



## SORA Board Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2024, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (EDT)

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

[meet.google.com/kcw-zpda-jia](https://meet.google.com/kcw-zpda-jia)

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

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

### Board Roll Call:

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

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

1. Approval of July 9, 2024 Board Meeting minutes: Motion to approve: Chuck C; second: Chris E.
2. Executive Committee Reports
  - a. President's report: (Chuck) – no new news
  - b. Treasurer's Report: (Michael) (absent)
    - i. Invoice status
      1. Members
        - a. Member status: Illinois (Chris E to follow up with Chad Morgan), NC (Chris E called but no response), Park Co (Chuck C to follow up)
      2. COI, Membership, and 2023 Tuesday event payment status
    - ii. Current account balances:
      1. Savings: \$31,683.68



2. Checking: \$15,708.03

3. Receivables: \$1630.90

Chuck: For future consideration – keeping 2 years of operating funds in the bank

Travis – are there tax implications if we keep too much money in banking? Eric C believes its related to type of tax forms used. Right now we use a simple form.

Chuck asked Becka to check with Amanda on that issue.

c. Secretary's Report: (Marcia)

- i. No outstanding listserv updates to report. Travis S mentioned that MD will be sending some member updates.

d. Executive Director's Report (Eric C.):

i. Website updates -

- 1. Status of "untrusted site" issue – paperwork submitted, but not completed yet
- 2. Site modifications via WordPress; status?
- 3. Members only page; need to determine if this option is needed; cost/benefit analysis mtg w Marcia, Becka, Michael – To Do
- 4. Discussion regarding inclusion of a link to state OWTS regs on our webpage – To Do

ii. SORA official address; webpage to be modified to CT and drop the VA address.

iii. SORA-specific email for Exec. Dir. – [wecasey@soraus.com](mailto:wecasey@soraus.com), in process, not ready.

iv. NEHA add status – to do

v. Working on deposit for conference event. Total budget about \$3,000

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.

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



- i. Tuesday evening event location; status?
    1. Food/Bev. Status; working on deposit to hold room. All is set.
    2. Responding to member questions on registrations.
    3. Grand is still open for rooms. There is a 3<sup>rd</sup> hotel as a backup in case Grand is sold out.
  - c. Strategic Planning (Travis):
    - i. n/a
4. COI Report (Dick/Sheryl): Absent
  - a. Dick; Any response from COI contacts?
  - b. COI sponsorship; (from last month: comment on suggested increase annual dues to cover both membership and event costs)
5. Ad hoc Committee Reports:
  - a. Newsletter status (Eric C., Michael B., Mike M.)
    - i. New tab for newsletter on webpage?
  - b. OWTS funding options (Lance, Eric C.); Status – had a first meeting. Now meeting monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. Creating list of available federal funds; survey of members to see what federal and state funds are being used and what restrictions they have; quantify the funding needs of SORA members – start with Clean Water Needs Survey; planning outreach for what is learned in first 3.

Question for this board – can that committee make recommendations to EPA or other groups for policy changes? Potentially work through MOU to get to EPA. Eric C suggested looking at the Water Finance Center and make EPA aware of issues – at least Dr. Sawyer. Not lobbying, but provide feedback to partner agencies such as NOWRA, etc.

Eric C reminded that the question regarding on sewer or septic will be re-established on American community survey in 2025. SORA needs to think about what we can do with that data. Could be some confusing data for systems that are on community onsite systems.
- c. Policy (Chuck): No changes.
6. Old Business:



- a. National Waste Alliance; NAWT program; Status report, Nicholas (OK) – nothing new. Should be another meeting coming up. They are still gathering feedback. Discussion followed.

WA is doing study on septage management to try to address in their state.

Sedron is working to get into the septage field in WA <https://www.sedron.com/>  
<https://www.sedron.com/about/who-we-are/>

Western VA Water Authority biogas production: [Biogas to Renewable Natural Gas Project | Western Virginia Water Authority \(westernvawater.org\)](#)

[HB 2322 \[2019\]: Plan to Transition Septic Pump-Out Oversight and Enforcement in Rural Coastal Virginia – August, 2021](#)

7. New Business:

- a. Date for Annual meeting: November 12<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm to 4pm Eastern Time; Chuck to send out a save the date for the meeting.
- b. Elections – Chuck will send out status of Board members.

8. Action Items:

- a. TBD

9. Adjourn –

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

|             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| September 3 | November 12 – Annual meeting |
| October 1   | December 3                   |