



SORA Board Meeting Minutes
Oct. 1, 2024, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (EDT)

Link: meet.google.com/kcw-zpda-jia

Or dial: (US) +1 337-935-2148 PIN: 229 931 842#

Board Roll Call:

Region 1: Amanda Clark (CT); Becka Andranovich	Region 9: Michael Broussard (NM), <i>Treasurer</i>
Region 2: Stephen Marshall (NY)	Region 10: Jeremy Simmons (WA)
Region 3: Travis Sterner (MD), <i>Past President</i>	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: Nicholas Huber (OK), <i>President-Elect</i>	<i>Executive Director:</i> Eric Casey
Region 7: Eric Folks (MO)	<i>Secretary:</i> Marcia Degen (Retiree)
Region 8: Chuck Cousino (CO), <i>President</i>	

Invited Guests: Dick Bachelder/ Sheryl Ervin/**Jeanne Allen**(COI Rep.); Membership chair: vacant

1. Approval of September 3, 2024 Board Meeting minutes: motion to approve: Chuck C; second Nicholas H. Minutes passed.
2. Executive Committee Reports
 - a. President's report: (Chuck)
 - i. Annual meeting (Nov. 12, 2024, 12:30 EST); agenda items; tentative to get agenda out next week. EPA will provide updates; Tom Groves with NOWRA will present; Chuck contacting NSF – possibly NSF 385; Amanda has a contact at EPA and they asked for comments on a climate change documents – supposed to be coming out soon – suggested this as a topic. Travis to set up new meeting link.
 - ii. Reps – Amanda – will run another term, but Becka will be her permanent Proxy; Travis – will re-run; Nicholas has to stay on a President (has a new staff who is interested); Chuck will re-run.
 - b. Treasurer's Report: (Michael)
 - i. Invoice status
 1. Members



- a. Member status: Park County, N. Carolina, Illinois? (Chris) – clear and rebill next year
 - b. COI, Membership; Status of all payments, are we current? All COIs are all paid up.
- ii. Current account balances:
 - 1. Savings: \$31,772.22
 - 2. Checking: \$16,840.65
 - 3. Receivables \$460.00
 - 4. Gross receipts and assets must be under \$50,000 to continue to file post card for taxes. (501-C6 is how SORA is structured. Had intended to be a 501C3 in the future – higher costs for accounting. As C6 can advocate on behalf of specific politician. Either can lobby for general policies.
- c. Secretary's Report: (Marcia)
 - i. No updates for listserv pending.
 - ii. Golden flush award nominees needed. Send nominees to Marcia.
- d. Executive Director's Report (Eric C.):
 - i. Website updates
 - 1. Status of "untrusted site" issue is fixed!
 - 2. Site modifications via WordPress; number of modifications completed; all current minutes loaded; new COI on slider. Test email for Eric in progress as is address change.
 - 3. Members only page; need to determine if this option is needed; cost/benefit analysis. Mtg. w/ Marcia, Becka, Michael
 - 4. Discussion regarding inclusion of a link to state OWTS regs on our webpage. Michael working to create a Quickbooks spreadsheet for this next year. Coordinate w/Eric C.
 - 5. Membership application: Share privileges for Google docs; Status? This is in regard to who gets the notification when someone submits an application. Need to modify to ensure that application gets to all



appropriate individuals. Updated application form? – doodle poll sent to set meeting to discuss.

- ii. SORA official address; VA address still on webpage but Eric is working on it.
- iii. SORA-specific email for Exec. Dir. – wecasey@soraus.com, not working right yet - working on it.
- iv. NEHA ad status – Eric is trying another contact.

3. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Membership (Eric C.);

- i. Member, online application status. Working as intended? Is site contacting Marcia, Michael, Eric, Becka? Updated language on form? Needs follow up. – meeting being scheduled

b. Conference Planning (Eric C./Jeremy);

- i. Tuesday evening event location; down payment, status?

- 1. Food/Beverage: Menu done. Jeanne asked about room set up – is that decided. Preference is a mix of sit down and high table for mixers.
- 2. Invitations: Dick getting ready to send out invites to COIs.
- 3. Need to get a picture of the group.
- 4. Easel sign of all the captains – estimate \$80 – yes, do it.
- 5. Weather – 70's day and 40's at night now; likely 60's day and 30's overnight during conference

c. Strategic Planning (Travis):

- i. n/a

4. COI Report (Dick/Sheryl):

- a. Dick; Any response from COI contacts regarding a suggested increase annual dues to cover both membership and event costs? Follow up needed. Is keeping it split as membership and sponsorship better from a tax standpoint?

5. Ad hoc Committee Reports:



- a. Newsletter, (Eric C., Michael B., Mike M.) – next publication to be after the annual business meeting – will poll members for septic smart week activities
 - i. Newsletter can be found under “For SORA members” tab
 - b. OWTS funding, (Lance, Eric C.);
 - i. Report from last meeting – Discussed clean water needs summary from 2022. Several states did not submit to the clean water needs survey. Survey being developed to assess federal and state funding different states are using; and who did/did not submit CW Needs assessment and barriers to submitting CW Needs. Council for Infrastructure Financing Authorities – conference coming up
[CIFA SRF Workshop | CIFA \(cifanet.org\)](#)

CW report shows how much goes to decentralized systems. A fair number of states have \$0 assigned to onsite.

EPA CWF Indian set aside [Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Program | US EPA](#)
 - c. Policy (Chuck): No report
6. Old Business:
- a. National Waste Alliance; NAWT program; Status report, Nicholas (OK) – met the other week; white paper is the next step; topic will be brought up at NOWRA conference.
7. New Business:
- a. SORA Board vacancies for 2025; nominations
 - i. President-Elect; vacant
 - ii. Secretary; Marcia D. (Current secretary) – would consider passing this role on but will stay till a replacement is on
 - iii. Treasurer; Michael B. (Current Treasure)
 - iv. Region 1; Amanda C. term expires – will run again
 - v. Region 3; Travis S. term expires – will run again
 - vi. Region 6; Nicholas H. term expires (Slated for SORA president, 2025) – will run again
 - vii. Region 8; Chuck C. term expires (Past-President) – will run again
 - b. Tricia Scott leading panel on state regulations at NOWRA – Chuck and Nick are on the panel.
8. Action Items: Awards, follow up for President Elect, speakers for Annual meeting
9. Adjourn –



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

November 5
November 12 is annual meeting
December 3