SORA Board Meeting Minutes
March 5, 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 February 6, Board Mtg. minutes

Motion to approve: Eric F; Chris second

1. Executive Committee Reports
	1. President’s report: (Chuck)
		1. Introduction of new Board member Chris Sams
		2. E-blast from EPA re: “Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap Program”, funding initiative’

Amanda and Chuck attended a remote call with EPA regarding this initiative. EPA requested that SORA assist in getting this information out to the various state agencies. 50 new sites per year for 3 years is the understood schedule. This is for technical assistance to assist in preparation for a funding application

* 1. Treasurer’s Report: (Michael); unable to attend.
		1. Update 2024 Budget with actual numbers from 2023 (Michael)
		2. Go-to-Meeting status; Cancelled payments?
		3. Status of new checks
		4. Invoice status
		5. Current account balances:
			1. Savings:
			2. Checking:
			3. Receivables
	2. Secretary’s Report: (Marcia)
		1. Listserv; status of matching with membership list

Marcia, Jeremy and Michael met. Michael will generate a current email list as invoices are updated and send to Marcia on a routine interval. Marcia will update the listserv with the new list. Michael will identify any new members so that the welcome email can be sent out. Any interim updates will be handled immediately by Marcia upon notification by Michael.

* 1. Executive Director’s Report (Eric C.):
		1. Website updates – no update
			1. Members only page; status, needed?
			2. Misc. $5/mo. charge (Amanda noted); - Eric to resolve
		2. Workforce grant update – (NOWRA grant) No word yet on the award.
		3. “Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap Program”, Ensure that SORA membership is aware of this program. Quarterly reminders will be sent out and in the newsletter.
		4. Open AI – “SORA” identifier – Eric noted that it has the same name. No action needed at this time.
		5. Create SORA-specific email for Exec. Dir. – to do
1. Standing Committee Reports:
	1. Membership (Dave/Eric C.); No updates
		1. Online application status; Is website application working properly?
		2. Share privileges for Google docs; Status?
		3. Edits to draft “membership page”
	2. Conference Planning (Eric C./Jeremy); - planning is going ok. Call for abstracts will come out in the next week or so. Logo in progress.
	3. Strategic Planning (Travis): No updates
2. COI Report (Dick/Sheryl)
	1. Dick reaching out to COI’s re: Tuesday conference event sponsorship invoices
		1. COI billing status; Hold until Dick B. makes contact and responds to Michael.
		2. Talked to 13, heard back from 5. Invoice options given (one vs two) and selected. Expects the others will respond positively. Dick is sending the invoice option onto to Michael as they are defined.
		3. He reminded the COIs that they are welcome to attend the Board meetings.
		4. NESC and Geomatrix have dropped off and are no longer a COI.
	2. COI balance sheet? (Michael) – Dick is working with Michael on this.
3. Ad hoc Committee Reports:
	1. Website (Eric C.): no update
	2. Newsletter status (Eric C., Michael B., Mike M.) – Ready to go.
	3. OWTS funding options (Lance, Eric C.); no update
	4. Policy (Chuck): No new policies
4. Old Business:
	1. Discussion of product reviews. (Eric F., Michael)
		1. Michael to develop proposal
		2. Outreach to COIs to see what would be helpful

No work on this. Question should it be taken off the “to do” list. Eric will reach out to Michael to determine path forward

* 1. NEHA monthly magazine update; (Eric C.)
		1. Status; what would we want in an add? Eric is working with NEHA
1. New Business:
	1. Jason Birdsong, Vice-President of NAWT, starting a collaboration of entities to address disposal of septage crisis – National Waste Alliance. Want to bring this issue to light and possibly lobby to address this issue. NOWRA and NAWT. Want to create fact sheets. Meet bi-monthly.

Discussion: SORA shouldn’t be involved with lobbying. SORA could provide input and guidance to process but not be a member; Nicholas will be meeting with Jason to get more clarification on the involvement requested.

1. Action Items:
	1. Lance to send out invite to membership to the new Ad hoc Committee.
	2. Nicholas will follow up with Jason on National Waste Alliance
	3. Marcia to remove COI and joint COI from listserv
	4. Eric Folks to check with Michael on product review item.
2. 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 |