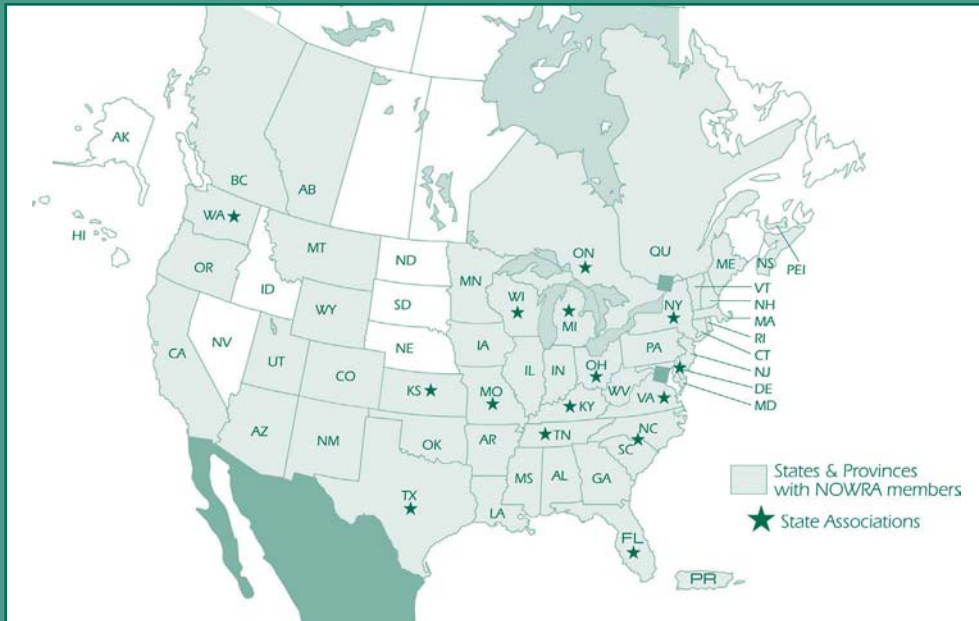




Onsite Insight

National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association



FEATURED THEME:

★ **THE ACTIVITIES OF NOWRA
STATE AND CONSTITUENT GROUPS**

★ **2002 EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Volume 11, No. 1
January-February 2002

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Onsite Insight

National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association

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BEHIND THE GAVEL

by Robert B. Mayer, MSPE,
NOWRA President

What were you doing on September 11, 2001? I was on my way to Pennsylvania for the first NOWRA Educational Drip conference. Bob Lee was already there and we had Bruce Lesiker in the air over Pennsylvania soon to be on his way back to Texas. The conference, of course, was postponed and everyone was safe at the end of the day. Certainly the world has changed for all of us now.

We have seen a lot of progress for NOWRA regarding the development of programs and extending NOWRA's reputation nationally with both government entities and other national associations. With this success come demands on our central office. In this national economic recession and post-September 11th economy, the demands on our association are certainly challenging to fulfill. To meet these challenges we had asked the EPA to extend their support to maintain Bob Lee's activities as a full time NOWRA Executive Director. The EPA has its own problems so they were unable to provide sufficient funding, so Bob is now back at EPA full time. We will miss his leadership. The good news is that we have a great friend in the EPA and we still have Linda Hanifin Bonner as our Executive Director to keep our programs going, and Carolyn to administer the membership services tasks. **Most of all, we send a huge and grateful Thank You to Bob Lee for his accomplishments and services for NOWRA for the past 18 months.** Bob will continue to be involved with NOWRA as a very active member and volunteer.

The short-term activities have been impacted by this change but our

long-term goals and program development remain the same. The last newsletter outlined the "Business of NOWRA." These programs still continue and are very important to NOWRA and the industry. We continue to provide a forum for all practitioners to communicate and we continue to build consensus on both technical and industry policy issues. We have received a grant to help develop the Model Performance Code, and we are applying for more grants to continue the process.

January starts another travel year for me to visit as many association meetings as I can. In January, I will be in Ohio, Virginia, Washington State, and Wisconsin. Michigan and other January meetings will have to wait for Tim Frank, next years' president of NOWRA. February brings NAWT's annual national meeting in Nashville, which everyone should attend. The Board of Directors will meet there. We are working on developing several regional education conferences and will continue to be a national voice for all practitioners in the onsite wastewater industry.

I look forward to my last year as NOWRA's President. The new ways NOWRA will do business in the future are yet to be developed and I look forward to working with all interested parties for NOWRA "to provide leadership and promote the onsite wastewater treatment and recycling industry through education, training, communication and quality tools to support excellence in performance." ♦

—Bob Mayer



A Parting Message from Robert E. Lee, P.E.

By the time you receive this issue of *Onsite Insight*, I will have been back at EPA for several weeks. This action was the result of several factors. First, NOWRA's Board of Directors had to address a funding dilemma at their November 2001 Retreat. The revenues needed to continue to operate NOWRA at the level it has been operating at for the past 17 months just were not there, and there was no prospect of a significant windfall in sight. Second, efforts to generate a major fundraising campaign among the Board members did not materialize. Last, due to financial constraints at the agency, negotiations between the Executive Committee and EPA to increase funding support to NOWRA were futile. As a result, the only financially prudent action the Board could take to continue NOWRA's operations and services was to terminate the existing Inter-personnel Agreement (IPA) between EPA and NOWRA. For those of you who are not aware of the financial arrangements made in September 2000, the EPA allowed me to work for NOWRA, provided NOWRA paid 80% of my salary, with EPA paying 20% for an 18-month period.

I came to NOWRA with a lot of wastewater treatment knowledge, including some background experience in the administration of non-profit organizations. I did not have fund raising background or experience. My job tasks did not include fund raising, although recent efforts have provided some insights on funding. During the past year, significant steps have been taken by the Executive Management Team to work with the Board of Directors to ensure that

continued on page 2

NOWRA is operated as a business and that its activities make enough money to pay for its programs and management services. While this is a reasonable goal, these actions require at least two to three years to materialize. Programs have to be developed and regardless of how fast we wish it to happen, they take more time than ever anticipated. Even once they are up and running, these activities require a period of time to begin to generate a revenue base for them to pay their own way—let alone fund core business. There are several issues facing NOWRA in its ongoing operations.

The first is a fact of reality that the core management staffing and membership services must be funded with revenue collected from three places—dues, the annual conference and educational programs and gifts. However, in 2001, the NOWRA Board of Directors voted to

lower the dues fees for all constituent groups in order to increase the overall membership and continue to be a part of the organization. While that action was successful in retaining constituent groups and bringing in new groups, it reduced the revenue stream significantly, and can never, ever cover the actual cost of providing administrative support for NOWRA's overall membership services. Added to this issue was the transition of AIM members back into NOWRA. While NOWRA gained a substantial number of members from AIM, the transfer did not bring with it any revenue.

Second, while NOWRA's 10th annual conference brought in a very respectable profit and revenue, we had anticipated more attendees this year, that for various reasons, including September 11, did not occur. The third revenue generator—gifts—was down in 2001. There were only four patrons, providing total contributions of

\$11,250. I have no idea what the potential of this organization is to raise funds, but I suspect it is well over a million dollars. The real question is "Does anybody really care enough to get involved in the revenue generating process?"

I believe a lot of members want NOWRA to achieve its vision—so long as they don't have to do any work along the way, or only if members receive an immediate

benefit to the bottom line of their business. If that is the case, NOWRA will flounder. One solution is that **if each member would raise (notice I didn't say could) \$100 from one or more people we could start to support the core essentials for member services, which would allow the type of growth that this organization wants to have in education, training and certification or registration.** Will you ask your neighbor or others who live in your community to contribute? If we all do this, we can develop the tools needed to maintain onsite wastewater systems as viable long-term solutions to our wastewater treatment needs.

Although I am back at EPA, I will continue to work as one of the 3300+ volunteer members, particularly on the model code and membership building. I will be working to get at least a \$100 contribution also. Call me and let me know how you are doing on raising funds. I would like to publish the success stories here for others to read. I can be reached at 202-564-0587 or 703-793-0369 and I will continue to be reached on the web at nowraed@aol.com. ♦

—Bob Lee

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- HOTELS:** Kansas City Hyatt Regency – Single/Double Room - \$129
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- EXPOSITION SPACE:** 10x10 ft. booths include accessories Fees - \$800.00
- EXHIBITORS' PACKAGES WILL BE MAILED FEBRUARY 2002.** Materials are also available on the website
- PLANNED EVENTS:** Technical Education Sessions with CEUs Onsite System Facility Tour
2-Day Basics of Onsite Workshop with CEUs Golf Tournament
Technical Workshops and Seminars Kansas City Barbeque

KANSAS CITY HIGHLIGHTS

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- ♥ Unique Historic Country Club Plaza Complex of shopping, restaurants, and entertainment
- ♥ Famous Kansas City dining experiences range from mid-western barbeque to elegant eating in historic settings
- ♥ Historic and cultural attractions




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NOWRA LAUNCHES ACCELERATED 2002 EDUCATION PROGRAM

In response to membership needs for education and training, NOWRA announces the following workshops and events planned for the first quarter of 2002. Additional program activities are in the final stages of development and will be posted on NOWRA's website as they are completed.

Certificates of completion for continuing education credits, that can be applied toward maintaining education requirements, will be issued for all of NOWRA's programs. In addition to the courses listed below, the following NOWRA Education Program materials are ready and available for scheduling.

- A 1- and 2-day Course on **The Basics of Onsite Wastewater Systems—A to Z**
- **EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT of Onsite Systems—Opportunities & Challenges** (Case study examples)
- **Onsite System Control Technology—Effective Installation and Maintenance Practices for Onsite Systems**
- **Drip Distribution Systems**

Also being developed is a new 2-day course on The Design of Onsite Wastewater Systems—for Large & Small Applications

Organizations and groups desiring to serve as host to one of these programs should contact NOWRA's headquarters office at 1-800-966-2942.

THE BASICS OF ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS—A to Z

- February 1, 2002 – Fayetteville, Arkansas
Continuing Education Center
- February 26, 2002 – Nashville, Tennessee
In conjunction with the Tennessee Onsite Wastewater Association Meeting
- April 2002 – Virginia (to be announced)

HIGH STRENGTH WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

—a working conference of onsite wastewater professionals focused on learning what high strength wastewater is, where it's found and what to do about it.

- March 14-15, 2002 – San Antonio, Texas
Holiday Inn Riverwalk Conference Hotel
Early registration deadline – February 8
Contact: Septic Systems Express (210) 490-9780

DRIP DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS (2-day Workshop with CEUs)

- April 18-19, 2002 – Franklin, Tennessee
Franklin Cool Spring Marriott Hotel
In cooperation with the Tennessee Valley Authority and Department of Agriculture
Contact the NOWRA office or obtain registration information from the website
- May 2002 – (northwest location under discussion)


NOWRA Model Performance Code Committee Meetings

- March 19-20 – Newport, Rhode Island
- Week of May 12 – to be announced
- September 16-17 – Kansas City, Missouri

See the Calendar of Events (page 15) for Additional Onsite events and activities. ♦

NOWRA'S 2002 MEMBERSHIP, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES DIRECTORY DEADLINES

As we write, the final efforts are underway to produce NOWRA's new directory. The deadline for listing current Memberships in the directory, and securing advertising space, is February 28, 2002. Prime advertising space is still available. Please use the membership form on NOWRA's website to mail or fax your current information along with your 2002 dues, in order to be included accurately. Further questions, please call NOWRA's office at 1-800-966-2942.



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NOWRA Board Retreat Gets 2002 Work Underway

On November 28, NOWRA Board members and committee chair persons spent nearly 2-1/2 days addressing the costs of providing member services and operating the Association. This work resulted in a significant number of actions to occur over the next three months.

1. Obtaining legal opinion and direction on actions for NOWRA to pursue (as an existing 501C(6) organization) in forming a 501C(3) structure for educational donations and a 'for-profit' entity for business purposes for its insurance program.
2. Conducting a review of the *Onsite Insight* Journal costs to determine where savings can be accrued. [At this time, any of the Journal's production, printing and postage costs not covered by advertisement revenues are subsidized by the Association.]
3. Developing and marketing an aggressive education and training program for

early 2002 that includes:

- Three A to Z (short) courses—one in early February in Arkansas, and two other states
 - Two Drip Distribution Workshops – one jointly sponsored with the Tennessee Valley Authority and one in a mid-western state
 - A new workshop on managing high strength wastewater—jointly sponsored with the Texas Onsite Association in March.
4. Identifying aggressive advertising program strategies to gain additional revenues to offset expenses for the Onsite Journal and planned 2002 Directory.
 5. Using more volunteers to assist the management staff with several conference and education program activities as a method to reduce fees.
 6. Completing the application process to the National Capacity Development Program to obtain additional funding to

support the development of the soils section of the model performance code.

7. Identifying other revenue or contributing sources to support NOWRA's education and training programs.
8. Aggressively marketing the 2002 conference early in 2002.
9. Immediately billing the membership for 2002 dues and sending letters to all states to encourage making current dues payments.
10. Through the Executive Committee, 2002 Conference Program "co-sponsor" strategy will be developed for Board direction. In addition, President Bob Mayer is appointing Brenda Guy (newly elected Board member) to head up NOWRA's "Sponsor Program" committee. ♦

SPECIAL NEWS UPDATE!!!

MASSACHUSETTS BUZZARDS BAY TEST CENTER REPORTS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL RESULTS ABOUT ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY EFFECTIVENESS*

With a goal of providing homeowners, coastal managers and health agencies with guidance in selecting appropriate onsite system technology to address their needs, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the National Estuary Program reported, in its December 2001 issue of *Coastlines*, on the interim results of the "effectiveness of alternative septic system designs in preventing water quality pollution." (More details in the full report can be downloaded from the BBP website—www.buzzardsbay.org and found on NOWRA's website—www.nowra.org.)

A special focus of the testing was to determine those technologies that showed improved nitrogen removal efficiencies. For this major project, a new test center was constructed on Cape Cod—in the Buzzards Bay area. The tests conducted on three technologies—Waterloo Biofilter, ECO-Ruck and MicroFAST—are designed to provide information on methods that meet the need for cost-effective wastewater disposal systems that are suitable for sites with limited space, poor soils, high water tables, or where advanced pollutant removal is needed. Special fact sheets are now available that summarize the interim findings and contain information about the theory of operation, test loadings, siting considerations, installation, costs, permitting, operation and maintenance.

*Information obtained from *Coastlines*, December 2001 Issue 11.6—a publication of the Urban Harbors Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston—prepared in cooperation with the US EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds. ♦



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THE LOCAL REGULATOR & "THE BUSINESS OF NOWRA"

Ralph Benson, R.S.

Local regulators often face huge and sometimes impossible challenges. The challenges are as varied as the locales. The circumstances range from sanitarians wearing every hat in small health departments to sanitarians in large health districts spending most of their time dealing only with onsite issues. Cataloguing local regulatory issues is beyond our scope here. Instead, I'll list just a few situations that weigh heavily on most local regulators and offer some thoughts on how NOWRA can support regulators.

A short list of situations involving issues of general concern includes: enforcing local regulations requiring that onsite systems be maintained; dealing with varying levels of competence and professionalism among local contractors, suppliers, and vendors of technologies; carrying the burden of "protecting consumers" because of insufficient free-market checks and balances within the current onsite business model; revisiting properties to negotiate system re-designs because of lack of coordination during site development or building construction, or installation problems; contending with customers and others who hold popular, but erroneous, ideas about onsite systems and related matters.

If you've had experience with any of the above situations, you know that they frequently consume large amounts of time and cause varying levels of stress, often unnecessarily...for all of the parties involved. Situations are sometimes only tangentially related to regulatory issues, but become the regulator's problems by

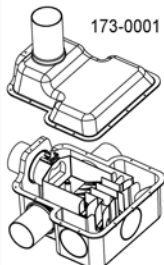
default. And why is this? Because there is still much work to be done before onsite emerges as a mature and professional industry. These example situations represent typical onsite issues, some of which can be technically complex and usually involve people who lack good information and guidance. Developing the means to effectively deal with these kinds of issues requires a sustained commitment, the forging of consensus, contributions of time by those concerned, and money...things usually not found in abundance at the local level. Through their membership and participation, regulators can contribute to the NOWRA mission to provide leadership and promote the onsite wastewater treatment and recycling industry through education, training, communication and quality tools to support excellence in performance.

The Business of NOWRA envisions a new model for onsite program performance and NOWRA is developing the means to implement this model. The model's goal is nothing less than the evolution of a sustainable unsewered infrastructure. Revisit the NOWRA Model Framework document...and consider how its components support the role of regulators.

Many states have NOWRA-affiliated organizations to focus on local priorities while lending support to the broad national effort. If you are not a member, please join. Become a partner in "Making the difference in Onsite." ♦

Ralph Benson, R.S., is a long-time, active Illinois NOWRA member and recently completed a two-year term of office as a member of its Board of Directors. Benson is also active on NOWRA's Communications and Ethics Committees.

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MARCH-APRIL ONSITE INSIGHT THEME: PRETREATMENT AND HIGH STRENGTH WASTE CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

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To be published in April, 2002
Advertising Deadline: February 28, 2002

Special Focus—

THE ACTIVITIES OF NOWRA STATE AND CONSTITUENT GROUPS

Without the activities of its state and constitute groups, the work of NOWARA could not achieve its goal of leadership in improving the high standards of the onsite industry and providing ongoing education and training. The following group reports represent an important segment of our work.

OHIO ONSITE WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

The Ohio Onsite Wastewater Association was initiated in 1998, and officially formed as a NOWRA constituent group in 1999. The group was formed in anticipation of legislative changes and included both industry and regulatory enthusiasts who saw the need for an Ohio association that was able to bring together the diverse interests in promoting the onsite profession in Ohio. The association was formed with a strong intent to focus on education.

OOWA's first president, Jeff Malcolm of Norwalk Concrete Industries, served through the year 2000 and provided the leadership necessary to bring a professional organization into being. Jeff was succeeded by Robert Wildey, Director of Water and Waste at the Clermont County General Health District, who served during 2001. Conall Stapleton, an installer in Southwest Ohio serves as the third OOWA president in 2002. The transition in leadership from manufacturer/supplier to regulator to installer has given OOWA a well rounded vision.

OOWA held its third annual conference on January 8 & 9, 2002 in Dayton, Ohio. This annual Convention & Trade Show is a joint effort with the Ohio Land Improvement Contractors Association (OLICA) and is a "win-win" for both associations and attendees. Vendors have a much larger audience for their exhibits and there is more variety on the agenda for contractors working in both onsite and drainage. The joint OOWA/OLICA reception and buffet dinner held in the trade show area has been a big hit and provides an enjoyable opportunity for networking and relaxing with fellow professionals.

In addition to its annual conference, OOWA's current priority is the

development of a voluntary Installer Certification Program. A committee has been formed to develop the program and work has begun on organizing the training needs. Also, local health districts are being surveyed to determine their perceived value of such a program and to solicit their support in providing some form of acknowledgement for installers achieving certification.


OOWA keeps its members well informed on legislative and regulatory issues going on at the state level. While the association does not engage in direct lobbying activities, members testify at legislative hearings and participate in advisory roles on regulatory issues. Dave Schwieterman, serves as Regulatory Committee Chair, and is OOWA's representative on the ODH Ad Hoc Household Sewage Advisory Committee.

OOWA publishes a quarterly newsletter, titled "OOWA I.N.F.O. - Industry News for Ohio". OOWA has also developed a comprehensive database of Ohio installers. The Fall quarter conference newsletter is sent out to all installers statewide to encourage their participation in the conference and to promote their membership in both OOWA and NOWRA.

In addition to courting Ohio installers, OOWA





has formed a good working relationship with other partners, including the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and The Ohio State University. OOWA recently hosted five regional ODH information meetings on the Version 3 Draft of proposed household sewage treatment system rules. Just as NOWRA serves at the national level, OOWA strives to serve Ohio as an umbrella organization where all professionals interested in onsite are welcomed.

For additional information on the Ohio Onsite Wastewater Association, contact the "OOWA I.N.F.O." newsletter editor Jean Caudill or Program Committee Chair Tom Grigsby, both of the ODH Residential Water & Sewage Program at 614-466-1390. ♠



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MICHIGAN ONSITE WASTEWATER RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

Greetings from Michigan, one of the few, if not only states without a statewide sanitary code! Hopefully the recently passed Holiday Season was joyous for all out there. My name is Jon Morrison and as the current president of the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association or "MOWRA" as we like to call ourselves, I've been provided this opportunity to share what our organization is all about. You best fasten your seat belts and hold on because my writing can be likened to that of a roller coaster ride with ups and downs, sharp turns and sudden stops. But one thing is for sure—it's an experience!

I'd like to start with our Statement of Purpose because it really does embody what we are all about:

To bring together all of the Onsite Wastewater Professionals in Michigan (regulatory, academic, research, testing, design, consulting, manufacturing, installation and servicing) to form an organization for the purpose of promoting and improving onsite wastewater treatment disposal and management practices which will be safe,

effective, ecologically sound and economically feasible.

To promote the development of more uniform technically based onsite practices and regulations across the state.

To provide a statewide forum for evaluation of codes and regulations, formulation and revising standards and practices and education of the entire onsite profession.

To collect informational resources and provide for meetings, tours, and other methods of information exchange.

With that, let's take a quick tour of what our group has immersed itself in to be true to this purpose:

- A proud sponsor of the Tollgate Center training facility in Novi, Michigan. Many of our individual members continue to volunteer their time to share with and educate others.
- Also a proud sponsor of the annual Michigan Onsite Wastewater Disposal Conference. The oldest such gathering in the nation, I believe, with January 2002 being the 51st annual meeting.
- Instigation of the creation of the Michigan "Technical Advisory Council" (TAC)—an adhoc group of representatives from a variety of onsite

interests across the state. This group has been instrumental in providing unifying, technical guidance in regards to challenges facing onsite in Michigan. We have continuing representation on the Council.

- Establishment and ongoing development of an organizational web page. You can visit us at www.mowra.org
- Publication and distribution of the biannual "Michigan Insight" newsletter. The purpose is very similar in nature to that of the *Onsite Insight*—just focused on Michigan issues and happenings.

Finally, here are a couple of goals our group has for the future:

- Establish greater public recognition of MOWRA as a key group for consideration on wastewater issues within the state. Particularly as relates to legislative enactment and resulting promulgated rules.
- Development of a program to foster enhanced professionalism among all individuals within the various sectors of the onsite industry in Michigan.

We're anxious to learn more in this issue about what our fellow state groups are doing and how this might be applicable to our own organizational growth and improvement. ♦

DELAWARE ONSITE WASTEWATER RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

The Delaware Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (DOWRA) has been in existence since 1996 and has sustained a membership of 60 onsite professionals. DOWRA has been actively involved in a number of programs since its inception. Annually, DOWRA has three membership meetings at the St. Jones Reserve on Kitts Hummock Rd., a scramble start golf tournament and a Conference and Vendor Exposition. The annual golf tournament serves as a fundraiser for our scholarship program. Our Conference and Vendor Exposition provides education and technical sessions, plus a hands on look and feel for the vendors to show their wares.

DOWRA has been involved in other important activities that will shape the onsite industry—not only in Delaware. First, and perhaps largest thus far, is the DOWRA/DNREC (Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control) Partnership Committee, which has been helping with the revising of the Regulations Governing the Design, Operation and Installation of On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems. The partnership has allowed the onsite industry professionals to comment, provide rationale for new directives and feedback to be part of the process. The regulation revisions will be adopted in January 2002. DOWRA has also been heavily involved in the planning stages of an onsite training facility at Delaware Technical Community College in Georgetown. DOWRA members have helped design the training facility layout

and its content along with soliciting interest from onsite industry manufacturers. The Association continually co-sponsors various training seminars and courses. Members teach classes, seminars, and provide technical assistance for onsite professionals throughout the state. With these activities and continued interest in the onsite industry, DOWRA hopes to continue to provide the services the industry needs.

Please look for these things in 2002: new officers; ground-breaking for the training center; golf tournament in October; and another annual conference with backhoe competition. For more information about the DOWRA program contact Jack Hayes at (302) 739-4761 or visit our website @ www.dowra.org. ♦

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ONSITE ACTION IN CALIFORNIA

The California Onsite Wastewater Association (COWA) is the official representative of those concerned with onsite wastewater practices in California. With members from both government and the industry COWA is the voice of both the practitioner and the regulator. The future of COWA in California is one of increasing responsibility with the passage of Assembly Bill 885 (AB885). Existing law controls the discharge of waste with subsurface disposal systems. This bill requires the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), in consultation with state agencies, counties, cities and other "interested parties, to adopt, specified regulations and standards for the permitting and operation of prescribed onsite sewage treatment systems that meet certain requirements."

The law further requires each regional board to "incorporate the State Board's regulations or standards into the appropriate regional water quality control plans." We anticipate that AB 885 will have a major impact on our members' businesses and jobs. We recognize that

stakeholder participation will be a key to achieving successful implementation of the legislation in a timely manner. To address this concern COWA will be represented at the general stakeholder meetings, as well as the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings.

To further address our members concerns, the North Coast Chapter of COWA held an AB 885 workshop on December 6, 2001 in Santa Rosa. The workshop was an unqualified success. With a good cross section of regulators, designers, researchers, contractors and suppliers in attendance the "table topics" generated lively and productive discussions. Mr. Todd Thompson of the California SWRCB was encouraged by the amount and quality of the input. He is charged with the drafting of the model regulations and standards for the agency. COWA is planning to host additional Roundtable Forums, in coordination with the SWRCB, CCDEH and CWTRC through COWA Chapters throughout the state. Work on the next workshop scheduled for the San Diego area is already underway with all interested parties invited to participate.

With SWRCB and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) representatives, we anticipate the future Forums will include representatives from existing onsite wastewater management Districts, other States that have implemented onsite wastewater system regulations, the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association's (NOWRA's) onsite system Performance Code Committee, California Wastewater Training and Research Center's Model Code Development effort, County Health Departments, Designers, academia, equipment manufacturers, and onsite wastewater system contractors.

The expansion of COWA and this ambitious workshop program requires large amounts of time for planning and management. COWA has hired its first full time Executive Director, Clifford Trammel CAE. Cliff has over twenty years of association management experience, most of which is in fields related to COWA. He holds the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation from the American Society of Association Executives. Contact Cliff at clifftr@msn.com.

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THE CONCRETE PRECASTERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO (CPA)

The Concrete Precasters Association of Ontario (CPA) represents 29 manufacturing companies, all producers of septic tanks and wastewater products in Ontario, and are supported by 60 associate members (suppliers and professionals).

CPA has just held their 11th Annual Convention, December 2, 3, and 4, 2001 in the Holiday Inn, Guelph, ON. There was a record attendance of 110 delegates, all members or invited guests. The Exhibitors' Forum featured 25 exhibitors and was the site for the Welcome reception and other functions.

A featured speaker was Ted Loudon, Michigan State University and Past President of NOWRA. Following are some comments received from Ted; "I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of the convention and have a chance to visit with members of the group. The tour of the Unit Precast plant was of great interest to me as was the Training Centre. I was very impressed

with the quality of the products produced by Unit Precast and the care taken to make sure every detail of tank construction is properly looked after".

There is an active Standards Committee, Technical Committee and Marketing Committee. Two years ago the Standards Committee was given the mandate to establish a certification program, tailor made for our industry and an alternative to existing CSA Standards (Canadian Standards Association). The program would need to ensure the quality and consistency of precast concrete wastewater products and become accepted and recognized by the spec writers and regulators. The consulting fraternity would be made aware of the advantages of using CPA certified products.

This program is finally becoming a reality. CPA has hired Ancam Engineering, an independent firm, as the program administrator. The presentation of the program was a feature during the convention. The year 2002 will be the critical year to establish and implement the program. A lot of work is still to be done.

A current project of the CPA Marketing Committee is the revision and re-publication of the popular homeowner handbook "Care & Feeding of Your Septic System." The project is being undertaken on a three-member joint venture between CPA, OASIS (Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services) and ORWC (Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre).

The Technical Committee of CPA, chaired by Mel Marshall, has ongoing projects. They publish "TechNotes" for binder filing and reference for our producer members. These are distributed every few months covering all subjects of interest and become a valuable reference library as they accumulate. They also produce laminated posters for plant use covering safety and other subjects. Once or twice each year the Technical Committee puts on a regional seminar for "hands-on" staff, teaching "Fundamentals of Quality Concrete."

Our constituent membership in NOWRA is a benefit that CPA members enjoy and appreciate. ♦



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CAROLINA ONSITE WATER RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

In COWRA, "water recycling" stands for extracting and returning water from and into the earth close to the POU (point-of-use) through wells and any permitted and appropriate treatment system. We feel that by relating outgoing to incoming water can community leaders and the general public fully appreciate the importance of the documentation and management of onsite water systems on an equal footing with centralized water utilities. Used water (we resent the term "wastewater") can be properly neutralized by a variety of soil-based or enhanced technologies before it is returned to local ground water, but that requires technical oversight through local onsite utilities. Accomplishing that goal is a major mission for COWRA in the Carolinas during this decade. We hope to be funded for some of this work through an US-EPA "319" grant.

Since our low-key start in late 1998, we have evolved into a credible partner with the local environmental and technical agencies, representing commercial and academic and regulatory interests. We have issued quarterly newsletters and held quarterly fieldtrips covering a variety of technical topics related to onsite water. In order to promote the licensing and certification of all those involved with onsite water, we publish a calendar of all training and certification seminars, courses and conferences. Late in 2001, we launched a website (www.carolinaonsite.org) as a medium for public education and information; and to maintain an up-to-date reference to applicable rules and regulations in North & South Carolina; and as a link to all relevant technical information sources. ♦

President: Willem van Eck Executive Director: Lori Watts
PO Box 491, Cary NC 27512 PO Box 1251, Belmont NC 28012
919/380-1202 fax 380-7694 704/827-4733 fax 748-1200

Northeast Onsite Wastewater Treatment Short Course and Equipment Exposition in Newport, Rhode Island

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) announces its First Northeast Onsite Wastewater Treatment Short Course and Equipment Exposition. The conference, scheduled for March 25-26, 2002, at the Hyatt Regency Newport in beautiful Newport, Rhode Island, is sponsored by a diverse group of agencies and industries here in New England.

The conference theme, "Managing Wastewater Needs Beyond the Sewers," features nationally recognized speakers, the latest in onsite/decentralized technology, and wastewater management solutions for the protection of our water resources. The conference is also a comprehensive course covering topics from the basics of onsite wastewater treatment to innovative/alternative technologies and their test results. An exhibit area featuring the latest in onsite technology is an integral part of the conference.

All members of the onsite wastewater industry are cordially invited to attend and become an important part in this first-of-its-kind conference in the northeast. The cost is \$195.00 per person for local and state government representatives and \$295.00 for non-regulators. Vendor exhibit space is available for \$390 (single) and \$590 (double). Vendor registration includes a complimentary registration per booth. All registrations include breaks, lunches, and conference proceedings. Optional field trips offer attendees an opportunity to view the University of Rhode Island Onsite Training Center, the Buzzards Bay Alternative Test Center, and more! (See related article about the Buzzards Bay Center results, page 5.) A detailed program agenda will be available in early January 2002.

We look forward to seeing you in Newport this spring! Additional information is available at (978) 323-7929 or mail@neiwpc.org. Thomas W. Groves, Director of Wastewater and Onsite Programs, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, Boot Mills South, 100 Foot of John Street, Lowell, MA 01852



2002 Calendar of Events

JANUARY 22-23, 2002

Missouri Small Flows Organization Annual Meeting
636-433-2255

JANUARY 25-26, 2002

Wisconsin Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
Annual Meeting
Marriott Madison West Hotel – Middleton, WI

JANUARY 29-30, 2002

IOWWA 4th Annual Conference & Exhibition
Des Moines, Iowa
Information: 515-830-1229

FEBRUARY 8-9, 2002

Ohio Water Quality Conference
Columbus, Ohio
614/249-8150

FEBRUARY 13-14, 2002

NOWWA 2nd Annual Convention in conjunction with
the Nebraska Well Drillers Association
Lincoln, Nebraska
Contact: Doug Passmore 402/476-0162

FEBRUARY 25-26, 2002

Tennessee Onsite Wastewater Association Annual Meeting
Nashville, TN

FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 2, 2002

Pumper & Cleaner Environmental Expo
Opryland Hotel - Nashville, TN

MARCH 6-7, 2002

Arizona County Directors of Environmental Health
Services Assn. workshop
Laughlin, Nevada
Contact: Dan Smith, President at (928) 226-2713
e-mail to: danrosesmith@msn.com

MARCH 10, 2002

Capital Improvements Planning for Small Systems
Delaware Environmental Training Center
301/855-5900

MARCH 21-23, 2002

Small Flows Regulators Meeting
Hyatt Regency Hotel - Newport, RI

MARCH 25-26, 2002

New England Interstate Water Pollution Control
Commission (NEIWPC)
First Northeast Onsite Wastewater Treatment Short
Course and Equipment Exposition
Hyatt Regency Hotel - Newport, RI

MARCH 27-28, 2002

Great Plains Waste Management & Alternative
Water and Wastewater Technologies for
Small Communities
Omaha, Nebraska
402-471-3193

APRIL 3-4, 2002

The 11th Northwest Onsite Wastewater Treatment Short
Course and Equipment Exhibition
(replaces the postponed Sept 17-18, 2001 conference
Seattle, WA
Website data: <http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp/Wwt>.
Contact: Christy Roop, Conference Manager, University
of Washington, Engineering Professional Programs,
10303 Meridian Ave. N, #301, Seattle, WA 98133

SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2002

2002 NOWRA Conference and Exposition
Kansas City, MO



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