

Winter Issue 2017

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Presidents Message

Q&A

**Did You Change Your
Business Structure From A
Sole Proprietor To An LLC?**

Soils on the Horizon

To Dig or Not to Dig

O2WA Scholarship Update

**Lawmakers consider on-farm
treatment of sewage sludge**

**Let's Get Ready for a Safe
Construction Season**

**Thanks Great O2WA
Conference -
Acknowledgements**

NAWT Training Coming Up

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President's Message by Doug Dilley

Dear Fellow O2WA Members,

I am writing to introduce myself as the President of the Oregon Waste Water Association for 2017. The O2WA has been an important part of my education since I started working at Willamette Greystone eleven years ago. It has provided essential networking because it connects professionals from across Oregon. Meeting the many people working in this profession in Oregon has helped me more deeply understand the waste-water industry.

The past year has been incredibly successful. I would like to thank Erin Mick, our 2016 President, for her outstanding leadership in the past year. The O2WA had a productive year under her presidency, Conference was another great success thanks to all who attended. We had excellent volunteer speakers and teachers, and an informative keynote speaker.

- Our Scholarship raffle raised around \$10,000, which is now tax deductible for our donors because of our new designation as a 501(c)(3). Thank you to all that donated .
- Our first Thursday night reception was well attended and a fun evening.
- We had a variety of extracurricular events this year. Waite Concrete sponsored a clay pigeon shoot where everyone had a shot at prizes; this year's annual golf tournament winner was Dan Buss, The equipment rodeo winner Bodie Israel qualified for the National Equipment Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Thank you to all our members that made 2017 so successful.

I am looking forward to the continued growth of O2WA in the upcoming year. A focus for this year will be:

- Continuing our outreach to communities and professionals through education and conference programs and identifying new methods of outreach to gain new members and to help communities members in need.
- We will also be working with DEQ to administer the Training & Certification of the Onsite System Installer & Maintenance Provided Certification Programs, we will continue working towards that goal.
- 3rd Annual Fall Conference in NE Oregon.
- Septic Smart Week and Public Outreach through Home Shows and other venues.

Thank you, for your membership! We are looking forward to a successful and productive year.

Sincerely,
Doug Dilley



Q&A by Brian Rabe, CPSS, WWS

Question: Our office recently experienced a clogged pipe outside the building. The person that jetted the line indicated the clog consisted of what appeared to be paper towels and wipes. Several household goods manufacturers are advertising "flushable" wipes. Are they really?

Answer: My understanding is that to be considered "flushable" these products only need to clear the toilet bowl. I understand that, like the example you cite, these products are wreaking havoc on sewage treatment systems everywhere. They don't readily break down in septic tanks or sewage treatment plants and they add to the amount of "rags" in these systems that clog pipes, screens, and pumps. The only thing that should be flushed down the drain, besides urine and feces, are toilet paper.



Did You Change Your Business Structure From A Sole Proprietor To An LLC?

Often entrepreneurs start their business as a Sole Proprietor. This is the easiest type of business to set up and the paperwork is minimal. However, if you are taking on a partner or as your business grows often your financial advisor or lawyer will recommend you change your business status to a Limited Liability Corporation, LLC. When you decide to make that change your tax accountant and lawyer will help you file the appropriate paper work with the Federal and State agencies, however often they forget to tell you to call your insurance agent and update your business insurance. You must change who is named insured when you add the LLC to your business name.

Who Is An Insured:

Your General Liability Insurance Policy has a definition of who is insured. If you take the time to read it the first sentence in the Section title "Who Is An Insured" states:

If you are designated in the *Declarations* as: then they give you a list.

- a. An individual (sole proprietor) you and your spouse are insured, but only respects to the conduct of a business of which you are the sole owner.
- b. A partnership or joint venture
- c. A limited liability company
- d. An organization other than a partnership, joint venture or limited liability company
- e. A trust

Mind you this is a list of the types of legal business entities that your General Liability will cover. It is not a list of the who is covered. The who is covered must be clearly stated on the Declaration Page of your General Liability Policy. Below is an example of a Declaration Page.

What Changes When You Become and LLC?

One of the reasons your lawyer or tax accountant told

you to become an LLC is it changes your Personal Liability exposure. When you are a sole proprietor, you and your business are viewed as one in the same. Therefore, you have unlimited personal liability for all of the debts and legal liabilities of your sole proprietor business. Your personal assets, such as your home or personal bank account, could be at risk to satisfy unpaid debts, legal judgments, and other legal obligations of your start-up.

When you become a LLC, your business becomes a separate legal entity and a LLC member is normally not personally liable for the LLC's debts or legal liabilities. As an LLC owner, you are mainly putting your financial contribution to your LLC, not your other personal assets, on the line. However, as an LLC owner, you may still be personally liable for your own conduct or LLC loans in some cases. For example, you may still be responsible if you personally guaranteed repayment of an LLC loan or if your own acts cause harm to a third party or to your LLC.

When you change your business name from John Smith Construction (sole proprietor) to John Smith Construction LLC (corporation) you have changed "Who Is Insured". The "Who Is Insured" must match your corporate name on all your business insurance policies, the General Liability, Business Auto, Worker Compensation, and your Bond. You do not want a claim denied because the insurance company thought they were insuring you and not your corporation. Call us and we will be happy to make this change for you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 800-452-6826

Have a great day
Rex Lesueur

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Policy Period: From: <u>05/14/20</u> To: <u>05/14/20</u> at 12:01 A.M., Standard Time at your mailing address shown above.		
Business Description: REMODELING CONTRACTOR		
IN RETURN FOR THE PAYMENT OF PREMIUM, AND SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS OF THIS POLICY, WE AGREE WITH YOU TO PROVIDE THE INSURANCE AS STATED IN THIS POLICY		
THIS POLICY CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING COVERAGE FOR WHICH A PREMIUM IS INDICATED. THIS PREMIUM MAY BE SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENT.		
		PREMIUM

Commercial Property Coverage End



Soils on the Horizon by Brian Rabe, CPSS, WWS

For those who attended my presentation at our most recent conference, this topic will be familiar. You will likely remember that I am a passionate supporter of the use of pressure-assisted distribution (also known as hydrosplitters). I must admit that as recent as 20 years ago, I had a philosophy that if I needed to use a pump on a system I may as well use low pressure distribution. Thanks to “feedback from the field” via my esteemed colleague, Mr. Dan Bush, I came to realize that low pressure distribution, even with highly treated effluent, requires a higher level of maintenance. Higher maintenance translates to higher operating costs. Therefore, the higher costs need to be considered against the benefits. I can only justify fully pressurized distribution where the rules require it or under unique circumstances where it helps overcome a specific limitation, such as when requesting a variance.

An important caveat in my opening paragraph is the need for a pump. I will generally opt for the simplest solution that fits the unique circumstances of the site and facility. If I can reasonably design a system work without the use of a pump I will. And, if a small system needs a pump to simply lift the effluent up to a single equal or serial distribution drainfield with good soil conditions, then it need not be more complicated than that. Simply introducing a pump provides the first benefit of dosing and resting. However, if the system needs a little more help, then a hydrosplitter is often my next consideration.

Hydrosplitters are an awesome tool. With careful design, they enable us to distribute the flow proportionately to individual trenches and/or groups of trenches. If a site is nearly flat and has a water table or restrictive layer (such as bedrock or a duripan) that is near the minimum depth allowed for a drainfield, a hydrosplitter enables dividing the drainfield into smaller pieces that may make it easier to stay within the minimum trench depths without having to install a capping fill. This can have multiple benefits since you can avoid the additional compaction that results from preparation and placement of the capping fill. The benefits are even greater in areas where suitable cap soil is either hard to find, expensive, or both.

Hydrosplitters also enable us to achieve equal distribution on any slope allowed by the rules. Where serial distribution requires a minimum of 12 inches of backfill, equal distribution only requires 6 inches. That can make a difference on how effectively you can use some sites with irregular topography.

Part of the beauty of hydrosplitters is the fact that they have no moving parts and offer a high degree of operational flexibility. For maximum utility with a minimum of effort by service personnel, hydrosplitters need to be accessible and serviceable. Orifices can easily be

changed out to rebalance the flows when feedback from the system indicates imbalanced performance. Soils are not uniform and sometimes soil-based variables can influence the performance of individual trenches or zones. You need to include monitoring ports within the drainfield to access that feedback. Monitoring ports have been a standard feature in my designs for over 25 years. They are inexpensive to install with the drainfield and have the added benefit of helping locate specific points within the system. They also come in handy when performing an existing system evaluation.



That's all for now. Remember, Soil Rocks!

To Dig or Not to Dig by Perry Dunlap, Dunlap Septic Exc.

We all know spring is somewhere and soon upon us, We can see it in the trees with blossoms bursting. Water tables residing and jobs stacking up. First sunny day or two and temperatures are up your phone starts to ring off the hook from your customers asking why aren't you out installing? Welcome to spring.

Depending on where you live and your soils installing a drain field in to wet soils is crucial to it's proper function. Rapid draining soils is not so much of an issue other than digging tank holes can be dangerous. Digging past large rock pockets with subsurface water moving horizontal can cause unexpected cave in's.

So you think it's finally it dry enough to begin the job and you feel you can get a tank hole dug. Thinking it maybe even possible to install the drain field. Keep in mind backing up a 10 wheel tank truck to a freshly dug hole in soils that have been wet for 6 months can be dangerous.

Digging the tank hole is one thing but digging your absorption trenches is another. Keep an eye on your side walls of your tank hole. If your side walls are looking slick and shinny then it might be still too wet to dig your drain field . (This doesn't apply to high clay sites, that is another subject on how to get maximum absorption quality out of the drain field) slicking the side walls and bottom of your trenches is not giving the septic system it maximum absorption abilities especially on standard septic's.

It would best explained to your customer that we as professional installers would like to provide our customers with the highest quality drain field as possible .

(Don't forget to **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**) Have a Great Season

O₂WA Scholarship Update by Brian Rabe

As many of you may have heard, the Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association established a 501c3 charitable organization, the O2WA Scholarship Fund, to promote the education of members, their children, as well as promoting education in fields related to the onsite industry. Scholarships are typically \$1,500. Multiple scholarships are often awarded, depending on funding, and the number and quality of applicants. Applications are available on the website. Applications must be completed and submitted by May 31st.

We raised just over \$12,000 for the scholarship fund at the conference in February. As a 501c3, your donations are tax deductible. So give that some thought as you look ahead to next year's conference. We are always looking for new, unique, and one-of-a-kind donations to make both the raffle and auction exciting and fun events at the conference. Think about what you can do to support this worthwhile cause.

Congratulations 2016/2017 Scholarship Recipients

Jessica Darras, Taylor GeDeros, Kylee Humphreys, Karisa Merrill, Rebecca Oakeson & Jackson Walls.

Find the following at www.o2wa.org/scholarship

- O2WA Scholarship Plan 2017
- O2WA Scholarship Application 2017 Final

Schedule of Selection

May 31 – Deadline for submission of application materials to Scholarship Committee

August 30 – Announcement of scholarship recipients

Eligibility

Candidates must meet the following criteria:

Be a child or dependent, age 25 or less, of a current O2WA Member (Individual or listed Corporate Member) in good standing as of May 31 of the preceding year planning to study or currently studying in any field of higher education. A child or dependent is defined as a son or daughter (including step-children) living in the members household or primarily supported by the member; or

Be a non-O2WA member interested in pursuing an education beyond high school through study in fields related to onsite wastewater treatment. Students are limited to relevant fields of study that apply to the field of onsite wastewater treatment, including, but are not limited to, public health, environmental science, soil science, engineering, construction technology, or biology.



LAWMAKERS CONSIDER ON-FARM TREATMENT OF SEWAGE SLUDGE

It's common for biosolids to be treated at wastewater plants then applied to fields that aren't producing crops meant for human consumption.

[Mateusz Perkowski](#)

Article provided by Capital Press Published on March 2, 2017 12:33PM

Capital Press file photo

Oregon legislators are considering a bill that would clarify land use laws to allow mobile biosolids processing in farm zones.

SALEM — Sewage sludge already serves as fertilizer on Oregon farms but a proposed bill would also permit processing the waste within farm zones.

It's common for biosolids, also called human manure, to be treated at wastewater plants then applied to fields that aren't producing crops meant for human consumption.

Wayne Buma, who operates AAA Advanced Septic Cleaning in Southern Oregon, wanted to use waste from septic tanks in the same way but ran into troubles with Jackson County's government.

The county's objection wasn't based on sanitary issues, but rather Oregon's land use laws: It wasn't clear that sewage treatment is allowed on land zoned for "exclusive farm use."

"There is nothing new going on as far as the safety. All that has been approved," Buma told members of the House Agriculture Committee at a March 2 hearing.

Under House Bill 2179, the statute would clarify that on-farm biosolids treatment is allowed in farm zones as long as it's conducted with mobile units.

If on-farm biosolids treatment isn't allowed, Buma said he'd have to separately process the waste at the location of each septic tank, rather than collectively treat the material in a large tank at the site of application.

"Right now, it's bottle-necked," he said.

The treatment process described by Buma, which is permitted by Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality, is fairly straightforward.

Biosolids are filtered to remove plastic and other debris, then agriculture lime is mixed with the waste to make it alkaline and kill pathogens. The sterilized biosolids are then spread across a field with truck.

"It's a stable product, it's not a haz-mat material," Buma said of the lime that's integral to the process.

Legislators seemed amenable to HB 2179, with the committee's chair, Brian Clem, D-Salem, actually testifying in favor of the bill as a "no-brainer."

While Oregon's land use laws generally confine processing activities within "urban growth boundaries," that often involves increasing the "truck miles" required to transport materials, Clem said.

In this case, there is no construction of a permanent facility that would taken farmland out of production, he said.

"If it's not displacing farmland, I think it's good to have processing as close to the source of the material as possible," Clem said.

For people who make their living digging in the dirt, winter is a time for catching up on maintenance and working on projects that don't require as much earthwork.

The sun is on its way (believe it or not!) so a lot of us will be ramping up to the high pace of summer. Now is the time to review our safety practices. Make sure everyone is prepared to get back in the habit of paying attention and placing their eye contact is on the *operator* and not on their phone.

Let's make this season safe and profitable - they go together!

Doug Dilley
Willamette Graystone



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Equipment Rodeo Winner

First Place
Bodie Israel

Second Place
?

Third Place
?

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You may continue to do inspections IF you have one of the following certifications: Certified Installer, Certified Maintenance Provider, NAWT Certified Inspector, Environmental Health Specialist, Wastewater Specialist, and Professional Engineer.

O2WA is sponsoring a NAWT Certified Inspector Workshop

Instructor: Robert Barnes

Date: TBA

COST: \$325.00 for O2WA Members or \$350.00 for Non Members

Learn more and REGISTER ONLINE - www.o2wa.org

What to expect... Troubleshooting Individual Sewage Treatment Systems,

NAWT Operation Inspection then NAWT Inspection Exam

Sessions the first day begin at 8:00 am and last until 5:00 pm with a lunch break from 12:00pm to 1:00 pm. The second day has classes until 3:00 pm with the exam given after the classes. You are on your own for meals and lodging.

NAWT will score your tests and notify if you have passed then you will be set!



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