

CPOW
Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater



2026 ONSITE WASTEWATER MEGA CONFERENCE
Westminster, Colorado

2027 Warren Brown Scholarship Recipient:

Emma Brechbuhler

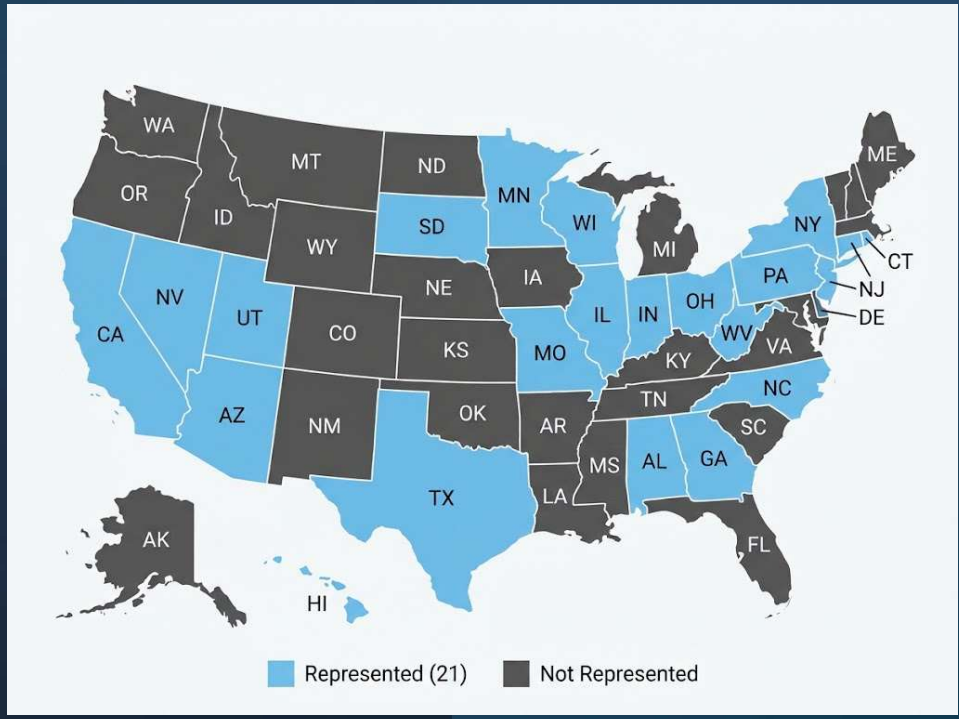
Undergraduate Student
Environmental Engineering
Colorado School of Mines

Raised camping, hiking, and skiing across the Mountain West, Emma developed a lifelong passion for the natural environment. She is currently pursuing a B.S. in Environmental Engineering combined with a Master's in Environmental Geochemistry. Her academic exposure to wastewater reuse has inspired a strong commitment to a future career in water reclamation.

CPOW
Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater

2026 NOWRA Scholarship

- 4th Year
- 38 Applications
- 30 reviewers





2026 ONSITE WASTEWATER MEGA CONFERENCE
Westminster, Colorado

2026 NOWRA Scholarship Recipient:

Bridget Robles

Masters Student of Business Administration,
University of Houston Clear Lake

Bridget Robles turned her passion for wildlife into a career by earning a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Houston and becoming a Wastewater Plan Reviewer for the Harris County Engineering Department. She reviews onsite sewage facility permits for regulatory compliance and is pursuing an MBA at the University of Houston–Clear Lake to prepare for managing complex wastewater infrastructure programs in the private sector.

NOWRA



2026 ONSITE WASTEWATER MEGA CONFERENCE
Westminster, Colorado

2026 NOWRA Scholarship Recipient:

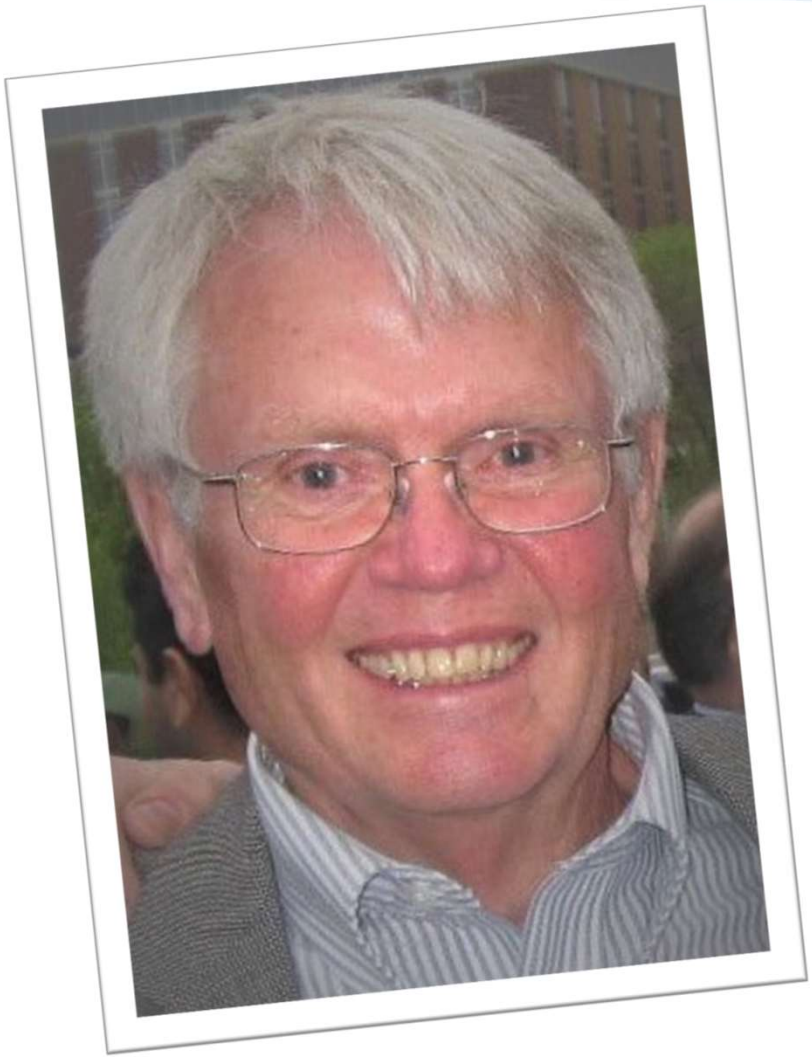
Amber Rule

Masters Student
Civil Engineering
San Diego State University

Amber Rule's research focuses on modeling organics and nutrient removal in an anaerobic baffled reactor with a low-energy bioelectrochemical system for onsite wastewater treatment. She is passionate about advancing innovative decentralized wastewater systems that contribute to practical, environmentally responsible solutions that benefit communities and future generations

NOWRA

Richard J. Otis Award



Richard J. Otis Award

- This award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to both NOWRA and the onsite industry.
- The award is named in honor of Dick Otis, who invented and helped develop many onsite technologies in use today. Otis was a dedicated advocate of the onsite industry, an active member of NOWRA's leadership, and involved with many other water organizations.

2026 Richard J Otis Award Recipient

- Our very own “Septic Sam”

Carl Thompson of Infiltrator Water Technologies

