

Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association (541)389-6692

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President's Message

Summer 2009

Brian Rabe, CPSS, WWS



Greetings! You will see updates on a number of topics in this issue. The DEQ rules advisory committee has been wrestling with the primary issue of the times – money. Part of the process includes commentary from the affected public. Each of you are encouraged to review the proposals and provide comments through the established process. Unfortunately, many of the rule changes that several people have been bringing up for some time are not included in the current process. O2WA has a standing Rules Committee where proposals can be submitted for consideration

during the next rule revision process. If you have a suggestion for a rule change, prepare a proposal that includes the rule in question (please cite chapter and verse), the proposed alternative language, and your reasoning for the proposal. Mail, fax, or email your suggestions to the Rules Committee via the Executive Secretary of O2WA.

Many thanks to board member Dan Buss for organizing (once again) the 3rd Annual Summer Golf Tournament. Please take notice of this years sponsors and be sure to thank them next time you see them as well.

If you haven't yet done so, be sure to mark your calendar for April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for the 2010 Annual Conference. It will be held at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach in Portland. We are planning on having our first ever Equipment Rodeo on Thursday. Be sure to sign up and show us what you've got. There will also be a pre-conference Golf Tournament to provide another opportunity to meet your colleagues in a fun and relaxing atmosphere. Friday and Saturday will have a full slate of classes on timely and relevant topics. The Friday banquet and auction will

provide an excellent opportunity to enjoy good food and fellowship and raise money for the annual scholarship program. Speaking of the Scholarship Program, read about the recipients of this years awards elsewhere in this newsletter.

John McGee resigned his position as the Engineer board member. On behalf of the board, I want to express our appreciation for his three plus years of service to the association.

Former Engineer board member, Dennis Boeger, has expressed his willingness to serve out the remainder of John's current term and is expected to be confirmed at our next scheduled board meeting. Thanks, Dennis.

O2WA continues to partner with a variety of people interested in offering OESAC-approved continuing education classes. Our goal is to identify and promote opportunities for Installers and Service Providers to achieve their CEU's. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for currently scheduled offerings and check the website on a regular basis to see what classes are forthcoming and when and where they will be held. See you in the trenches!

Brian Rabe, President, O2WA



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DEQ Proposing Increase on Certain Onsite Septic System Program Fees

Check it out!

**O2WA Awarded
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Scholarships
2009-2010**



**Congratulations to:
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**Courtney Arts
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Corvallis, OR
OSU**

About a third of Oregon homes are not connected to public sewer systems, but depend on an onsite septic system to treat their wastewater. DEQ regulates the siting, construction and inspection of septic systems statewide, and administers that work directly in 14 of 36 counties. After more than a decade without an increase in these fees, DEQ is proposing to raise most onsite wastewater application fees by 60 percent. Costs to operate the program have increased over 40 percent since 2000, and are expected to continue to rise. Because of the continuing shortfall, the Oregon legislature this year approved DEQ's request to increase fees by 40 to 60 percent, with the understanding that the new fees will take into account rising costs through 2015.

DEQ recognizes that there is no good time to increase fees. This increase is necessary to maintain minimum staffing levels required to run the statewide program, which protects public health and the environment. The fee increase will support 2.5 staff positions to maintain current service levels and will provide for year-round operating costs.

The increased fees affect only those applications submitted directly to DEQ and do not affect the fee schedules for counties that administer the program themselves. The increase applies to all onsite fees except WPCF-Onsite permit fees, licensing fees and the state surcharge. DEQ will take public comment until September 25, 2009, and will hold six public hearings across the state in areas where DEQ directly

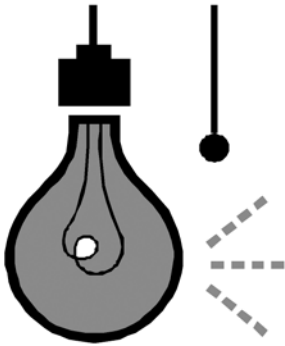
administers the program. For more information about the fee increase, please visit DEQ's Onsite program website at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/onsite/onsite.htm>.

Soils on the Horizon

Although House Joint Resolution 21 designating Jory as Oregon's official state soil passed the House, it died awaiting action in the Senate. Jory was selected by the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists in the early 1990's and is recognized nationally as part of the Dig It! display of state soils in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. This was the third attempt to get official recognition by the state legislature. Maybe it will make it all the way in the 2011 session. The other bill I mentioned in the last issue, House Bill 2761, never made it out of committee.

Brian Rabe
O2WA
Soil Scientist



QUESTION: I'm a licensed installer in Oregon and I normally work in the county I live in, but recently bid on a job in another county. It was for a single family dwelling and the job was for an Alternative Treatment Technology (ATT) system. I got the job and submitted a permit application and plans to this county. The regulator at the counter told me I need to have a 1,500 gallon septic tank. In the county I normally work in, I'm allowed to use a 1,000 gallon septic tank for this system. Can a county decide that a bigger tank than the rules allow be required? I'm going to lose money on this job and it seems like some counties have a secret rule book.

ANSWER: This is a little tricky to answer because each Alternative Treatment Technology (ATT) system is approved a little different and you must refer to DEQ's Onsite Program website (<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/onsite/att.htm>) for the approved drawings. There are a few ATT systems that specify an "Oregon-approved" septic tank between the house and the ATT. If we take that scenario, a single family dwelling + "Oregon-approved" septic tank and assume that it is the basis of your question, we'll see where that gets us.

NOTE: A rule change in 2005 provided that systems with pressurized distribution laterals are not able to use dosing septic tanks, unless the tank is partitioned with a flow-through below the tank's lowest liquid level. That doesn't come into play with this question because the ATT product approval rule allows for some deviation from tank standards (like using the small pump vault with some ATTs instead of a dosing tank).

The minimum size for a new septic tank installation (regardless of how low the flow) is 1,000 gallons. A dwelling with 4 bedrooms has a design flow of 450 gallons per day (gpd) and 1,000 gallon septic tank capacity is approved for that use. Each subsequent bedroom equates to an additional 75 gpd of design flow. A 5-bedroom dwelling would need at least 1,500 gallon septic tank. The rule is Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 340-071-0220(3)(a)(C). Subsection D of that rule section states that the agent may require a larger tank than otherwise specified in rule for special or unique waste characteristics, such as flow patterns, volumes, waste strength or facility operation. Examples of that residentially could be a home-based catering business or salon, agricultural business and perhaps a very large family, to name a few.

The rule is not intended to be applied on a widespread basis, or for upsizing tanks on certain technologies, such as sand filters and ATTs. In this case, it may be a good idea to verify the number of bedrooms is 4 or less. If so, and it's a 'normal' house without any anomalies like the examples I offered above, I suggest asking the agent what the basis of the larger tank is. It's possible the agent made a mistake and they'll allow a 1,000 gallon tank. It is not OK for an agent to require more than the prescriptive rules stipulate unless they have a specific reason on a specific site.

Watch for Installer Training

Hosted by:



www.o2wa.org

Classes will start up in the Fall.
For more information go online to www.o2wa.org
Call 541-389-6692 or email info@o2wa.org.

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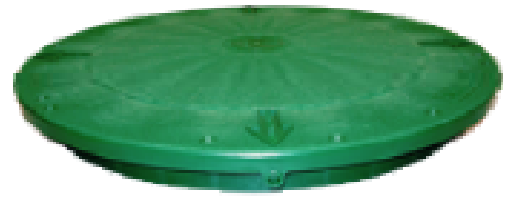


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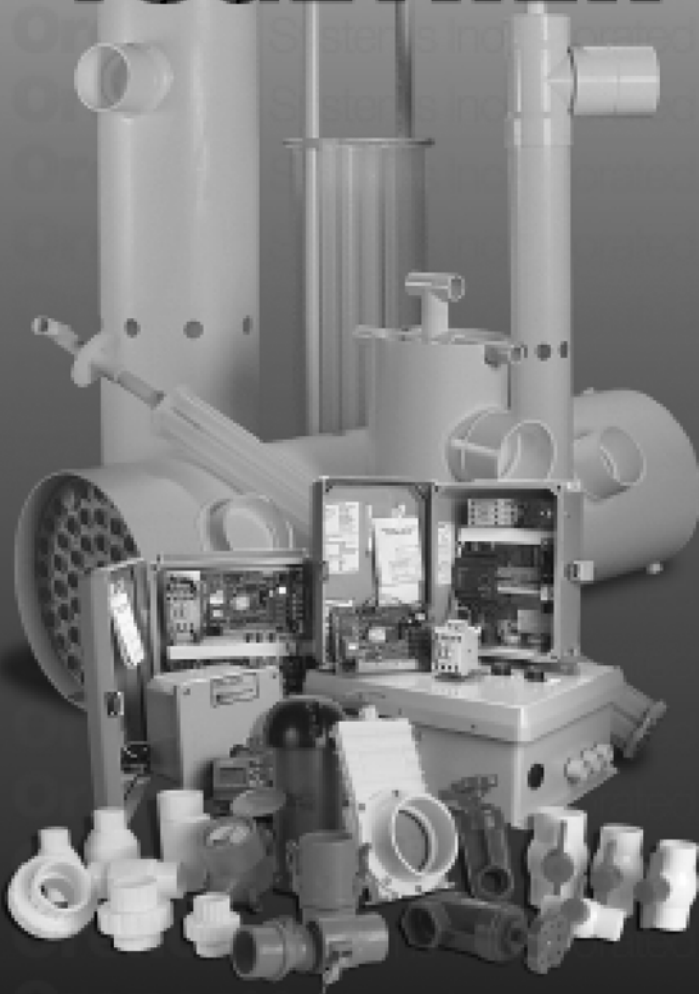
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Oregon

Committed to the future of rural communities.

Oregon USDA Rural Development is pleased to present this Housing Program *Information Guide*, covering the Agency's housing programs. We hope you find this information helpful.

During Fiscal Year 2008, USDA Rural Development in Oregon administered over \$158 million in housing financial assistance to our State. The combination of all our Single and Multifamily Housing loans and grants including leveraged funds totaled more than \$176 million in financial assistance. This is an 89% increase across the board in dollars and 73% increase in the number of homes, home repair/rehabilitation projects, and rental units going out the door.

The Oregon Rural Development Housing Team has proudly served rural Oregon, fulfilling our important mission of "to improve the quality of life for and enhance economic opportunities of rural Americans".

The Housing Team looks forward to the future and the many opportunities that are available to rural Oregon. To learn more about the Agency's programs, I invite you to visit our USDA Rural Development website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/>.

Respectfully,

Rod

Rod Hansen
Housing Programs Director
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Eligible Area—Nonmetropolitan areas of 25,000 population or less.

Eligible Individuals/Families—Individuals and families that own their home. Grant application must be 62 years of age and not qualify for a loan.

Type of Assistance—Grants and direct loans.

Eligible Income—Grant and direct loan applicants must be very low income (50% of the median income) for the county.

Term—Recapture provision for grants (3 years); 20 years for loans.

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Golf Fans – Results of the "09" O2WA Golf Tournament

A fantastic 85 degree day greeted us for our annual O2WA golf tournament, and a perfect day it was. Cross Creek Golf Course hosted our day of fun in the sun chasing the little white ball over hill and dale and sometimes even more. There was no lack of refreshments as golf cart driving skills became the secondary test of the day, but down to business it was as our usual 4 man scramble event unfolded. The teams were so evenly matched this year that after the first 9 all team scores were within 2 strokes, so everybody had a chance to win first place honors going into the second half on the contest. Along with the team challenges for the day also came the individual highlights. With 4 individual challenges at strategic places we fought for honors in K-P's, long drives and long putt.



This years honors went as follows:

K-P honors went to:

Justin Dallison-- with a now cart golf bag

Larry Flinn--with a GPS car unit

Long Drive:

Brannon Lamp--with a Taylor Made 52 degree wedge

Long Putt:

John Smits--with a portable DVD player

Team Honors went to:

First Place Team:--\$60.00 gift Certificate to Sports Authority

Jim White

Lois Parker

Toby Brandner

Dan Buss

Second Place Team:--\$50.00 Gift Certificate to Olive Garden

Andy Harville

Justin

Zan Ewing

Felice Cooper

Third Place Team:--One dozen Bridgestone golf balls

Spencer Waite

Rex Waite

Bill Ritter

Brannon Lamp

Fourth Place Team:--One dozen Taylor Made Burner golf balls

Greg Bruce

J R

Larry Flinn

John Smits

With the excellent cooking skills of Andy Harville we sat down to a great lunch of Brats, Burgers, potato salad, fruit salad, chips and drinks as we lied about our rounds of golf, told stories of the ones that got away from us and what a great time we had together at this years event.

O2WA

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We're on the Web!

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O2WA

**An organization of professionals working in
the Onsite Waste Disposal Industry.**

Officers:

Brian Rabe – President

Erik Colville – Treasurer

Directors:

Brittany Steele – County Regulator

Dan Buss – Installer

Scott Davis – Manufacturing

Open – Engineering

Scott Hammersmith – Tank Manufacturer

Brian Rabe – Soil Scientist

Chris Rhodaback – Septic Tank Pumper

Will Austin – Education

Ron Smith – Environmental Health Specialist

Randy Trox – DEQ

Committee Chairs:

Newsletter – Kim Aldrich

Education – Open

Membership – John McGee

Legislation – Dan Buss

Conference – Brian Rabe

Vendors – Scott Davis

Site Selection – Chris Rhodaback

Rules & Regulations – Scott Hammersmith

Auction – Mike Hamer

A special thanks goes out to our loyal sponsors and the companies that they represent. Thanks also to Bill Ritter of HD Fowler Company for his helping me with the set-up along with the individual coolers for each player along with some hats. Prier Pipe also donated some hats for the event to go along with our goodie bag consisting of a sleeve of Titlest golf balls, tee's, candy, snacks, divot tool and the precious drink tickets.

Once again thank you all for attending this years event. I hope you all had as much fun as I did. I hope to see you all back next year as well as all of you out there in the industry that would consider joining us for a day of fun in the sun.

Dan Buss

Weird Onsite Stuff

Beware of Attacking Pygmy Goat's

Kim Aldrich
Yamhill County Regulator

Ok so lets talk about some more weird onsite stuff, the topic for today will be attack animals. We could talk about dogs, but that's boring, how about attack pygmy goats, cows, llamas, and horses. I have had cows run at me, llamas do their spit thing at me, (they are scary), horses bite at my hair when I was doing soils evaluations, but the most interesting experience was ***Spike the PYGMY GOAT***.



This is Spike, he thinks he is a dog, he wears a collar with little spikes on it. The whole time I was at this site Spike was butting me in the back of the legs, when I was done with the site eval I opened my truck door and turned to talk to the home owner. Spike proceeded to get into the truck, in about 2 minutes he managed to eat my paperwork and take a bite out of passenger seat. I took this picture to prove to my Boss that this really happened, I'm not really sure that he believes me, but I was there. I know that Brittany Steele from Linn County has been terrorized by pygmy goats also, they are scary.

If you have any stories about interesting attack animals, please share.
aldrichk@co.yamhill.or.us.

Newsletter Highlights:
DEQ Proposed
Fee Changes