



# MASE Newsletter

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF SITE EVALUATORS

February, 2017

## MASE Annual Meeting & Technical Seminar

Tuesday February 28, 2017

Ramada Conference Center, Lewiston

There's an old saying that by the time the MASE annual meeting comes around in February, you should still have half your firewood and half your hay remaining. Actually, the old saying refers to Groundhog Day, so please don't miss the annual meeting on February 28th because you feel compelled to go out gathering wood.

The theme of this year's meeting is "Standards of Practice." A lot of eyes can review our work before it is installed. If we don't hear anything different, all is well. Right? Our discussion panels will share their opinions with you.

Please join us for this year's annual meeting, held once again at the Ramada Conference Center in Lewiston starting at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, February 28, 2017. An agenda and registration is contained within. Online registration is recommended at the website, [www.mainese.com](http://www.mainese.com). We hope to see you there!



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### Meet the Latest Crop of Site Evaluators

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# MASE Newsletter

February 2017



## MAINE ASSOCIATION OF SITE EVALUATORS

Newsletter Editor Richard Green

### 2016 MASE Board Officers

#### Contributors

Dave Kamila  
Roger St. Amand  
Glenn Angell  
Tim Wade  
Russ Martin

Tim Wade .....President  
Dave Moyse ..... Vice President  
Roger St. Amand..... Treasurer  
Gary Fullerton..... Secretary  
Bonnie Cobb ..... Director  
Richard Green ..... Director  
Russ Martin..... Director  
Dale Knapp ..... Ex-President

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**Richard Green, [richard.a.green@roadrunner.com](mailto:richard.a.green@roadrunner.com)**  
(207)725-4078 *MASE website: [www.mainese.com](http://www.mainese.com)*

## Directions to the Ramada Conference Center 490 Pleasant Street, Lewiston, Maine

#### From North:

Take Interstate 95 South to Exit 80. Continue straight ahead. Follow signs for Industrial Park. At traffic light, go straight. Hotel and conference center is on the left.

#### From South:

Take Interstate 95 North to Exit 80. At stop sign, turn left. Follow signs for Industrial Park. At traffic light, go straight. Hotel and conference center is on the left.



# Message From MASE President Tim Wade



Greetings fellow members,

As I turn and look out my window at the patches of bare ground and the steady stream of water working its way across the parking lot from the measly pile left as a reminder of the several feet of snow we had covering the ground only a couple short weeks ago, I struggle to remind myself that it is still January and we likely have many weeks of cold and snow still in store. Though winter may be a stagnant time when site evaluators, fat on the feasts of autumn, dig in and hibernate for the winter, your board has been tirelessly plugging away to plan and execute our upcoming Annual Meeting among other worthy tasks. I again want to express my appreciation to each of the board members: Dave Moyses, Roger St. Amand, Gary Fullerton, Richard Green, Bonnie Cobb, Russ Martin, and the legendary Dale Knapp, along with the State's contingents: Glenn Angell and David Braley. These folks dedicate several hours per month in meetings and assignments to keep MASE and our events functioning, Thank you to each of you for making my job a little easier.

The Board, though it took a few meetings to iron out the details, was able to ratify the Constitution and Bylaw edits proposed and voted on at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The only remarkable change was the omission of any reference to a defined tax status for 501 c non-profit status. We may still have to cross this bridge down the road for tax purposes, but felt the detail had no relevance in our governing documents.

Once this piece of lingering business was behind us, we were focused on a season full of events and trainings. MASE sent representatives to the Annual MBOIA (Maine Building Officials and Inspectors Association) meeting in Phippsburg to help promote our website as a reference document. We also demonstrated to these municipal officials our Find a Site Evaluator tool in lieu of or in addition to the proverbial "list."

The MASE Annual Golf Tournament was another great event enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to Dave Kamila and Gary Fullerton for their efforts on this year's Tournament, and thank you also to the Meadows Golf Course for hosting our group and Kathy Emmi and Presby for providing lunch again this year. I am already looking forward to next year's event.

MASE began the field season by participating in a training event in conjunction with Maine Rural Water. The Board offered to subsidize the training for our members as it was a good opportunity for a unique hands-on installation training. MASE also contracted to have the training recorded to strengthen our informative section of the website with these videos. The videos require some voice over work which will be finished this winter.

September brought a flurry of Board activity, as MASE planned for our upcoming Field Day, took part in Dave Rocque's last (again) workshop, and participated in the EPA's Septic Smart Week. The Field Day was held at Crystal Spring Farm in Brunswick and, per usual, had no lack of disagreement and debate. Glenn did a great job finding a spot with so many unique and thought provoking soil profiles. The debate moved down the road to Fuji Clean, who were kind enough to house us for the pit reviews as well as provide delicious pizza for lunch. This event coincided with EPA's annual Septic Smart Week, in which EPA promotes septic system training and education for the public. This was MASE's first time promoting Septic Smart Week. Using social media and the website, we plugged up our bandwidth with messages ranging from the dangers of fats, oils and grease in a system to the importance of routine tank pumping and maintenance. EPA encourages organizations to petition state leaders to issue a proclamation, officially recognizing the week. We approached Governor LePage's

office with a request, but learned too late that such requests need to be submitted a few months in advance. The Governor did however send along a letter of appreciation, which you can find deeper in this newsletter. The best outcome from our Septic Smart Week efforts was a new relationship with the Mid Coast Habitat for Humanity. We approached several deserving organizations to offer assistance with a septic system to help promote Septic Smart week but the timing just wasn't right for 2016. However, we were able to facilitate a donation from Construction Consultants and Eljen to the 2016 Habitat for Humanity project, and have laid plans to be much more involved in a 2017 project, something I am enthusiastically looking forward to.

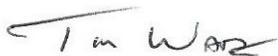
Unfortunately 2016 also brought sadness to our organization with the passing of a MASE and industry pioneer, mentor, colleague, and friend to all of us. Darryl Brown left us on June 18th, and has been missed in the months that have followed. The MASE Board contributed to the scholarship in Darryl and Penny's names at the University of Maine, but no donation could match what Darryl meant to so many of us and our organization as a whole.

Our organization has changed over the past several years to keep pace with the changing world. Our website provides an easier way for the Board to reach the membership, for the membership to interact with one another, and for the public to learn more about our profession and the professionals that make it all work. Despite the progress, the website isn't being used to its potential. It's up to you to get involved. If you aren't yet registered on the website, please take a moment to do so. You can find step by step directions in the 2015 newsletter located here: <http://www.mainease.com/newsletter/>. If you have signed up for the website, but have since changed email, phone, address or any other pertinent information, please login and update that information on the website. This is our only contact list now, and you are responsible to keep your information current.

Last year we considered a paid Media Relations Director which was posted, but didn't generate a lot of interest. The Board reassessed its needs and has decided that an Executive Director would be more appropriate at this point in its evolution. You'll find an article discussing this position and its job description later in this newsletter.

It has been a pleasure to serve all of you over the past several years, and I look forward to serving one more year. Meanwhile, I encourage you to volunteer your time on a committee or the Board itself in the future. I will speak to some of those opportunities at the upcoming meeting. Here's to a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Wade". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Tim Wade, President MASE



# MAINE ASSOCIATION OF SITE EVALUATORS

## 2017 Membership Form & Annual Meeting

MASE NEEDS YOU!

Your membership is important and our budget depends on your dues! All MASE memberships expire in February. You can join now and be assured of another year of representation of your interests by MASE. We are working to keep license fees down, regulations reasonable, host quality field seminars, an interesting annual meeting & informative newsletters.

*(Please complete a separate form for each individual)*

**Regular Membership** \$25  
(Maine Licensed Site Evaluator)

or

**Associate Membership** \$15  
(Unlicensed individuals with an interest in the goals and purpose of the Association)

**Annual Meeting – February 28, 2017** Member: \$25 (in advance)  
(includes lunch) or Non-member: \$30

*\* Please Register by February 23rd to reserve a meal. No refunds are available after February 24<sup>h</sup>.*

**Make Checks Payable to: MASE**

**Mail To:** Roger St. Amand, Treasurer  
P.O Box 76  
Bass Harbor, ME 04653

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

[roger.stamand@gmail.com](mailto:roger.stamand@gmail.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.mainese.com](http://www.mainese.com)

[info@mainese.com](mailto:info@mainese.com)

**MASE Annual Meeting**  
**“Standards of Practice”**  
February 28, 2017  
**Ramada Inn**  
490 Pleasant Street, Lewiston, ME



- 7:30-7:45 Vendor Setup  
7:45-8:15 Registration - Meet with Vendors
- 8:15-8:30 Opening Remarks      Tim Wade
- 8:30-9:15 Glenn Angell      Are you doing your HHE 200s correctly Part 1
- 9:15-9:45                      **VENDOR BREAK**
- 9:45-10:45 LPI Panel - See Speaker Bios for Panel Members
- 10:45-11:45 Contractor Panel
- 11:45-12:15 Nate Whalen/Sid Hazelton Septic system design considerations near Public Water Supplies
- 12:15-12:30 Vendors/ Lunch Setup
- 12:30- 1:00 Lunch - David Braley - DWP                      Department Updates
- 1:00-2:30 Business Meeting -  
   2016 Minutes  
   Treasurer's Report  
   Donation Request - Envirothon  
   Executive Director Position Discussion  
   Fidelity Funds  
   Habitat for Humanity
- 2:30-3:45 Glenn Angell      Are you doing your HHE 200s correctly Part 2
- 3:45-4:00 Closing

Social Hour to follow at hotel bar.

# SUMMARY OF MASE 2016 TREASURY REPORT

2016 was a big year for MASE. We made great progress in meeting the goal set last year to increase awareness of site evaluation and using MASE resources toward education and promotion of the profession. We have also been making strides in online banking and electronic payments. This is a big leap forward and will hopefully make it easier for members to pay.

On to the finances...We started out with assets of \$30,267.09 and ended the year at \$29,042.58. MASE succeeded in expending more money this year than we took in. Now, most organizations try to end the year with a profit, but no, not us! we are site evaluators after all! Seriously though, the Board of Directors and our fearless President Wade found many interesting and unique ways to devote more resources to education, marketing and promoting MASE and site evaluation in general.

Revenue and Expenses: Revenue for 2016 was \$12,811.00. This was up almost \$1,000 from last year. The increases in membership, annual meeting revenues make up most of the difference. A new batch MASE hats and tee shirts were purchased in January of 2016. The cost of goods was \$3,137.99. Swag is being sold more or less at cost for \$12 each. Sales for 2016 were \$430.00. Thanks to Bonnie Cobb and Dave Moyse for their efforts in getting these made up. The gross profit amounted to \$9,673.01. In 2016, expenses were up substantially from last years \$8,721 to \$11,821.10. Expenses for the year were \$2,148.09 above revenues. Increases in other the mutual fund growth and sales of hats and tee shirts helped offset the increased expenses. (Note: The difference in year-end asset totals mentioned above is due to hat & tee shirt inventory assets not yet sold.)

Major educational efforts included sponsoring 19 MASE members at the Maine Rural Water Association Training "Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Application & System Installation in July. MASE also worked with Zen River Media to video the two-day training on proper installation techniques for various products and systems. MASE spent \$475 on sponsored slots and \$1,400 on the video.

The 2016 annual meeting at the Ramada generated more revenue this year, in part to increases in fees and vendor attendance. The cost for the meeting was \$4,609.11 Revenues from vendor booths and registration fees brought in \$2,625.00 and \$2,690.00 respectively for a total of \$5,315.00. Revenue from annual membership dues for the year raised around \$3,105. We have been declining in terms of membership numbers.

The annual summer MASE golf tournament held at the Meadows was great fun. Word must have gotten out about last year and this year the Board again tried to entice more participation by providing free drinks at the 19th hole. Again we spent a bit more than we brought in. Expenses were \$856.68 and we brought in \$560 from registration fees, resulting in a net expense of \$296.68. This was on par with last year. A special thanks to Kathy-Rae Emmi and Presby Environmental for covering the cost of lunch!

The annual MASE field day in September was held at Crystal Spring Farms in Brunswick and combined with the State Site Evaluator testing. We had a good turnout at around 35 attendees. Revenues for the event were \$401.00. Expenses were \$700.11, an increase from last year. MASE picked up the tab for site fees and backhoes to dig test pits. Fuji Clean USA generously provided lunch and a great afternoon presentation at their facility. Annual expenses in 2016 were offset by the generous education donations from Construction Consultants, and sponsor support by Presby Environmental at the MASE Golf tournament and Fuji Clean at the fall field day.

A special mention to Eljen Corp and Construction Consultants for their continuing support of MASE. They provided a generous donation of \$3,000 to sponsor educational events. The Board succeeded in using much of that to promote education through the MRWA workshop and upcoming videos. Please let President Tim Wade know if you have ideas on how to promote our profession and increase education among the membership. He would welcome all your thoughts!

The MASE mutual fund was closed in September, 2016 by Fidelity and the full amount of \$16,230.88 deposited in the MASE checking account. The fund increased in value in 2016 with a net gain of \$480.02. The current account balance is almost \$30,000 and the Board is looking for ideas and possibly a subcommittee to look at options to invest the extra cash. Please see Tim if you are interested.

MASE membership voted to donate \$1,100.00 to the Envirothon in 2016, an increase from previous years. In recognition of the passing of past member Darryl Brown, MASE donated \$250.00 to the Darryl and Penny Brown Memorial Scholarship fund.

The Board of Directors is actively seeking input from the membership on how best to utilize MASE resources to benefit the membership. Please let Tim or any Board member know if you have ideas on thoughts on how MASE can help serve its members and the profession. Your time and help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks very much for the opportunity to serve as your treasurer, and best wishes for a prosperous 2017!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Roger St. Amand,  
Treasurer



# Income Statement

## Income Statement

### MASE

Reporting period: January 01, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Created January 09, 2017

#### Revenue

| Accounts  |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Direct Public Support –<br>Business Contributions | 3,000.00         |
| Program Income –<br>Membership Dues               | 3,105.00         |
| Vendors Booth                                     | 2,625.00         |
| Annual Meeting Program<br>Fees                    | 2,690.00         |
| Field Day Workshop<br>Program Fee                 | 401.00           |
| Golf Tournament Fees                              | 560.00           |
| Product Sales- Hats/Tees                          | 430.00           |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                              | <b>12,811.00</b> |

#### Cost of Goods Sold (COGS)

| Accounts                                   |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Hats/Tees                                  | 3,137.99        |
| <b>Total Cost of Goods Sold<br/>(COGS)</b> | <b>3,137.99</b> |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>                        | <b>9,673.01</b> |

#### Operating Expenses

| Accounts                         |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Bank Service Charges             | 41.81    |
| Memberships & Dues               | 300.00   |
| Insurance – General<br>Liability | 1,212.00 |
| donations                        | 1,350.00 |
| Postage & Delivery               | 11.66    |
| Printing and Reproduction        | 50.64    |

# Balance Sheet

## Balance Sheet

MASE

As of: December 31, 2016

Created January 09, 2017

### Assets

| Account                         | Balance   |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Bank</b>                     |           |
| PayPal                          | 323.16    |
| KeyBank Basic Business Checking | 28,719.42 |
| <b>Total for Bank</b>           | 29,042.58 |
| <b>Total Assets</b>             | 29,042.58 |

### Liabilities

| Account                  | Balance |
|--------------------------|---------|
| <b>Total Liabilities</b> | 0.00    |

### Equity

| Account                             | Balance    |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Owner's Equity                      | 31,190.67  |
| <b>Previous Year(s) Earnings</b>    | 0.00       |
| <b>Current Year Earnings</b>        | (2,148.09) |
| <b>Total equity</b>                 | 29,042.58  |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b> | 29,042.58  |

# 26th Annual MASE Golf Tournament Results

By Dave Kamila

MASE held our 26th Annual Golf Tournament on June 17th this year at the challenging Meadows Golf Course in Litchfield. The course was in great shape and Mother Nature blessed us with sunshine, blue skies and gentle breezes. After enjoying the comradery, a few adult beverages and the great lunch prepared by Mary Omara compliments of Kathi Emmi of Maine Septic & Pumping, the following prize winners were announced:

Winning Team: Russ Martin, Andy Pierce, Bonnie Cobb and Dennis Curran scored 1 under.

Second Place Team: Kathy Emmi, Dale Knapp, Jeff McElroy and Alex Hozinger scored 1 over.

Ladies Longest Drive: Kathi Emmi edged out her perennial foe Bonnie Cobb.

Men's Longest Drive: Last year's winner Dave Moyse took this year off, so I took advantage of his absence and won the men's title by barely edging out Gary Fullerton and Roger St. Amand who tied for 2nd.

Hole No. 3 proved to be unapproachable as no one was able to land a shot on the green.

Bonnie Cobb finally broke through alone on No. 7 at 27 ft. 5 in.

Andy Pierce did the same on No. 15 by sticking one at 3 ft. 9 in.

Roger St. Amand prevailed on No. 17 at 9 ft. 2 in. by edging out Dick Sweet at 48 ft. 9 in.

Looking ahead to next year, the tentative date is Friday, June 23rd. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us and enjoy some friendly competition, a few brews, lunch and prizes.



# MEET THE LATEST CROP OF SITE EVALUATORS

by Glenn Angell, State Site Evaluator

During the past few years several new Site Evaluators have been licensed in Maine, proving that it is possible to pass the exam, despite the rumors that circulated at the last field day. The annual meeting may be your opportunity to make their acquaintance:

**Sarah Ashley:** Sarah earned her license in 2015 so isn't new new but many of you may not know of her. She is from 'The County' and currently resides in Fort Kent. She holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Maine at Orono in Civil Engineering. She cut her teeth at S. W. Cole Engineering as a geotechnical engineer and spent a lot of time learning about the site evaluation process from Steve Howell. She now has her own consulting firm.

**Bryanna Denis:** Bryanna is a professional engineer licensed in both Maine and New Hampshire. She graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in Civil Engineering and since 2011 has worked for Wright Pierce in Topsham. While there she has worked on several projects related to public sewer systems. She's now looking to branch out into the world of on-site subsurface systems.

**Eric Grenier:** Eric is an Engineer and licensed New Hampshire Subsurface Designer in from Berlin, New Hampshire. He has done design work for both public and on-site sewage disposal systems over the past 9 years.

**Mark Ingraham:** Mark is a surveyor working in the greater Knox County area and has held his surveyor's license since 1988. He holds an Associate's degree in Civil Engineering Technology and a Bachelor of University Studies, both from the University of Maine.

**Natalie Marceau:** Many of you will recognize Natalie's last name. Yes, she is the daughter of Dave Marceau and has learned a lot about the subsurface wastewater disposal business from him. She holds a BS degree in Biology from the University of Maine at Orono, in 2012. Since December of 2014 she has worked for Gartley and Dorsky Engineering in Camden doing a variety of tasks including assisting in the design of septic systems and the preparation of various types of environmental permit applications.

**Nicholas Skidmore:** Nick lives in Winn, Maine and is associated with John Whitney in that area. He has worked for John helping out with many site evaluations and learning the trade. He attended Easter Maine Community College majoring in Electrician Technology. He's attended many seminars on soils and site evaluation included several MASE meetings.

**Micah Swallow:** Micah is from Houlton Maine and has a background in surveying, working in his father's surveying firm. He holds an Associate's degree in Spatial Information Technology from the White Mountains Community College. It was while he was a student there that he first encountered the world of subsurface wastewater design through a course they offered that included septic system installation.

**John Weissman:** John holds an Associate's degree in Forestry from the University of Maine at Fort Kent. Prior to getting his license he worked for over 15 years for George Sawyer assisting in surveying, drafting and helping out doing both field and office work associated with site evaluations. He resides in Denmark.

# **ABOUT NOWRA: THE NATIONAL ONSITE WASTEWATER RECYCLING ASSOCIATION**

by Russ Martin

## **Our Mission**

To strengthen and promote the onsite and decentralized wastewater industry through activities that support recognition and promotion of professionalism for industry practitioners; implementation of best management practices throughout the industry that provide sustainable wastewater infrastructure solutions; achieve greater public awareness of the economic, environmental, and public health benefits of onsite and decentralized facilities; and to serve the public interest.

## **Who We Are**

The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) is the largest organization within the U.S. dedicated to educating and representing members within the onsite and decentralized industry. Our members include educators, regulators, engineers, contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, service providers, and other parties in the protection of North America's water resources and environment from over eighteen State Affiliate organizations. All segments of the industry are represented on NOWRA's Board of Directors that provide broad perspectives to promote and sustain our industry and service to the public. NOWRA headquarters is located in Alexandria, Virginia, with local constituent groups throughout the U.S. and Canada.

NOWRA was founded in 1992 to educate and serve its members and the public by promoting sound federal, state, and local policies, to improve standards of practice, and increase public recognition of the need for and benefits of onsite and decentralized wastewater infrastructure. Decentralized systems provide effective and more affordable wastewater treatment solutions where traditional central sewerage systems might be impractical or unsuitable. These systems can sustainably serve a single home, a neighborhood, or an entire community including commercial and industrial facilities.

## **Legislative Activity**

### **NOWRA'S LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN RESULTS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A KEY GOAL – ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONGRESSIONAL DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER CAUCUS**

More than a dozen NOWRA members traveled to Washington, DC June 14-15, 2016 to participate in the association's Legislative Fly-In, and made significant progress in advancing its advocacy goals. The most significant achievement which arose from more than three dozen visits to Congressional and Federal Agency offices was securing a bi-partisan commitment to establish a Decentralized Wastewater Caucus. Further, two members of the influential House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment immediately committed to joining the caucus during NOWRA members' visits with them.

In addition, NOWRA learned that language which it requested be included in the House Appropriations Bill was voted out of committee and included in the legislation which goes to the full House for approval. The language directs EPA to devote more financial and staff resources to assist the 85 million Americans who use onsite/decentralized treatment. Also, NOWRA representatives met with officials from USDA Rural Development and secured a commitment to help educate industry professionals about how they can assist communities to better understand the benefits of onsite/decentralized treatment when they are making wastewater infrastructure decisions.

NOWRA is seeking to secure greater Congressional support for onsite/decentralized wastewater treatment because it offers a host of economic, environmental and public health benefits to communities around the country, but has not received adequate support from either Congress or the federal agencies which have mandates to address issues facing the onsite/decentralized industry. Among their many benefits, onsite/decentralized systems:

- Protect public health and the environment.
- Are a green technology (by any definition other than EPA).
- Replenish groundwater supplies.
- Treat water to the same levels as municipal water treatment facilities.
- Are the local, small business job creators.

For too long, the onsite/decentralized industry has been overlooked by Congress and federal regulators. For example, in the last 30 years, municipal treatment works have received \$100 Billion in grants and loans from EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program to address wastewater treatment problems. 99.7% of that money has gone to fix sewer systems. Over that same period, funding support for onsite wastewater treatment has been less than 1% of that amount – even though onsite systems serve more than 25% of properties the country. The 85 million taxpayers served by onsite systems deserve better, as do the industry's dedicated professionals.

The industry faces a set of challenges which is nearly identical to those faced by public wastewater utilities – aging infrastructure, compliance with new anti-pollution mandates, inconsistent regulation, economic constraints, and a need for more qualified practitioners. However, the industry has been told – repeatedly – to go it alone. NOWRA believes the intent of Congress when it passed the Clean Water Act was to ensure clean water for all Americans, not just those served by public wastewater utilities. However, for more than three decades, federal funding and policies have virtually ignored Americans served by onsite/decentralized Treatment.

The NOWRA Legislative Fly-In scored a big win, right before it began, when it was confirmed a bi-partisan commitment to establish a Decentralized Wastewater Caucus. It will be co-sponsored by Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO) and Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO). Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH), chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, agreed to join the caucus as its first new member. Another member of that influential committee, Rep. Richard Hanna (R-NY) also agreed to join the caucus. NOWRA will be reaching out to other Members of the House to get them to join, and is encouraging its members to do so as well. The value of the caucus is that the industry has a place where House Members can say, “We support the use of onsite/decentralized wastewater.” This group of elected representatives can help advance the goals of the onsite wastewater industry by introducing legislation, holding hearings, writing letters to federal agencies with which we do business, asking the GAO to study issues of importance to the decentralized wastewater industry, and much more.

During the NOWRA meeting with USDA Rural Development, an offer was made to hold a webinar for NOWRA members on how to secure grants for preliminary assessments of small communities looking to make wastewater infrastructure decisions. NOWRA will continue to work with its contacts within USDA Rural Development to increase access to available USDA funding mechanisms for onsite/decentralized wastewater systems.

The stakeholders for public wastewater utilities are well-organized, well-funded and well-known in Washington. NOWRA's advocacy efforts are intended to help level the playing field so that the onsite/decentralized community is able to get more equitable treatment in terms getting greater access to federal funding, changing policies which discriminate against onsite/decentralized treatment, addressing the infrastructure challenges our industry faces, and expanding the use of onsite/decentralized treatment around the country. It believes this is an issue where as many industry professionals as possible need to be engaged in this process. NOWRA was pleased that a number of members who had not previously been involved in its advocacy efforts took the time to come to Washington to participate in the Fly-In. Those participants reported that they found their efforts rewarding and most came away believing that it is possible to change the current situation. One participant, Nancy Mayer, owner of Mayer Brothers, Inc., in Elkridge MD, put it this way “I had a great time and now ‘Get the whole lobbying thing.....and do think we can make a difference.”

To learn more about NOWRA, visit <http://www.nowra.org>.

## Paris Turns to Flower-Growing Toilet to Fight Public Urination

By DAN BILEFSKY (New York Times)

FEB. 2, 2017

In cities the world over, men (and, to a lesser extent, women) who urinate in the street — *al fresco* — are a scourge of urban life, costing millions of dollars for cleaning and the repair of damage to public infrastructure. And, oh, the stench.

Now, Paris has a new weapon against what the French call “les pipis sauvages” or “wild peeing”: a sleek and eco-friendly public toilet. Befitting the country of Matisse, the urinal looks more like a modernist flower box than a receptacle for human waste.

You can even grow flowers in its compost.

The Parisian innovation was spurred by a problem of public urination so endemic that City Hall recently proposed dispatching a nearly 2,000-strong “incivility brigade” of truncheon-wielding officers to try to prevent bad behavior, which also includes leaving dog waste on the street and littering cigarette butts. Fines for public urination are steep — about \$75.

Even that was not deterrent enough, officials say. A small brigade of sanitation workers still has to scrub about 1,800 square miles of sidewalk each day. And dozens of surfaces are splattered by urine, according to City Hall.

Enter the boxy Uritrottoir — a combination of the French words for “urinal” and “pavement” — which has grabbed headlines and has already been lauded as a “friend of flowers” by *Le Figaro*, the French newspaper, because it produces compost that can be used for fertilizer. Designed by Faltazi, a Nantes-based industrial design firm, its top section also doubles as an attractive flower or plant holder.

The Uritrottoir, which has graffiti-proof paint and does not use water, works by storing urine on a bed of dry straw, sawdust or wood chips. Monitored remotely by a “urine attendant” who can see on a computer when the toilet is full, the urine and straw is carted away to the outskirts of Paris, where it is turned into compost that can later be used in public gardens or parks.

Fabien Esculier, an engineer who is known in the French media as “Monsieur Pipi” because of his expertise on the subject, said the Uritrottoir was more eco-friendly than the dozens of existing public toilets which dot the capital and are connected to the public sewage system.

“Its greatest virtue is that it doesn’t use water, and produces compost that can be used for public gardens and parks,” he said.

So far, Paris’s Gare de Lyon, a railway station that has become ground zero in the capital’s war against public urination, has ordered two of the toilets, which were installed on Tuesday outside the station, and the SNCF, France’s state-owned national railway, says it plans to roll out more across the capital if the Uritrottoir is a success.

“I am optimistic it will work,” said Maxime Bourette, the SNCF maintenance official who ordered the toilets for the railway. “Everyone is tired of the mess.”

He said it remained to be seen whether the toilets were cost effective — he said the SNCF paid about \$9,730 for two, while it would cost about \$865 a month to pay a sanitation worker to clean the toilets and take away the waste.

A designer of the Uritrottoir, Laurent Lebot, 45, an industrial engineer who has also invented an eco-friendly vacuum cleaner, said Nantes, in western France, had ordered three for the spring. He had also had inquiries from local councils in Cannes, France; Lausanne, Switzerland; London; and Saarbrücken, Germany. A large model can handle the outflow of 600 people; a smaller model absorbs 300 trips to the toilet.

“Public urination is a huge problem in France,” Mr. Lebot said. “Beyond the terrible smell, urine degrades lamp posts and telephone poles, damages cars, pollutes the Seine and undermines everyday life of a city. Cleaning up wastes water, and detergents are damaging for the environment.”

France is far from alone in combating public urination. In San Francisco, a street lamp whose base was damaged by urine recently collapsed, almost injuring a driver. The city has since installed public urinals adorned by plants.

New York has also long suffered from drunken urinating revelers, but the City Council recently downgraded the offense, along with littering and excessive noise, as part of its effort to divert minor offenders from its already overstretched court system. Nevertheless, offenders face a fine of \$350 to \$450 if they commit a third offense within a year.

In Chester, northwest England, the local government has clamped down on public urination amid concerns it was damaging the city's medieval covered walkways.

In France, the acrid smell of urine has been a particular blight on the nation's capital stretching back centuries, and Mr. Lebot noted that the carbon of the straw had the added benefit of combating the odor of urine. His next challenge, he added, was to design an aesthetically pleasing public toilet that women could use.

Among the steepest fines for an act of public urination — about \$37,500 — was meted out to Pierre Pinoncelli, a French citizen who urinated on the artist Marcel Duchamp's Dadaist porcelain urinal "Fountain" in 1993 — considered a masterpiece of conceptual art — before hitting it with a hammer.

In 2006, he was fined about \$230,000 after he attacked the artwork a second time.



## PRELIMS: PRELIMINARY SITE EVALUATIONS

by Dave Moyse

Probably the most common service that most Maine Licensed Site Evaluators (LSEs) provide that has the least amount of established “standards of practice” and receives the least amount of scrutiny by MASE and Maine DEH is the Preliminary Site Evaluation (“Prelim”). The practice of Site Evaluation and guidance as to how we should go about completing our work, particularly in the field, is referenced in the original Site Evaluation Manual that Al Frick primarily authored in the early 1980’s (Third Edition April 2001) and in the Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules. What I have not been able to find and think we need is to establish some reasonable, minimum guidelines for Prelims.

As many of us have discussed in the past, guidelines are not only for the benefit of the LSE, but also for the end user/client (Lot Seller or Buyer, Realtor, Developer, etc.). Maine LSEs do Prelims for a variety of clients for different purposes, and they are definitely completed over a wide-ranging level of effort and detail. How are LSEs to know what they should do at a minimum and how is the client to know what will be provided at a minimum when a Prelim is requested? Furthermore, if you stop and think about it for a minute, this is a service that probably saddles us with the most liability and risk while we have the least control over how the information that we provide is used and interpreted. Many times the LSE who does the Prelim never does the subsequent septic system design for that site. Often, there is so much to be thinking about and so much is unknown about what may actually be built on the site and where, yet you as the LSE are asked to state if and where it is suitable for a septic system.

This somewhat goes back to our annual meeting last year where Travis Noyes talked about providing a product/service of value that we can then charge an appropriate fee for that indicates the high value of our work. I have personally heard of LSEs doing Prelims for \$300 to \$400 down to a case of beer....and everything in between! This is a valuable service that we all can provide and make some money at. Some LSE’s choose not to do Prelims, just like they opt to not do inspections, and that is fine and their choice for sure. Given that I am getting a little “longer in the tooth” than many LSEs still, practicing, I have seen a huge range in the type and quality of Prelims being provided over the last 30 years in the business. Some of these were high quality, professional reports any LSE would be proud of, but to be frank, most of the Prelim services that I have come upon are extremely lacking. One of our MASE Constitution Objectives is the “cultivation of public appreciation of work of the Site Evaluator”. I am not sure that we do that enough or as well as we could?

Prelims done for subdivision approval are already guided somewhat by the local, municipal ordinance requirements or Maine DEP regulations, but many of those could still use some improvement. As mentioned above, the end user often has no idea what they are looking at when they receive a Preliminary Site Evaluation Report, Soil Logs and Sketch, other than they can check off their Planning Board Review list or Realtor Disclosure Form that they have one. I was asked to do a septic design within a locally permitted subdivision this past summer. When I scheduled the work I requested that the builder bring what he had for a report and map by the LSE that did the Prelims, and he provided that info when he arrived at the site. There was no report to be found, but the subdivision plan that the builder had did show a test pit location on the subject lot where the Prelim was apparently done. The entire lot was either solid ledge or wetland, hardly anything in between, and there certainly was not enough area for the smallest disposal field that you could come up with would fit. We dug about 6 backhoe test pits, revealing bedrock at about 2 inches in depth to about 8, with no area of any size with at least 9 inches. The rest of the land that was not sloping was wet. I finally had to tell the builder that I couldn’t help him and he had to contact the LSE that did the Prelims and get him to stand by his work. This outcome was disappointing, to say the least. It was somewhat embarrassing and actually made our profession, me included, look bad because the end user should be able to assume that if we are all LSEs, then we should be doing at least the basics the same way! It was not a shining moment for the profession.

How many times have you been asked to look at an established house lot for a prospective buyer that needs a design done that ...was supposedly “soil tested” only a year ago, but there is no documentation of the Prelim? ...the Prelim was actually done for only a 2BR home ...maybe you are able to find what looks like a flag where the soils test pit was done, but it is not labeled? ...The Prelim’s soil evaluation was done 20 feet off the road, which doesn’t even meet the 25-foot road ditch setback requirement, because the LSE was apparently too lazy to walk further than 20 feet onto the lot to find a suitable spot where someone would actually build a house and install a disposal field.

As a professional organization, I would like to see MASE, in coordination with DEH, provide some guidance. Perhaps it is time to once again “crank up” the Technical Committee to address this long-standing issue and help out MASE Members and the profession?

# MASE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION CONSIDERED

By Tim Wade

In 2016 I approached the general membership at the behest of the MASE Board of Directors to introduce the concept to fund and create a paid contract position to provide MASE with improved outreach and improvements in both internal and external communication through management of our website and social media content. The Board moved this forward with the intent of hiring a MASE member or at least someone involved in our field of work. We received membership approval at the 2016 meeting to proceed with a Request for Proposals, but as the deadline passed we received only one proposal. The proposal came from a professional marketer and, while the submission was very thorough and well put together, there was no tangible relationship between the writer and our industry. Furthermore, the location of the marketing contractor made frequent attendance at meetings unlikely, and finally the proposed contract options had the potential to very likely exceed our proposed budget.

As the Board discussed the proposal, we were simultaneously discussing each board member's future plans and whether or not they included a role on the Board. The discussion really highlighted to us all the fact that Board positions require a good deal of effort and time to learn the nuances of each distinct role. This makes it impractical to serve for just a one or two year term. The Board addressed this conundrum to an extent in the 2016 Constitution edits by increasing the length of terms that the executive positions serve.

The fact still remains that each of these positions are filled by volunteers, all of whom at times have priorities more pressing than those of MASE. This issue is compounded by the need for new volunteers stepping up to revamp the Board. Most of your Board members have served for greater than 5 years consecutively, and many are in their second and third tours on the Board. As these members step down, a smooth transition is imperative for the Board and our organization to continue to function.

It was with these considerations that the Board reached the conclusion that in lieu of continuing to pursue the Media Director position, our focus should instead be to describe a role that could add continuity and stability to our organization through an executive leadership role. Many other organizations employ an Executive Director position in order to maintain seamless transitions between Board appointments, and it is the belief of the Board that it is time for MASE to consider such a position. Below you will find our draft Job Description for the proposed position. This position would be filled by a MASE member in good standing, working as a contractor for our organization. The position and its incumbent would be reviewed annually by the Board, and the position would also be reviewed by the membership after an initial 3 year term. Our organization is in good position to fully fund the position for the first 3 years. It is the belief of the board that this position could become financially self sustaining moving forward from the three year review as the incumbent could help raise revenues by increasing membership and training opportunities. Please review the description and come to the meeting with your questions and comments ready.

**Title: MASE Executive Director**

**Reports to: MASE Board of Directors**

**Suggested Salary: \$400/month, paid quarterly**

**Time Commitment: 20 Hours/Month Minimum**

The Executive Director of the Maine Association of Site Evaluators (MASE) is responsible for overseeing the administration, educational programs and the strategic plan of the organization. Other key duties include communication, external representation, and community outreach. The position reports directly to the MASE Board of Directors which will review the position and its incumbent annually.

Position Responsibilities:

#### Board Duties:

- Responsible for communicating effectively with the MASE Board of Directors and providing, in a timely and accurate manner, information necessary for the Board to function properly and to make informed decisions. Maintain continuity in the mission and communication of the organization through continued and on-going succession of change in the make-up of the MASE Board of Directors.
- Attend monthly MASE Board meetings.

#### Organization Operations:

- Responsible for managing and maintaining communication between the organization and its members utilizing media resources. This includes maintenance of the MASE website and the MASE Facebook page.
- Responsible for management of the MASE email list and managing communications, both internally and externally, between MASE members, the Department of Health and Human Services-Division of Environmental and Community Health, industry representatives, and the public at large.
- Responsible for communicating information on training events and other organizational updates, or when an event or change happens within the organization.
- Expected to manage the content and functions of the MASE website in cooperation with an IT contractor; as directed by the MASE Board of Directors.
- Responsible for integrity and storage of equipment, documents, or other property owned by MASE, and when appropriate submission to the Board of a proposed annual budget to improve/upgrade the condition of the equipment owned by the organization.

#### Organization Mission and Strategy:

- Responsible for strategic planning to ensure that MASE can successfully fulfill its Mission into the future by working with the Board to formalize a long term strategy.
- Responsible for the enhancement of the image of MASE by being active and visible in the community and by working closely with MASE members as well as other professional, civic and private organizations.
- Responsible for functioning as a formal liaison between the MASE membership and State of Maine regulators, including the Maine State Site Evaluator and other subsurface wastewater program personnel.
- Providing both written and in person testimony and performing outreach on proposed legislation or rulemaking that may have an impact on the MASE membership.
- Represent the professional organization and its membership to the public at large.

This position may be terminated by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board, or a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the membership during a regular or special meeting in which a quorum of the membership is present.