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December 3, 2008



ALABAMA ONSITE WASTEWATER BOARD

AOWB NEWS

53rd QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING OF THE AOWB

The AOWB quarterly meeting was held October 23, 2008, in Montgomery, Alabama with Chairman Alton Williams presiding. Special Guests were recognized and heard along with special requests that had been received via mail. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Hack Sain gave the treasurer's report which was also ap-

proved. The search committee for the Executive Director received Board approval to continue their search for an Executive Director at the last quarterly Board meeting. The committee introduced candidates to the entire Board. Mr. Mike Talley was appointed to the new Executive Director position vacated by Gary Stringfellow's retirement. Mike has seven years experience with the

AOWB including three years as the Compliance Officer responsible for the North Alabama District, two years as the Compliance Officer for the South Alabama District and two years as the Compliance Officer Supervisor.

Mike may be reached at 334-850-5765 (Cell), 334-269-6800 (Office) or mike.talley@aowb.alabama.gov.

LICENSEE UPDATE!

The Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board would like to welcome the 25 new licensees to the industry thus far in 2008. These individuals have trained, been tested and met all of the

qualifications of the Board to obtain a license. We wish them well in their business. Since January 1, 2008 the Board has renewed 1,385 licenses. Renewals were mailed out for

2009 in October, please renew your license for 2009 no later than December 31, 2008.

ENFORCEMENT

The Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board held its quarterly Board meeting and completed the following enforcement complaints.

Arrest Warrants

Three individuals arrested and found guilty in three counties for installing systems without a license. These individuals pleaded guilty in District Court to a Class C misdemeanor and were sentenced.

Please call this office if you are aware of illegal systems being installed in your area.

Bonds

A claim was filed and paid in the amount of \$12,760. The bond was filed on a failing system in Baldwin County Alabama

Another enforcement issue is bonds expiring and licensees continue to work. The Board ruled that if you have an expired bond, you will be sent a letter, if you don't respond, we notify the county health departments and take your name off of the official roster. To be placed back on the official roster, submit your bond via U.S. mail, fax or email.

Please submit all complaints in writing via fax, U.S. mail or email at mike.talley@aowb.alabama.gov

VOUCHERS AVAILABLE TO COUNTY RESIDENTS

Special thanks to ***The Gadsden Times***.

Published: Monday, October 13, 2008 at 6:01 a.m.

Last Modified: Sunday, October 12, 2008 at 5:35 p.m.

Funding is available for 120 homeowners in Etowah County to receive a \$185 voucher toward the cost of having their septic tanks pumped out — if they attend a one-hour workshop on septic tank maintenance next week, according to the Etowah County Soil and Water Conservation District.

“The program is an effort to improve water quality in the Middle Coosa Watershed, which covers 11 counties in Alabama,” according to Sarah Butterworth, Middle Coosa Watershed Project coordinator.

Ms. Butterworth said the Etowah County Soil and Water Conservation District, along with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, is hosting the workshop on maintaining household septic tanks that will begin Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Northeast Etowah Community Center on U.S. Highway 411.

The workshop will be conducted by the Etowah County Health Department. Ms. Butterworth also said if residents don't properly maintain their septic tank systems, problems can have an adverse impact on water quality. She said nitrogen and phosphorus from wastes in septic tank systems are the main concerns of the program. The free educational workshop is open to residents of Etowah County who use a household septic tank system. Upon completion of the workshop, which will last about one hour, residents will receive a voucher worth \$185 to have their septic tank systems pumped out. That is expected to cover most of the cost.

Because of the limited funding available for the project, vouchers will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis to the first 120 homeowners who register at each workshop. A similar program was offered several years ago.

For more information, call the Etowah County Soil and Water Conservation District at 546-4841, ext. 3.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UPDATE—ALLEN TARTT

Hello Everyone!

I hope that you are all settling in for the holiday season and that you enjoy this time for friends and family! The economic climate we're seeing in our great country is trying for us all, but we shouldn't let that keep us from remembering our many blessings that we receive each and every day.

As 2008 draws to a close, I want to let you know about what we have in store for 2009. Starting in January, we will kick off the New Year with the 20th Annual Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Conference at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. The class will be conducted on the Auburn University campus on January 14-15, 2009. Each year we draw in speakers from across the country to come and share their knowledge and expertise. This year is no exception. Dr. Bob Rubin from North Carolina State University, Dr. John Buchanan from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Dr. Kevin White from the University of South Alabama, Dr. Brian Burnes from the University of West Alabama, and many other engineers, soil scientists, and other professionals in the onsite industry will be giving presentations at the conference. The Auburn Conference is one of our biggest and best events each year, and professionals from all branches of the industry will be in attendance. It's an early opportunity to get your continuing education when winter weather makes work in the field a little slower, so come on out and join us on the plains!

In addition to the Auburn Conference, the AOWA will have its' Annual Trade Show on April 3-4, 2009, at the Pelham Civic Complex. The Trade Show is our biggest event of the year and is also an excellent opportunity to get your CEU's early. We will offer our largest number of licensing classes to date, with five Basic Installer courses on the calendar, and we will make stops in Gadsden, Mobile, Dothan, Montgomery, Florence, and Livingston for continuing education. Dave Roll is already preparing the mail-out for the 2009 class schedule, so be checking your mail box for that soon. If you don't receive a copy of the 2009 class schedule by the end of January, please contact Dave (334-396-3434) or myself (205-652-3803) and we will get a copy to you. You can also check online at www.aowa.org, www.aowatc.uwa.edu, or www.aowb.alabama.gov, and print a copy of the schedule there.

Have a great holiday season!

Best Regards,

Allen Tartt, Director
AOWA Training Center
University of West Alabama

COMMON ADPH VIOLATIONS FOR 2008

420-3-1-.52 Tank Manufacturer Records

- (1) A person selling, distributing, or marketing tanks shall keep a **complete record of all tanks sold** and shall make such records available to the Health Department for inspection at their place of business during reasonable business hours. Information in the records concerning general business practices such as number of tanks sold, etc., shall be considered confidential by the Health Department. Records shall include the following:
- (2) (a) Name and address of the buyer.
- (b) Date of sale of the tank(s).
- (c) Tank model permit number(s), size of the tank(s) and number of tanks sold.
- (d) The location of the buyer or place of installation if other than that provided in subparagraph (a) above of this Rule.
- (e) **The LHD Permit to Install/Repair Identification Number or a written explanation of the intended tank use.**
- (f) **The AOWB licensed installer number, when applicable**

Authors: Randall Farris, Thad Pittman

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§22-2-2(4); 22-2-2(6); 22-10-1, et seq.; 22-20-5; 22-26-1; 22-26-2; 22-26-3; 22-26-5; 22-26-7; 22-27-1, et seq.

History: Repealed and New Rule: Filed October 20, 2005, effective March 19, 2006.

420-3-1-.08 Permits Required for an OSS

- (1) Permit to Install/Repair -- No person shall begin the installation or repair of an OSS itself until the owner or the owner's agent possesses a **valid Permit To Install/Repair an Onsite Sewage System, issued by the LHD.**

420-3-1-.34 Sewage Tank Pumping Permit

- (6) A permitted sewage-tank pumping contractor, when pumping a sewage tank, shall effectively and **completely remove** the liquid and sludge in the tank by **removing the inspection ports at both ends of the tank or the lids covering both ends of the tank**, where inspection ports are not provided, and pump all compartments. The pumper shall make the access ports used in pumping watertight at the end of the pumping, **and shall report problems or deficiencies noted in a tank to the LHD.** These may include, but are not limited to, the structural soundness of the tank; the absence or condition of a baffle, an inlet or outlet fixture, an outlet filter; or the water-tightness of the tank.



**ALABAMA ONSITE WASTEWATER
BOARD**

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AOWB

We are on the Web!
www.aowb.alabama.gov

EMAIL

In an effort to be more cost effective, the AOWB will be looking at changes in correspondence for 2009. (1) Instead of mailing quarterly newsletters – we will consider using each licensee's email ad-

dress (we will continue mail outs for those licensees not having an email address); (2) consider online renewals; (3) and consider online payments.