O2WA
Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association

I.N.F.O. Industry News for Oregon

Fall Issue 2020

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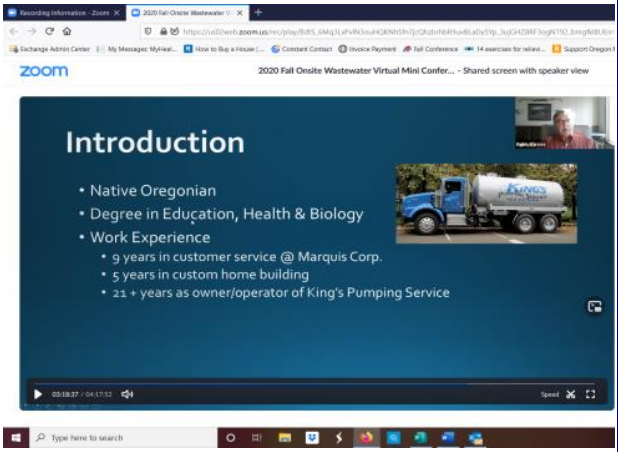

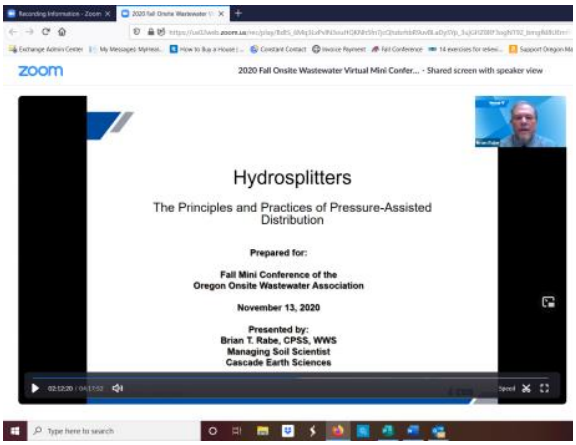

O2WA FIRST VIRTUAL WEBINAR...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Statements and opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the author or authors and may or may not be shared by O2WA.

Enclosed
Membership Renewal Form

2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ENCLOSED

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by Dennis Boeger, PE, CWRE

Hello O2WA members!

I hope everyone is hanging in there and making the most of this holiday season. I think it's safe to say that 2020 will go down in infamy as one for the record books. Many (or all) of us has been affected in our onsite world due to the fires, the pandemic, or other personal challenges we've faced. As I write this however, I'm constantly reminded how many of you have risen to the occasion to help those in need and have made a positive impact.

With the occurrence of major challenges, we can often see some bright spots as well. Earlier this year, I had an entirely different idea of what Zoom meant! Along with other platforms, Zoom has now allowed us as a Board to consistently and effectively meet and continue our important work for the members of O2WA. With the invaluable direction of our Executive Director Belinda Rasmussen, we have stayed at the forefront of communications to provide service to our members. An excellent example of this technology was the recent virtual Fall Conference back in November of this year. The turn-out was excellent (over 50 participants I believe) and I have heard many positive comments to date. Many thanks to Belinda and others for organizing and facilitating this conference!

I should also mention the ongoing important work to revamp the installers certification program. This effort is no small undertaking and has required many hours of work by dedicated O2WA members and others to work closely with DEQ staff. The goal is to create a robust online program that will improve the technical aspects while making it available to everyone state-wide. In case you're wondering, the in-person classes will again be available at Chemeketa Community College when safe.

Your O2WA Board is working on other important tasks such as the next Annual Conference, enhancing the scholarship program, supporting the legislative process to re-establish a residential septic loan program, maximizing the use of O2WA's resources, and being a resource for our members as they perform their important duties.

I therefore wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and let's hope for a productive, safe, and prosperous 2021!

Dennis J. Boeger, PE, CWRE
President, O2WA
(541) 556-5779

BUYERS GUIDE—THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS AT THE 2020 CONFERENCE…

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FMI Truck Sales & Service	**503-286-2800**	**fmitrucks.com**
GT Gordon & Associates	**360-566-1470**	**gordonandassoc.com**
HD Fowler Co	**503-969-1635**	**hdfowler.com**
Infiltrator Water Technologies	**860-577-7030**	**infiltratorwater.com**
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Willamette Graystone	**541-727-7666**	**willamettegraystone.com**

For all approved Onsite Wastewater Treatment Products— https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Residential/Pages/Onsite-Products.aspx

OSHA COVID-19 TEMPORARY RULES IN EFFECT

OSHA's Temporary Rule Addressing COVID-19 Workplace Risks aims to combat the spread of coronavirus in all workplaces by requiring employers to carry out a comprehensive set of risk-reducing measures.

This temporary rule took effect on Nov. 16 (with certain parts phased in) and is expected to remain in effect until May 4, 2021. For specific phase-in dates, this Overview Table for Oregon OSHA COVID-19 Temporary Rule summarizes how and when the rule's provisions apply.

The provisions of the temporary rule have general applicability for most businesses, while Appendix A-5 spells out workplace standards specific to construction operations. For construction businesses, provisions of the temporary rule apply, unless specifically addressed by the provisions of Appendix A-5. Because of this, we first address Appendix A-5 and then address the rest of the requirements in the temporary rule.

Overview Table available at:
https://osha.oregon.gov/rules/advisory/infectiousdisease/Documents/Overview-Table-for-Oregon-OSHA-COVID-19-Temporary-Rule.pdf

COVID-19 Requirements for Workplaces

The requirements in the following subsections of this rule apply

OAR 437-001-0744

	3(a)	3(b)	3(c)	3(d)	3(e)†	3(f)**	3(g)‡	3(g)(B)	3(h)‡	3(h)(A)	3(i)*	3(j)	3(k)	3(l)	3(m)	4(a)* & 4(b)	4(c)‡	4(d)	4(e)	4(f)	4(g)	4(h)	4(i)
	Physical Distancing	Mask, face covering, or face shield	Cleaning and Sanitation	Posting Requirements	Building Operators	Ventilation Requirements	Risk Assessment	Written Risk Assessment	Infection Control Plan	Written Infection Control Plan	Employee Information and Training	COVID-19 Infection Notification	COVID-19 Testing	Medical Removal	Mandatory Appendices	Infection Control Training	Additional Infection Control Requirements	Sanitation Requirements	Personal Protective Equipment	Ventilation Requirements	Barriers, Partitions and Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms	COVID-19 Screening	Medical Removal
All Workplaces	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Employers with more than 10 employees statewide	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Exceptional Risk Workplaces	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Effective Dates: unless otherwise specified by the rule, the effective date for this rule is November 16, 2020.
† Effective November 23, 2020
‡ Effective December 7, 2020
* Effective December 21, 2020
** Effective January 6, 2021

Q&A by Brian Rabe, CPSS, WWS

Q/A by Brian T. Rabe

Question: An installer recently referred a property owner to me with an existing system. The system consisted of a 1,500-gallon dosing septic tank with a bottomless sand filter. The system is about 20 years old but has never been connected to a source. In the meantime, the tank appears to have shifted as a result of a fluctuating water table and the current requirements in the area include additional measures for nitrogen reduction.

Answer: Although the system passed inspection, the fact that the tank floated means it will need to be re-set and tested for water tightness before use. Since an ATT will be required, it probably makes sense to remove the existing tank (if possible) and sell it at a discount to someone who can make appropriate use of it. Then install a 1,000-gallon septic tank and the required ATT. The ATT will have 2 pumps (one for the treatment process and one to discharge to the sand filter), so the retained use of the existing dosing septic tank would mean there would be a total of 3 pumps for the system. The exception to this recommendation would be if the proposed riverfront home is larger than 4 bedrooms or is ever used as a vacation rental. In those cases the 1,500-gallon dosing septic tank would be a better option for buffering peak flows forward to the rest of the system so long as a new control panel with timed-dose capability is used.

Google photo search: photo from Pumper

SOILS ON THE HORIZON by Brian Rabe, CPSS, WWS

Soils on the Horizon **by Brian T. Rabe**

Over the years this column has covered nearly every aspect of soils as they pertain to subsurface wastewater treatment. Although fills have been discussed in detail, cuts have not. The preference expressed by the Oregon onsite rules is to use soils in their natural and undisturbed state – no cuts and no fills. However, there are circumstances where either may be necessary as a way to make the best use of a site and the potential impacts on the performance of the drainfield needs to be carefully considered.

The most common cuts to consider are related to grading the area around a drainfield. These may be for roads, parking lots, stormwater drainage, buildings, or other site features. The depth of the cut, along with the characteristics of the soil profile, will dictate the setback that is required. For example, a manmade cut in excess of 30 inches (as measured from the original ground surface at the top of the cut) will require a 25-foot setback if the effective soil depth is greater than 48 inches. If the effective soil depth is less than 48 inches, then the setback increases to 50 feet. The intent of these setbacks is to minimize the risk that soil-treated effluent will move laterally and find a pathway to the surface.

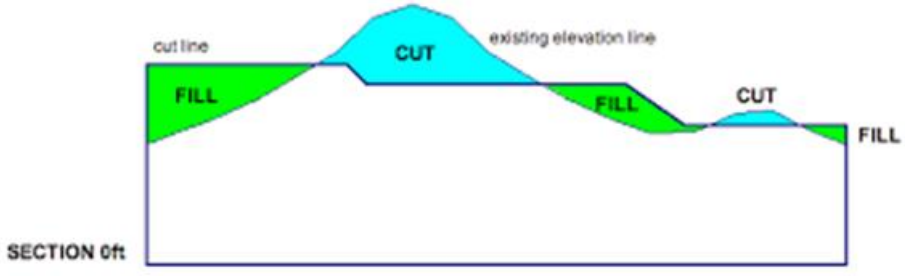
Cutting of the surface within the drainfield area is generally not allowed in Oregon. The goal is to have the drainfield installed as shallow as reasonably possible within the natural soil profile. This is due, in part, to the fact that this is the most biologically active part of the soil profile. Any significant cut would force the soil absorption trench further down in the soil profile into areas that offer less biological diversity. I am not convinced that this is as big of an issue as is commonly believed since the microbiological community is highly adaptive. We get a very high level of treatment from biologically inert surfaces such as textile media and similarly inert sand and gravel in constructed treatment systems. The water and nutrients provided with the effluent are key elements needed by the micro-organisms. Like was said by James Earl Jones character in Kevin Costner's Field of Dreams, "Built it and they will come." It does not take long for the optimum combination of micro-organisms to colonize a favorable environment.

There are soil conditions where mass-grading is not a significant issue. We had a large project on the coast several years ago where the natural condition was a stabilized dune that had a very deep and uniform profile of beach sand with an established stand of shore pine and beach grass. Our specifications for the project included clearing the vegetation and then cutting and filling the target area to provide a more uniform landscape prior to installing a large subsurface drip distribution system. Grass was re-established and the continuous supply of water and nutrients from the 2-foot by 2-foot grid of emitters in the dripfield helps the grass survive during the drier periods of the summer. The point here is that structureless soils, such as single grain sand, may be carefully manipulated without adversely affecting the performance of the system.

This is recognized in code in other states. We recently completed a system design in the Columbia Basin in Washington where the local health district representative mentioned that we could cut up to 2 feet (based on the depth to a gravelly layer) and fill up to the same amount (so long as the top of the trench was at or below the surface). Like the previous example on the coast, the soils at this site were structureless and single grain sand – there was no structure to destroy and, therefore, no structure to restore.

Depending on the timing, type of equipment used, and moisture content of the soil, even fairly uniform sand can be compacted and end up with a reduction in permeability. Some sites with these conditions have been denied. In most cases, the permeability of even a compacted sand may be as good, or better, than some finer textured soils that would be approvable. Rather than deny such as site, it may be better to either require advanced treatment and/or increase the size of the drainfield. Another option would be to request an infiltration test be done to measure the rate of water movement through the soils. The degree of reduction may actually be a benefit. A soil that otherwise would have had rapid or very rapid permeability may end up with a more moderate permeability and not necessarily need low pressure distribution.

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



https://www.google.com/
jwilson.coe.uga.edu

O2WA ANNUAL ONSITE WASTEWATER CONFERENCE'S GO VIRTUAL

FALL WAS A GREAT SUCCESS… Join us - Make Your Plan for 2021!

Over 50 attendees joined the first ever O2WA Virtual Fall Mini Conference on November 13th. Registration included access to all live sessions as well as access to the recordings after the sessions were completed. Attendees attended the live sessions and answered "poll question" to receive credits. There were 4 hours of class time offering 0.4 CEUs.

Classes on the latest on Hydrosplitters, Why ATTs, E-Permitting and ESERs.

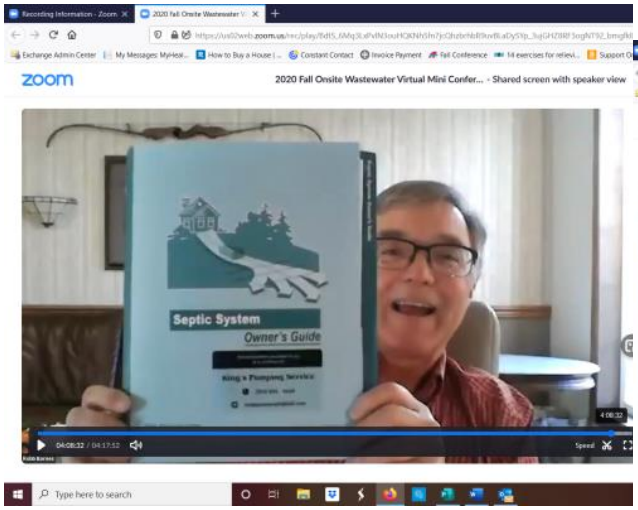
Dan Buss and Emma Eichhorn assisted in facilitate classes, answer questions and managed chat.
Thank you to our these Zoom facilitators and our presenters:

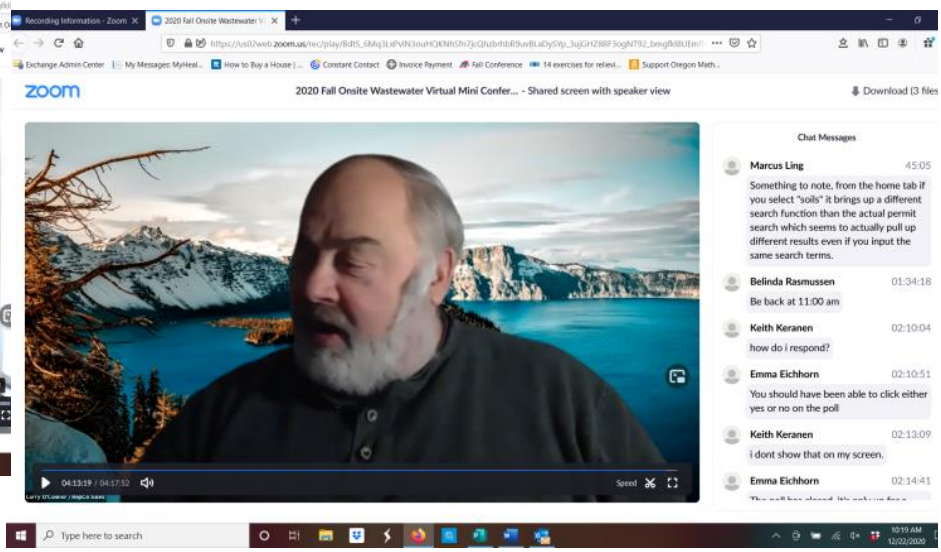
- **Marty Easter, Oregon DEQ**
- **Heidi Tower, DCBS**
- **Scott Hammerschmith, Orenco Systems**
- **Brian Rabe, CPSS, WWS - Cascade Earth Sciences**
- **Robb Barnes**

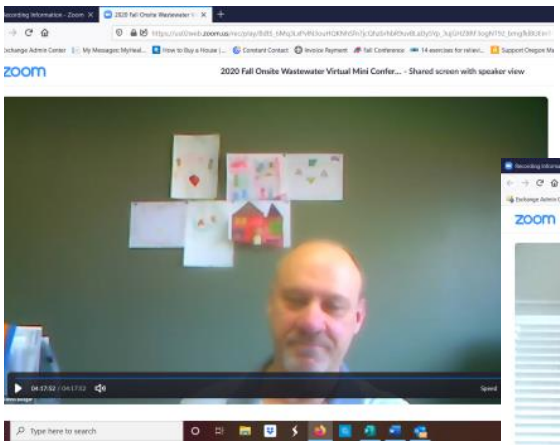
Thank you to our door prize sponsors - HD Fowler, Infiltrator Water Technology, Ferguson, Davis Sales/Norweco & Corporate Sponsor / door prize - RepCo Sales.

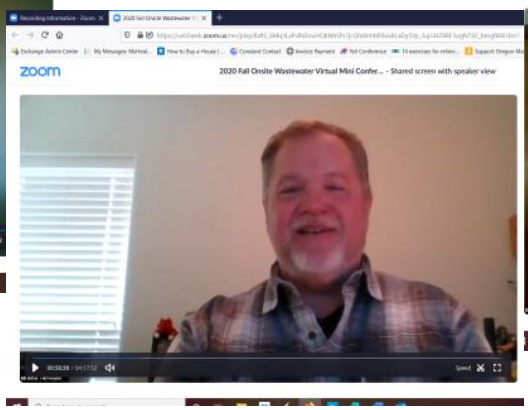
Join us for the Annual Conference March 5/6, 2021 via Zoom. More details to come. The board O2WA board weighed the options to have a face to face conference for 2021. With the unknown of the first quarter 2021 we will be moving forward to planning a virtual program to deliver the 1.2 CEUs you rely on your association to provide.

Looking to the future to the new normal. O2WA board has secured the Seaside Convention Center for the 2022 Onsite Wastewater Conference!









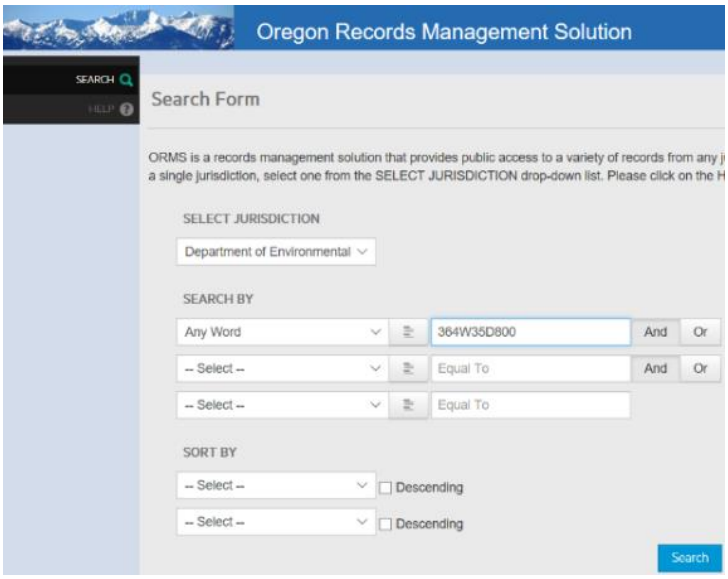
Digitization of Onsite Septic System Records

DEQ is digitizing onsite septic records for the nine counties where it administers onsite septic system programs so they are available to the public online and without charge. All records should be available by spring 2019.

To Obtain Records
As of Nov. 15, 2020, DEQ maintains septic records for five counties: Baker, Coos, Jackson, Union, and Wallowa. Contact your local agent for other counties on our contacts page.

Septic system records are found by the Parcel Number of the property. This number is the township, range, section, quarter section and tax lot that is best found by calling your local county assessor's office or visiting its website. Most counties have online property data search tools to find your parcel number, also referred to as a map ID or map and tax lot. Tax lot information is also available at ORMap website.

https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Residential/Pages/Onsite-Records.aspx



2020 O2WA GREATFUL TO OUR MEMBERS, BOARD & VOLUNTEERS

Hello O2WA Members
It is nice to close out 2020 with some final good news for you all from both the federal and state government.

As you wind down what has been undeniably a year like no other, I hope that you all take pride in the role that you, your colleagues, and the network that you are a part of has done to live your values. As professionals, you have done so much good for so many at a time when there were so many challenges. Thank you for what you do.

We are grateful for your continued membership and support. During the past year your membership has allowed us to:

- **Discount on Conferences**
- **Scholarships for members students**
- **Hire a Lobbyist to assist O2WA on Proposed Installer Certification Training / MOU with DEQ**
- **Zoom Account for Webinars**
- **Hiring Consultant for proposed Training**
- **Participation in national events like Septic Smart Week educating the public.**

I hope that you will get some rest and the possibility to connect safely with friends and family during the holidays. Here is a heartfelt wish that 2021 will be better for us all.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Thank you to our Board & Volunteers working on programs in 2020:

- **President / Engineer - Dennis Boeger**
- **Past President - Larry O'Connor**
- **Secretary / Treasurer / Tank Mfg. - Scott Davis**
- **Septic Tank Pumper / MOU Committee - Kevin Riddle**
- **Manufacturer - Brad Routh**
- **Soil Scientist / MOU Committee / Scholarship- Claudia Hill**
- **Installer - Edward Varga**
- **Sanitarian / Fall Conference - Emma Eichhorn**
- **O&M - Lissette Hamer-Richardson**
- **County Regulator / MOU Committee - Erik Englebert**
- **Industry at Large - Pat McVay**
- **Newsletter Columnist / Scholarship / Trainer / Past Board Member - Brian Rabe**
- **MOU Committee / Past Board Member - Dan Buss**
- **Past Board Member / MOU Committee - Brannon Lamp**
- **Scholarship - Kevin Armstrong**
- **Past Board Member / MOU Committee / Keeping O2WA up to date on the Wildfires impacting septic systems - Kim Aldrich**

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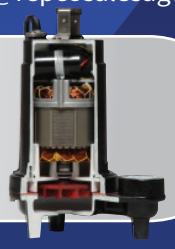

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