SORA Board Meeting Minutes  
April 2, 2024, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (EST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone on our NEW LINK:

[**meet.google.com/kcw-zpda-jia**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__meet.google.com_kcw-2Dzpda-2Djia&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=Ql4DNW5Hwu446L6nYkPQPuc5xkBTRoR0OS83slKg9vk&m=86u3N3yo8539qgPG5Z_6q6xlxwAb4aIKGbLcLu8ieiWy5ZxjTO2WfilyxLis48Wc&s=1dxzawjFpKKsO-BakjPJ5AIi03XZmo-K7QC7pjep43A&e=)

Or dial:

More phone numbers: https://tel.meet/kcw-zpda-jia?pin=2479096131574

Board Roll Call:

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| Region 1: Amanda Clark (CT) | **Region 9: *Treasurer:* Michael Broussard (NM)** |
| Region 2: Stephen Marshall (NY) | **Region 10: Jeremy Simmons (WA)** |
| **Region 3: Past *President*: Travis Sterner (MD)** | At Large*:*  Lance Gregory (VA) |
| **Region 4: Chris Edwards (KY)** | **Tribal: Chris Sams (Cherokee Nation)** |
| **Region 5: Mike Mettler (IN)** | **Canadian Provinces: Derek Smith (Manitoba)** |
| **Region 6: *President-Elect:* Nicholas Huber (OK)** | **Eric Casey: Executive Director** |
| **Region 7: Eric Folks (MO)** | **Secretary: Marcia Degen (Retiree)** |
| ***Region 8: President:* Chuck Cousino (CO)** |  |

Invited Guests: **Dick Bachelder**/ **Sheryl Ervin** (COI Rep.), Dave Cotton (membership chair)

1. Approval of March 5, Board Mtg. minutes. Motion: Nicholas Huber Second: Derek Smith Approved.
2. Executive Committee Reports
   1. President’s report: (Chuck)
      1. NOWRA update on BIL funding for decentralized industry; funding will stay at current levels so no additional funding expected this year
   2. Treasurer’s Report: (Michael)
      1. Update 2024 Budget with actual numbers from 2023 (Michael)

Chuck asked Michael to update budget to reflect current expenditures

* + 1. Go-to-Meeting status; Cancelled payments? Michael contacted them, but no response. It’s connected to old bank account so should automatically stop payment.
    2. Invoice status: 19 invoices outstanding; only 2 are older than 30 days
    3. Current account balances:
       1. Savings: $31, 235.95
       2. Checking: $9,438.62
       3. Receivables: $9,831.30
  1. Secretary’s Report: (Marcia)
     1. Listserv status - COI - Removed from COI
        1. [dpotts@geomatrixllc.com](mailto:dpotts@geomatrixllc.com)
        2. [epotts@geomatrixllc.com](mailto:epotts@geomatrixllc.com)
        3. [jhenderson@geomatrixllc.com](mailto:jhenderson@geomatrixllc.com)
        4. [jhause@wvu.edu](mailto:jhause@wvu.edu)
        5. [jscruver@aol.com](mailto:jscruver@aol.com)
        6. [marcia.degen@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:marcia.degen@vdh.virginia.gov)

Need to add EZ Treat to COI list. Dick to contact EZ Treat and get email addresses for listserv. Make sure Mike Mettler is on the COI list as the Board rep.

* + 1. Listserv status – Joint COI & Regulator – Removed the same list as in ‘i’
    2. Listserv status – Board Members: Removed [michbolt@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:michbolt@ebci-nsn.gov); add in Chris Sams [Chris-Sams@cherokee.org](mailto:Chris-Sams@cherokee.org)
  1. Executive Director’s Report (Eric C.):
     1. Website updates – on hold; Eric reaching out for WordPress assistance. He’ll try to keep under $150, but Chuck noted that it needs to get done so whatever it takes.
        1. Members only page; status, needed?
        2. Misc. $5/mo. charge (Amanda noted); addressed?
     2. Workforce grant update; NOWRA – no movement yet. Eric suspects that EPA has delayed due to overall funding issues in Congress
     3. “Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap Program”, Ensure that SORA membership is aware of this program.

Eric has sent out an email out to SORA members. Would like to add it to the newsletter too.

* + 1. Create SORA-specific email for Exec. Dir.

1. Standing Committee Reports:
   1. Membership (Dave/Eric C.);
      1. Online application status; Is website application connecting properly? Eric is working on it.
         1. Michael noted that one current application has ‘owner’ on it, so we’ve received an app for a homeowner. Also have received several applications from installers. Need to communicate with them who SORA is, and membership requirements.
         2. Eric is not receiving the applications, but he did receive an inquiry from a state that Eric forwarded to Michael.
      2. Share privileges for Google docs; Status?
      3. Edits to draft “membership page”
   2. Conference Planning (Eric C./Jeremy);
      1. NOWRA MOU – received (same as 2023 MOU). Cost is $125 per person and SORA pays $100 each. Motion: Nicholas Huber; Second: Chris Edwards. Approved.
      2. Call for papers is out.
      3. Tuesday evening event: Tom Groves is scoping out rooms for the SORA event.
   3. Strategic Planning (Travis): No activity.
2. COI Report (Dick/Sheryl)
   1. Dick reaching out to COI’s re: Tuesday conference event sponsorship invoices
      1. Dick contacted 13 thus far; 12 have committed and Michael has sent invoices; lost NESCI and Geomatrix. Has a lead on a new one.
   2. COI balance sheet? (Michael) see previous report
3. Ad hoc Committee Reports:
   1. Website (Eric C.): no committee activity
   2. Newsletter status (Eric C., Michael B., Mike M.) will send out by email, then post on website
   3. OWTS funding options (Lance, Eric C.) No activity
   4. Policy (Chuck): no activity
4. Old Business:
   1. National Waste Alliance(group addressing the difficulty of finding septage disposal locations nationwide) ; NAWT request; Report on discussion w/NAWT, Nicholas (OK)

Nicholas met with them and had a general discussion. NWA is putting together some questions for SORA members.

Some states removed septage from biosolids definition so can do land application without meeting 503B; some use the lime stabilization option in 503B; Some states or regions have prohibited land application, and reported costs at municipal plants are approaching $1 per gallon to dispose of septage in some locations. Marcia said VA code has a tie between state funding and septage facilities. She’ll find and send that language out. This statute is not enforced though.

SORA will be available for technical/regulatory input.

* 1. Discussion of product reviews. Is this a topic moving forward? (Eric F., Michael)
     1. Results of Eric/Michael discussion – both are swamped. Good idea, but table the idea for now.
  2. NEHA monthly magazine update; (Eric C.)
     1. Status; what would we want in an add? Waiting on a response from NEHA.

Thoughts: to encourage folks to join SORA; mission statement; benefits, etc. Possibly create a specific URL or QR code for this ad

1. New Business:
   1. Can’t get to SORA page “we could not verify the certificate: reason = untrusted”. Eric will look into this with our web provider
2. Action Items:
   1. From February meeting:
      1. Lance to send out invite to membership to the new Ad hoc Committee.
3. Adjourn –

**Meeting Dates for 2024 (First Tuesday of each month):** All meetings will start at 2:30 P.M. EST.

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| ~~March 5~~ | August 6 |
| ~~April 2~~ | September 3 |
| May 7 | October 1 |
| June 4 | November 5 |
| July 2 | December 3 |