



Quarter 1: 2021

Member Newsletter

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2021 Legislation Update – page 1
- New Executive Director of NOWRA – page 2
- March 31 Operation and Maintenance Course – Page 2
- Get Involved Now With NOWRA – page 3
- 2021 MOWPA Conference Announcement – page 4
- MOWPA/UMD Demonstration/Training Center Update – Page 5

## 2021 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE ONSITE WASTEWATER INDUSTRY

### **HB 302, State Board of Onsite Wastewater Professionals:**

- Establishing a Board and Licensing for ALL Onsite Wastewater Professionals, statewide
- Will take 3 to 4 years to get fully operational
- Hearing in House was Jan 15, 1:30 pm
- Link to bill: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0302>
- Status: Passed out of the House on 2-12-21.
  - Sent to Senate 2-16-21 and referred to committee
  - First Hearing was held on March 17, 2021

### **HB 407, Onsite Wastewater Property Transfer Inspector License: (Cross-filed with SB 22)**

- Establishing a license for Property Transfer Inspectors, alone (No Board)
- Can be fully implemented within one year, will be managed by MDE staff and not a Board, Cross-filed with SB22
- Hearing in House was Jan 27, 1:30 pm
- Link to bill: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0407>
- Status: Passed out of the House on 2-18-21
  - Sent to Senate 2-19-21 and referred to committee

### **SB 22, Onsite Wastewater Property Transfer Inspector License: (Cross-filed with HB407)**

- Establishing a license for Property Transfer Inspectors, alone (No Board)
- Can be fully implemented within one year, will be managed by MDE staff and not a Board, Cross-filed with HB407
- Hearing in Senate was Jan 21, 11:00 am
- Link to bill: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0022>
- Status: Passed out of the Senate on 2-24-21.
  - Sent to Senate on 2-25-21 and referred to committee

**HB878, Bond Bill: (Cross-filed with SB701)**

- Allows Local Jurisdictions (i.e., Counties) to purchase bonds and leverage their BRF allocations to be able award loans of a significant higher amount than the grants. Thus, more money for BRF spending on Onsite System repairs.
- Hearing in House was Feb 25, 1:30 pm
- Link to bill: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0878>
- Status: Voted out of House committee unanimous and passed House on 3-10-21
  - Sent to Senate on 3-11-21 and referred to committee

**SB701 Bond Bill: (Cross-filed with HB878)**

- Allows Local Jurisdictions (i.e., Counties) to purchase bonds and leverage their BRF allocations to be able award loans of a significant higher amount than the grants. Thus, more money for BRF spending on Onsite System repairs.
- Hearing in House was Mar 4, 1:30 pm
- Link to bill: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0701>
- Status: Voted out of committee with amendments on 3-16-21
  - Passed out of Senate 3-17-21
  - Sent to House 3-17-21 and referred to committee

**HB1069 Well Testing:**

- This bill would require well testing at property transfer and establish a fee to go into a fund for well remediation, including Onsite Wastewater repairs. It would also establish a data base to track well water hot spots and the source of contamination,
- Hearing in the House was Feb 24, 1:30 pm
- Link to bill: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb1069>
- Status: Passed out of House 3-22-21 and sent to Senate

**Legislative Session Ends April 12**

**OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) SERVICE  
PROVIDER COURSE  
MARCH 31, 2021 - VIRTUAL**

To register go to: <https://www.mowpa.org/MOWPA/operations-and-maintenance-o-m-service-provider-certification-program>

## **NOWRA NAMES TOM GROVER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

NOWRA President Carl Thompson has announced that Tom Groves will become executive director January 25, 2021. He succeeds Eric Casey who retired at the end of December 2020.

Thompson said Tom brings the perfect blend of experience: association management, regulatory affairs, wastewater management, training, knowledge of affiliates, and more.

Since 2000, Tom Groves has served as the wastewater division director for the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, overseeing the commission's work related to onsite/decentralized wastewater and more.

He has a long history of leadership and engagement in New England partner organizations. He was a founding member of the Yankee Onsite Wastewater Association and has been involved in its leadership ever since. Largely because of Tom's influence, YOWA became one of the first affiliates to actively advocate the use of NOWRA's online learning platform for continuing education in the industry. Online education is now a major source of revenue for YOWA.

More broadly, he has held positions with national wastewater-related organizations. In fact, Tom served on the board of directors of NOWRA as president at a critical point in the association's history. He served on the search committee that hired Eric in 2010. He served an additional term on the national NOWRA board from 2017-2020. Tom was also the 2017 recipient of the Dick Otis Award, which annually recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to NOWRA and the industry.

A long-time wastewater industry professional, Tom resides in Westford, Mass.

Thompson said Eric joined NOWRA in June 2010. He has directed the association to a new level of accomplishments on behalf of the members and the industry.

## **GET INVOLVED NOW WITH NOWRA**

NOWRA's committees and task forces are the working groups and the lifeblood of our organization. They exist over time to shape the direction of the organization. NOWRA welcomes and encourages its members to become involved with its committees and task forces. As a volunteer, member-based organization, we are only as strong as our volunteers. Take an opportunity to get involved as a committee member. You won't be disappointed. Volunteering as a committee member with NOWRA is a rewarding experience that will aid in your professional growth, help promote the industry, and provide you with many networking opportunities.

Below is a list of our current committees and task forces. If you have expertise in one or more of these areas and are willing/able to volunteer your time to the premier onsite organization in the industry, please contact us.

### **Committees:**

Conference Planning Committee - 2021 Mega-Conference Planning  
Corporate Members Committee - Business member partners  
Education Committee - Curriculum development  
Government Relations Committee - Legislative activities  
Marketing & Communications Committee - Outreach & social media  
Online Education Committee - Online learning  
Onsite Journal Committee - Quarterly publication  
Technical Practices Committee - Technical content

**Task Forces:**

501(c)(3) Formation Task Force  
Website/Database Task Force  
Research Needs Task Force  
Future Conferences Task Force

For more detailed information about each of these committees and task forces, please visit our Committee web page: <https://www.nowra.org/about/governance/committees-and-task-forces/>

If you have questions or are looking for additional information about joining a committee or task force, please contact the NOWRA office at [info@nowra.org](mailto:info@nowra.org).

**In Memoriam of Richard (Dick) J. Otis, P.E., Ph.D.**



On February 28th, NOWRA lost a valued member and one of NOWRA's founding fathers in Richard "Dick" Otis. Dick served on the NOWRA Board of Directors for several terms as well as President of the association from 2010 - 2012. He also served on many committees over the years, primarily the Technical Practices Committee. Dick was well known and respected in the industry for his technical expertise. During his impressive career, Dick worked with the US EPA, World Health Organization, Engineers Without Borders, and countless other organizations.

In 2013, NOWRA created the Richard J. Otis Award for Industry Achievement in honor of Dick and his passion and commitment to the industry. The award is given out annually at NOWRA's Annual Conference.

Memorials may be made in Dick's name to Engineers Without Borders-UW Madison or the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

**HOLD THE DATE!**  
**2021 MOWPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Ten Oaks Ballroom  
5000 Signal Bell Drive  
Clarksville, Maryland

**POTENTIAL TOPICS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

- Asset Protection For Small Businesses
- High Strength Waste – Quality (Strength) Vs Quantity – How They Affect Pre-Treatment Design Consideration
- Legislation Enacted In The General Assembly Session And How It Affects Your Business
- Pressurized Liquid-Only Sewer For Rural Communities
- Proper Methods For Pumping Bat Sewage Pre-Treatment Units
- Site Selection Procedures/Options For Tough Sites

**MOWPA/UMD SEPTIC DEMONSTRATION/TRAINING  
CENTER UPDATE**

The uncertainty of the pandemic impacts, including budget, spending freezes, higher construction cost estimates, etc. created numerous delays in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resource's plans for a new education building at the Central MD Research and Education Center on Folly Quester Road in Clarksville. The good news is that the project is moving forward now and current estimate is for completion of the building by later 2022. Along with the building, which will include classrooms available for training classes, a ~ two-acre site will be allocated for a septic demonstration area. This demonstration site will be a partnership between MOWPA and the Extension Well and Septic Education Program. Within the next few months, the demonstration site will be determined, and site development planning work will move forward. Stay tuned for more details in the future