



SORA Board Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2018

2:30 PM Eastern Standard Time

Board Roll Call: President/At Large Mary Clark (VT), Past President/Region 8 Chuck Cousino (CO), Region 6/President Elect Matt Pace (OK), Region 1/Treasurer Amanda Clark (CT), Region 10/Secretary Jeremy Simmons (WA), Region 2 Ed Wengrowski (NJ), Region 3 Steven Krieg (MD), Region 4 Steven Berkowitz (NC), Region 5 Mike Mettler (IN), Region 7 Eric Folks (MO), Region 9 Rep. Chris Edwards (KY), Tribal Michael Bolt (NC Cherokee), Canadian Provinces Derek Smith (Manitoba).

Invited guests: Dick Bachelder (COI Rep.), Sheryl Ervin (COI Rep.), Ed Corriveau (Retirees), Ann D'Alfonso (KS), Jim Bell (NOWRA President)

Green = Present

Red = Absent

Review meeting agenda

Approval of April Board meeting minutes

Motion by Chuck Cousino: Approve March meeting minutes

Matt Pace: seconded

None opposed

Passes

Executive Committee Reports:

Presidents report: (Mary Clark)

- EPA MOU Update
EPA still sees themselves as partners. They want to support us. Mary asked about EPA CWA issue. They say they have a real interest in working through this issue.
- CWSRF/Decentralized Financing
- EPA Region 1 Administrator Alex Dunn visits VT
- CWA Response for Comments (Jim Bell assisting)
NOWRA met with EPA on April 12th (routine meeting). Met with Marcus Zoberus of (EPA) industrial wastewater group. He said that EPA wants comments from everyone that is involved. EPA will group comments by respondent type. Jim suggests we use the strength of numbers and comment as state employees.

At the Clean Water Summit (same week) David Ross (EPA Assistant director of (?)) spoke to the issue and mentioned septic as one (type of) non-point source. This was a signal that we need to make comment.



Same week, Senate hearing on this issue: Rs say it is a far reach and Ds say it is still an issue. Main issues cited were agricultural feeding operations and industrial waste operations.

Case was referenced often: (“Hawaii Case”) Wildlife Fund v. County of Maui
City was directly injecting water into the ground for groundwater recharge. Coral reefs were impacted. Dye testing found it took >60 days to get to the coral reefs from injection.

NOWRA wants SORA to say that all states require some separation between GW and effluent release. We all have authority to control/prevent direct discharges to GW and we do.

EPA wants states to comment on state authority and practical application of CWA and direct/indirect discharges.

EPA is holding comment period and held a Senate hearing, which signals that they intend to have congress address the issue.

Mary will put some general comments together for SORA:

- Septics are non-point
- It will be complex/difficult to figure out which existing systems may have seasonal or other direct connections
- SORA members are the experts in this field

Mary will try to get something out by next week.

We will also encourage states to respond individually.

Dick Bachelder volunteers to write a section on the potential financial impact.

Treasurers report: (Amanda Clark)

Amanda reports: membership applications have dropped off. Amanda has been working on getting SORA set up as a vendor in several states.

Secretary report: (Jeremy Simmons) No report other than previous month’s minutes. Refresh of last month’s conversation.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership (Jeremy Simmons / Chris Edwards; Co-Chairs)

- Update on roll-out of membership dues; process, etc.
- State-by-state review of states not applying
- Discussion on next steps – notice of end of availability of listserv, formal letter, others?

Conference Planning (Matt Pace)



- **Planning update**
- **Abstracts due May 1st**

Plans are moving forward. Today is abstract deadline. After that the agenda will get solidified. SORA has been thinking about getting more involved. Working with NOWRA on an MOU. NOWRA will offer a reduced rate for regulators. Question: is this a one per state scenario like last year? We have more than one regulator per state, so maybe we should have the discount be first come first serve.

Strategic Planning (Mary Clark) No report

COI Report:

- **COI Report (Dick, Sheryl)**
Sheryl reports-there have not been any COI meetings since last SORA board meeting. Nothing to report.

Adhoc Committee Reports:

- **Website (Ann D'Alphonso)**
Did we go through and categorize what should be on the webpage? Committee worked and is still working on that.
Also looked at potential listserv policies. Chuck and Ann will continue to work on that.
- **Sustainability (Amanda Clark);** Committee On hold
- **Data Sharing (Vacant);** Committee On hold
- **Retirees (Ed Corriveau);** Update **No report**

New Business:

Old Business:

Action Item Review:

Adjourn:

Motion by Chuck Cousino: adjourn the meeting

Seconded by: Mary Clark

None opposed

Passes

Future Meeting Dates for 2018 (First Tuesday of each month): ~~May 1, 2018~~, June 5, 2018, July 3, 2018. All meetings will start at 2:30 EST.