

Industry News You Can Use

Plan Reviews

Reports of delays with POWTS Plan Reviews emerged in the last few weeks following a relatively quiet Summer, when DSPS reported wait times of a week or two, despite an increased number of plan submittals. Additional part-time staff and the limited use of field staff has kept review times down.

So why the recent change? It seems the eSLA computer system experienced an extended outage and, while the system is up and running again, the plans submitted during that period have created a backlog. The DSPS is using overtime to catch up on the backlog and believes they will be caught up quickly.

We invite you to share your plan review experience – both good and bad – with WOWRA so that we can continue the dialogue with DSPS on ways to improve the administration of the POWTS program.

Another eSLA Workshop Coming Soon

And speaking of eSLA, WOWRA will be running a program before the end of the year on the eSLA and some steps you can take to make sure your plans are reviewed in a timely manner.

Leadership Changes at DSPS

The DSPS has announced that Donna Moreland will serve as Deputy Secretary of the agency, which handles the majority of the state's occupational licensing and administers the building code.

Moreland's first day was October 12 as she replaces Nia Trammell, who is leaving DSPS to fill a seat on the Dane County Circuit Court. Previously the office business director for law firm Perkins Coie, LLP, Moreland has worked in legal administration for more than 15 years. Moreland also previously represented District 7 on the Madison City Council.

About her appointment, Moreland said, "I am honored to join DSPS, and I look forward to working closely with Secretary-designee Dawn Crim to serve our customers and the people of Wisconsin. This is a tremendous opportunity to make a difference on a state-wide level."

POWTS Technical Advisory Committee Meets

On Wednesday, October 7, there was a meeting of the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The POWTS TAC advises the DSPS concerning voluntary POWTS component manual review in accordance with Section SPS 384.10(3), Wisconsin Administrative Code. The meeting agenda listed one technical advisory matter for discussion and consideration: a proposal for permitting the experimental use of a septic tank retrofit unit.

OCTOBER 2020

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Senator Marklein & Representative Kurtz Visit Jobsite

On Friday, September 4, State Senator Howard Marklein (R - Senate District 17), as part of his "Hire Howard" outreach in his district, joined WOWRA Member T & G Soil and Water at a jobsite on Lake Petenwell in northern Juneau County. The Senator was joined by State Representative Tony Kurtz (R - 50th Assembly District), who also represents that area.

Along with Tom and Sheri Guyse, WOWRA leadership – President Mark Wieser, Lobbyist George Klaetsch, and Executive Director Jeff Beiriger – visited the jobsite.

The Senator does more than just visit with local business owners. Instead, he looks for ways to actively engage with them by performing some of the work.

It's especially important for WOWRA and its members to spread the word to legislators and the administration about the important role our industry plays in rural economic development. Currently, more than a third of the state relies on properly designed, installed, and maintained POWTS systems and everyone – regardless of where you live – relies on them as a means to protect the state's groundwater resources.

We thank these legislators and others for their continued support of rural constituencies and their hard work in addressing the multiple obstacles that face rural residents. It is apparent that WOWRA members and staff share the same interest, support and passion in ensuring we address and overcome these obstacles by working together and educating those elected officials who may not have same rural experiences and understanding as their rural colleagues.

It's our sincere hope that the day was well-spent for the legislators and their staff and that they left us with a renewed appreciation for the level of training, expertise and commitment that it takes to ensure the land, environment, homeowners and installation is POWTS-ready and code compliant.

Take a look at some of the photos from the event!







Court Case Addresses Duty to Report

A recent Appeals Court decision may be of some interest....

The Wisconsin Court of Appeals held that a contractor did not owe the property owner a duty to warn him about the poor condition of his septic tank's cover or to take other action to prevent him from falling through the cover into the tank.

Facts

The homeowner hired the contractor on two occasions to pump his home's septic tank. The first time, the contractor noted that the tank's lid was rusty and he warned the homeowner that he should get it replaced. The second time he did not say anything.

About a month later, the homeowner went for a walk on his property, stepped on the septic tank lid, and fell through. He was stuck in the tank approximately five and a half hours and experienced trauma as a result. He preceded to sue the contractor for not warning him.

Decision

The circuit court ruled for the contractor, holding that the contractor was hired to pump the septic tank, not inspect it. As such, he owed no duty to warn the homeowner about the condition of the lid on the tank. The court of appeals affirmed, though it first analyzed industry custom, the county's septic system ordinance, and general common law to see if any imposed a foreseeable duty. The court found they did not.

Webcasts about Onsite Wastewater Treatment

EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Management MOU Partnership sponsors quarterly webcasts to discuss issues of interest to the decentralized community. You can find the transcripts, speaker lists, and presentations from each of the webcasts.

https://www.epa.gov/septic/webcasts-about-onsite-wastewater-treatment#disaster

A sampling of topics include:

Natural Disaster Preparedness and Recovery for Communities Served by Decentralized Wastewater Systems Career Perspectives in Decentralized Wastewater Management
State Examples of Septic System Data Management
To De or Not to De? - The Centralized Question

Fire Safety

October is Fire Safety Month, so it's the perfect time to review a few simple steps you can take to prevent fires!

A pile of oily rags; an old power strip; a cigarette discarded in the wrong spot — fire risks can be anywhere. That's why it's important to be on the lookout for the hazards that can injure your employees and make your business go up in smoke. Review and revamp your business's fire-safety measures to help increase the chances that you'll find fire before fire finds you.

An Ongoing Concern

While a spotlight shines on fire prevention around this time every year, your efforts to curb devastating blazes before they start should last all year long. There is no one-size-fits-all fire-prevention strategy. It's important to understand the basics, then use that knowledge to create a plan that fits your business's unique needs.

While every business presents unique fire hazards, some dangers are nearly universal. The following considerations are a great place to start when creating or strengthening your fire-prevention plan:

Are your electrical systems current? Faulty wiring, improper use of power strips and extension cords, and system overloads are leading causes of business fires. Regularly evaluate your electrical system and policies that govern its use.

Is your equipment in good repair? Continuing to use outdated equipment or trying to save some money by skipping maintenance could prove costly. Update or maintain your equipment according to recommendations from manufacturers or service professionals.

Fires need fuel. Starve fire of the materials it needs to get started and spread through your business. Make sure your work areas are tidy, your walkways are clear, and your storage spaces are orderly. Get rid of unnecessary clutter and combustibles throughout your building to help minimize the fire load.

Comfort could come at a cost. Space heaters can be just what you need to warm up a chilly spot, but these handy little devices are a significant cause of business fires. Remind employees to turn them off before they leave for the evening — or consider banning them from the business altogether.

A Team Effort

Effective fire prevention takes the whole team. Cooperation from employees is essential, so involve them in every step of the process. Most importantly, let them know that they are the business's most important line of defense against devastating fires. Hold training sessions throughout the year, focusing on seasonal risks, best practices, and reinforcement of emergency procedures.

While completely removing all fire risks is impossible, creating a prevention plan that focuses on key hazards and employs a persistent, team-based strategy can help you find fire before fire finds you.

Renewals

It's time again to renew your WOWRA membership. Dues statements will be sent in October and November.

When you receive your statement, consider the following reasons for renewing!

Continued work with Speaker's Water Quality Task Force, advocating for additional staff for POWTS plan review and continuation of the Wisconsin Fund.

Held Wisconsin's premiere Septic Professional Joint Winter Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

Sent updates to members related to COVID-19, including availability of loans and grants as well as compliance with new legislation affecting small businesses.

Worked to have all aspects of our industry – service, new construction, commercial and residential – and all of our supply chain to be deemed "essential."

Actively participated on the POWTS Code and Technical Advisory Committees.

Worked with the DSPS on POWTS plan review times during peak months.

Held a webinar, led by DSPS staff, to make it easier to work with the new eSLA system.

Welcomed a State Senator and Representative to a member jobsite to explain POWTS, our impact on the economy, and the importance of quality installation and regular service to protect the environment. Expanded our newsletter and legislative communications to members.

Planned a POWTS Evaluator program, Code program, and Soils program, with more planned for 2021, including our first group of online courses.

Join WOWRA!

Not a member? Now's a great time to join!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

Discounted rates to WOWRA-sponsored conferences and CE Programs.

Receipt of WOWRA newsletter.

Discounts on WOWRA guides for owners of private onsite wastewater systems.

Government Relations updates to keep you informed of new laws and regulations.

A voice representing WOWRA and the industry before Regulators and Legislators.

Networking opportunities with peers.

A membership application can be found on page 6

Looking for Jobsite Stories – Both Good and Bad

To be clear, we're looking for good stories about both good and bad installations....

We're constantly looking for ways to improve our association and one of those ways is to increase the relevance of this publication. To that end, we're looking to include more feature stories about projects



2021 WOWRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

STOP! For faster service and to pay by credit card, please register & pay on-line at www.wowra.com.



MEMBERSHIP RATES PLEASE NOTE: Approximately 25% of your annual WOWRA dues are spent on lobbying related issues. This 25% may not be deducted from your taxes as a business expense. Please contact your tax consultant for further information. \$115 (unlimited) \$75 (State dues only) \$110 (State + NOWRA Dues) \$230 (1 person) **\$115 (unlimited)**Employees of a Company with a Full WOWRA member. Full Member Govt. Personnel or Govt. Personnel or those with indirect interest those with indirect interest in the onsite industry. In the onsite industry. Full Member: This person will be listed first on all publications. Please note any edits (print clearly). Company Name: Member Type: City/State/Zip: ___ Address: __ County: ___ Phone: _ Fax: _ Website: Email: Circle the counties you work in. Needed for Website Directory. Calumet Juneau Manitowoc Oconto Portage Washburn Sawyer Ashland Chippewa Douglas Green Kenosha Marathon Oneida Price Shawano Washington Clark Waukesha Dunn Green Lake Marinette Barron Kewaunee Outagamie Racine Sheboygan Eau Claire Bayfield Columbia La Crosse Richland lowa Marguette Ozaukee Taylor Waupaca Brown Crawford Florence Lafavette Menominee Rock Waushara Iron Pepin Trempealeau Buffalo Dane Fond du Lac Jackson Langlade Milwaukee Pierce Rusk Vernon Winnebago Jefferson Lincoln Monroe Polk Saint Croix Wood Burnett Dodge Forest Vilas **ALL COUNTIES** Sauk Walworth <u>Services Provided (Check all the apply):</u> ☐ Installer ☐ Pumper ☐ Designer ☐ Inspector ☐ Regulator ☐ Educator ☐ Soil Scientist ☐ Soil Tester ☐ Excavator ☐ Manufacturer ☐ Supplier ☐ POWTS Evaluator ☐ POWTS Maintainer ☐ Plumber ☐ Surveyor ☐ Other: ____ Additional Member #1: (Please list any additional members on separate sheet with all contact information) _____ Email: _____ Membership Rate: \$___115___ Website: Counties you work in: ___ Additional Member #2: _____ Email: _____ Membership Rate: \$ 115 Website: ____ Counties you work in: ___ Additional Member #3: _____ Email: _____ Membership Rate: \$ 115 Website: ____ Counties you work in: ____ Total Due: First WOWRA Membership \$ _____ + \$ ____ (____Additional WOWRA Memberships @ \$115 each) = TOTAL Amount: \$ ____ ☐ Check enclosed (Payable to WOWRA) Please mail to: WOWRA | PO Box 833 | Germantown, WI 53022

PPP Loans & Taxes - Contact Your Federal Legislators!

It's time again to renew your WOWRA membership. Dues statements will be sent in October and November.

The Issue

When the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act in March, the law stated that any loan forgiveness provided to qualifying employers under the program would be *excluded* from the borrower's taxable income.

However, at the direction of the Treasury Department, the IRS issued Notice 2020-32 specifying expenses paid with PPP loans that are forgiven will not be tax-deductible.

Absent new legislation to clarify this policy, employers who received a PPP loan that is forgiven could see an unexpected tax bill in the new year.

Example: A \$100,000 PPP loan used for payroll expenses in 2020 that are not deductible (per the IRS Notice) could result in an increased tax bill to company owners of \$25,000 or more!

The Action

Contact your legislators and ask them to support passage of the Small Business Expense Protection Act of 2020 ($\frac{H.R. 6821}{S. 3612}$) to ensure employers are provided with tax deductibility of expenses paid for with forgiven PPP loans as intended by Congress. The legislation has bipartisan support in both chambers, though support if generally more from Republicans than Democrats. Currently, only one member of the Wisconsin delegation - Representative Mike Gallagher ($R - 8^{th}$) - is a cosponsor of the legislation.

You can contact your legislators by using the links below. For House districts, type in your Zip Code, link to your Representative, and use the *Contact* form on their website. For the Senate, use the *Contact* links below.

House: https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative

Senate:

Baldwin, Tammy - (D - WI) <u>www.baldwin.senate.gov/feedback</u>
Johnson, Ron - (R - WI) <u>https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-the-senator</u>

The Message

It was the clear intent of Congress to make the full value of the PPP loans available to business owners to pay allowable expenses, not to have business owners return significant amounts of the loan value in the form of increased taxes. Additionally, businesses that did not use all of the funds in 2020 for allowable expenses are already required to repay that portion of the loan that is not forgiven. While some businesses were more heavily affected than others during 2020, the increased taxes will need to be paid by reducing equity in the company as it moves into 2021. For many businesses – including construction – a backlog of work supported 2020 payroll. The impacts of the economic slowdown resulting from the pandemic are most likely to be felt in 2021 and the continued availability of cash reserves – whether PPP loans or owner equity – is critical.

Joint Winter Conference 2021

It's not too early to mark these dates for our Joint Winter Conference for 2021:

2021 **Joint Winter Conference** Thursday, January 14 – Friday, January 15



Chula Vista Resort Wisconsin Dells, WI

We'll have keynote speakers, breakout session, an exhibit hall, and networking events, all planned with YOU in mind. Come for one day or come for both. Extend your stay on Friday and enjoy some time with your family too! Chula Vista offers great value, a huge waterpark, one of the best steakhouses in America, and more. Hold the dates and look for more information mid-year....

Online Training Opportunities Approved for Credit in Wisconsin



Whether you are new to the onsite/decentralized industry or continuing your professional development, you have come to the right place for septic system related education!

Taught by experts in the industry, NOWRA's Academy offerings cover the fundamentals of the profession as well as advanced training in multiple topics. Offerings include those developed from a national perspective and those meeting specific state requirements.

The courses included can be taken at a discounted rate as a WOWRA/NOWRA Member or at a higher rate as a Non-Member of NOWRA. You can become a

member of NOWRA by joining WOWRA. These course have been approved for DSPS continuing education for master plumber, journeyman plumber, master plumber restricted service, journeyman plumber restricted service, commercial and UDC plumbing inspector, POWTS inspector, POWTS maintainer, and soil certification tester.

Available course are shown below. You can receive credit for each unit or for the entire program. Find out more at https://www.pathlms.com/NOWRA.

Treatment Overview (1.5 Hours Credit) Wastewater Characteristics (1.5 Hours Credit) Soil and Site Evaluation (1.5 Hours Credit)

Soil Based Gravity and Pressure Distribution (1.5 Hours Credit)

Pumps and Controls (1.0 Hours Credit)

Operations and Maintenance (1.0 Hours Credit)

A to Z Overview (8 Hours Credit)

NOWRA Benefits

At WOWRA's Annual Meeting, we had the opportunity to information about national developments affecting hear about the many things that NOWRA - our national association – is doing to support our industry. Here's a partial list of what they do to support us all. We encourage you to learn more and be a part of both your State and National associations.

Representation in Washington and in Your State

NOWRA is working to secure legislative and policy changes which foster expanded use of onsite and decentralized technology and which can help the industry address the policy, management, and financial issues caused in large part by neglect at the federal level. In 2014, NOWRA established a strong lobbying presence in Washington intended to increase our industry's share of new construction from 30% to 35%, secure more federal funding to address challenges facing the industry, and get EPA to change policies which discriminate against our industry.

Septic Locator

Every NOWRA member receives a free listing on the <u>Septic Locator</u>, the only national, searchable directory of providers of onsite wastewater management industry research, How-to manuals, regulations, services. Your listing is controlled by you -- you can change contact information, services offered and other information in real time. Coming soon you will have the chance to enhance your listing as well.

Errors & Omissions Insurance for Designers and Inspectors.

NOWRA partnered with <u>The Powderhorn Agency</u>, to endorse their Errors and Omissions insurance coverage for Septic Systems Designers and Inspectors. If your design or inspection work is primarily residential, you may find this coverage to be significantly less expensive than similar coverage from your insurance carrier.

Pro-Sept Residential Septic Repair and Replacement Plan

You can help your customers protect themselves against catastrophic septic repairs or system replacement by recommending they consider the **Pro-Sept warranty** program. You help yourself at the same time, as NOWRA members earn \$30 for each customer referral.

Onsite Journal

NOWRA has resumed publication of the Onsite Journal magazine. This 4-color magazine offers useful onsite wastewater, reports from state affiliates and industry vendors, and updates on NOWRA programs and services of interest. Published quarterly.

Continuing Education Opportunities

NOWRA has established the Installer Academy as the national educational entity for the decentralized wastewater industry to ensure that quality training programs are available for all industry practitioners. By participating in NOWRA's Education Programs, members gain a learned foundation that continuously builds personal and professional opportunities. NOWRA has an extensive Online Learning Academy, a continuing education option for members to obtain the CEUs they need to stay in business. All of NOWRA's online courses have been approved for continuing education credits in Wisconsin!

Resource Library

NOWRA's Resource Library is intended to be a one-stop portal to help you identify critical information online which can help you manage your business. Published financing, public outreach materials, and archived training materials are among the valuable items contained in this always growing library.

Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference

Since 2015, NOWRA has held its annual conference in conjunction with various state affiliates organizations, teaming up to offer the Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference -- the largest national conference and trade show solely dedicated to onsite wastewater business. For details on recent Mega-Conference's visit NOWRA's Education and Training section on the website.

Leadership

NOWRA provides all members with opportunities to have a voice in its affairs. Whether you express that by voting in NOWRA's Board of Directors elections, participating in our Annual Meeting, commenting on proposals, volunteering your time on a committee or task force, or simply sharing your views with a board member, NOWRA welcomes and encourages your involvement in our activities. The greater the involvement of its members, the stronger our industry becomes, and the better we are able to work to positively shape its future.

Order Your Septic System Operation & Management Booklets

Order Form

WOWRA Homeowner's Manual

The WOWRA Homeowner's Manual is a great tool for onsite professionals to provide customers with information on their septic system!

The manual includes information on septic system operation and management and provides answers to frequently asked questions.

Manuals are available for purchase for \$0.75 per manual plus shipping (varies by quantity).

Questions? Contact the WOWRA office at 888/782-6815 or info@wowra.com.

Septic System Operation & Management
Information for Homeowners
WOWRA Wisconsin Onsite Water
Recycling Association Dedicated to protecting your health and environment.

To purchase, complete the form below and return to WOWRA.

Company Name			
	Last Name		
Address			
City	State	ZIP	
Phone	Email	Email	
Quantity x \$0.75 = \$00 (+ Shipping) By Check: Payable to WOWRA			
by check. Payable to WOV	VINA		
By Credit Card: Name on Card			
Account #	erCard Visa AmEx Disc		
Exp. Date	CVV Code		
Billing Address			
Send	to: WOWRA P.O. Box 833 Germantown, WI 53 Email: jeff@assocm		

FAX: 888/287-4116

Business Promotion Program



Business Promotion Offer Your Best Value for 2021

WOWRA is pleased to offer a simple way to cover all of you promotional activities for 2021. Select the package that works for you! Some including a membership (\$230 value), a Joint Conference exhibitor booth (\$500 value), tabletop displays at our seminars (4+ at \$200 each); advertising in the monthly newsletter to the industry (\$1,200, \$700, \$500, \$300 value, depending on size of ad), ad/link from website (\$300 value), and published press releases (\$50 each).



Platinum Promotional Package

\$2,500

- 2021 Membership
- Joint Conference Exhibit Booth
- Tabletop at WOWRA Seminars
- Full-page ad (8½ x 11) in monthly WOWRA News
- Up to 4 press releases in WOWRA News
- Link on the WOWRA Website to your website



Gold Promotional Package

\$1,500

- 2021 Membership
- Half-page ad (8½ x 5½) in WOWRA News
- Tabletop at WOWRA Seminars
- Up to 2 press releases in WOWRA News
- Link on the WOWRA website to your website



Silver Promotional Package

\$900

- 2021 Membership
- Quarter-page ad (4½ x 4½) in WOWRA News
- 1 press releases in WOWRA News
- Link on the WOWRA website to your website



Bronze Promotional Package

\$400

• Eighth-page page ad (2½ x 3½) in WOWRA News

This is a great opportunity to promote your business to your target audience! There's simply no better value for those interested in reaching the POWTS industry.

BONUS: You'll receive the appreciation of the industry! We appreciate the value you bring through information about products and services that can same time and money. We also appreciate your support for and commitment to WOWRA and the work we do to protect and advance the industry – something that benefits all of us!

Questions? Contact us at 888-782-6815 or info@wowra.com.

Click Here to Sign Up

Quality is a standard, not an extra.



Wieser Concrete provides superior septic/holding tank wastewater solutions with innovative, cost-effective, and high-quality precast products our customers can count on. **UNIFORM QUALITY** — Precast tanks from Wieser are manufactured in a controlled environment ensuring consistent quality and structure.

STRENGTH — Wieser tanks are structurally engineered and utilize post-tensioning to ensure strength and durability.

PROVEN PERFORMANCE AND DESIGN — Wieser Concrete has been manufacturing precast concrete tanks since 1965. Wieser tanks are designed with strength and durability in mind and continue to be the choice of contractors who demand outstanding performance and consistent design for their projects. Wieser tanks are vacuum-tested, watertight structures that guarantee maximum service and longevity.

RAPID INSTALLATION TIME — Unlike poured-in-place, Wieser precast tanks do not have to wait to cure on the job site. Wieser structures can be set when needed and construction can continue without delay.









Contact us: (715) 647-2311 wieserconcrete.com

Wisconsin Fund – A Reminder

While most of you are familiar, it's helpful every now and again to provide a reminder about the Wisconsin Fund, a program that provides grants to homeowners and small commercial businesses to help offset a portion of the cost for the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing failing Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS). WOWRA has worked hard over the last several years to continue and increase allocations to the Wisconsin Fund and to review the eligibility requirements.

Currently, eligibility is based upon several criteria, including household income and age of the structure. 67 counties out of Wisconsin's 72 counties, the City of Franklin, and the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin participate in the program. County government officials assist interested individuals in determining eligibility and in preparation of grant applications.

More information is available by clicking **HERE**.



WOWRA Board of Directors (2020/2021)

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Interested in Board Service?

WOWRA will hold its Annual Meeting during the 2021 Joint Winter Conference, January 14-15 at the Chula Vista Resort. During the meeting, there will be an election of Officers/Director for the association. Those elected at the January 2021 Annual Meeting would serve through the Annual Meeting in 2023.

If you would like to know more or want to indicate your interest, contact any of the Directors listed above or the WOWRA office. Nominations can be accepted before the meeting and from the floor during the meeting.



Mission Statement:

To advance the education of and to protect and promote the profession of onsite wastewater technology in Wisconsin on behalf of our membership.