



THE

## LITTLE DIGGER

MINNESOTA ONSITE WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

A Bi-Annual Publication

Spring/Summer 2024 - Vol. 39, Issue 1

## Success for the Sewage Septic Truck Weight Exemption Bill

By Lori Ende, Legislative Chairperson of MOWA

Taking the lead on passage of MOWA's weight exemption legislation were (below) Legislative Chair Lori Ende and State Senator Eric Lucero.



(Above right) Tristan Ende testifies at a crucial Senate Transportation Committee meeting in 2018.



How did we get here? In 2016, a group of septic pumpers went to the State Capital to testify to the House of Representatives to exempt septic pumper trucks from the springtime weight roadway posting, requesting a full exemption. House Representative Eric Lucero was carrying our bill in the House. Present at this first meeting in front of the Transportation Committee were owners and employees of Ende Septic Service, Duane's Septic Service, Septic Check, Fiedler's Pumping Specialists, Smilie's Sewer Service, and Swedlund Septic. And with many letters of support from septic pumping companies around the state, we made quite an impression with testimony heard from Brian Koski with Septic Check, Cindy Tiemann with Fiedler's Pumping Specialists, Tristan Ende of Ende Septic Service, and Josh Svedlund of Sewer Services.

However, MnDOT had concerns with the language in the bill as it pertained to bridge weight laws.

After some meetings and many language changes, we headed back in 2017 to make a run at it again. We made it through the House, who then moved the bill to the Senate Transportation Committee, with Senator Bruce Anderson carrying our bill. The bill was gaining momentum but the Association of Counties had a few concerns about the bill. We were right at the end of the legislative season and couldn't get to a meeting with the Association of Counties quick enough to discuss their concerns and reschedule with Transportation Committee.

In 2018 we were back in session with the Senate. Driving through an ice storm, three hours to the Capital, Tristan Ende and myself, were lucky enough to have a private session with the Senate Transportation Committee. We were able to talk openly about our concerns and provide testimony without being rushed.

**Legislative Success,** Continued on Page 2

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**Register online NOW for Aug. 9th Summer Soils Seminar! 50 participant limit!**

**Legislative Success, Continued from Page 1**

Luckily, six of the ten members of the Senate Committee lived on septic systems, thus calling our bill a “no brainer.” One of the Senators recounted an experience where his wife called him out of a Senate hearing to tell him their septic alarm was going off, and she did not know what to do. A second Senator recounted having a backup in his basement during the winter and how important it was for him to have someone come out immediately. Needless to say, the bill went to the floor of the Senate and passed unanimous for inclusion in the 2018 Omnibus Bill. The Omnibus Bill was never signed by the Governor that year.

We began again in 2019 in the House of Representatives. We spent time in multiple meetings with interested parties and finally negotiated some language with Minnesota DOT that would be agreeable to all.

COVID years, 2020 and 2021, came and went.

In 2022, we were back in the House and Senate. With Representative Danny Nadeau, and (now) Senator Eric Lucero carrying our bill. The bill moved from the House to the Senate without incident. Having freshman legislators in both the House and the Senate, our bill didn’t receive a hearing until the end of the legislative season at the House level.

Back to the Senate in 2023, with many, many letters of support from pumpers and county officials throughout the State, and excellent testimony from Tristan Ende and Keith Valento, we prevailed in the Senate without incident. The bill never made it to the floor of the Senate, and so just sat in Transportation. The reason being, it was a budget year, not an omnibus year, and the overinflated budget that year and the promise of a rejection of that budget by the Governor was too great to risk us having to start over again if the budget bill failed.

May 2024. Where is our bill? The legislative season ends in a week! After a call to our representatives and the Chair of the Transportation Committee asking why our bill was sitting in Transportation, we immediately received a call last week to inform us that the bill was thrown onto the floor of the Senate for inclusion in the Transportation Omnibus Bill, which was passed unanimously! It is on the way to the Governor for signature. The Governor signed without delay on May 16, 2024.

Over the past 30 years, MOWA has been having to go to the Governor with requests for a springtime Emergency Executive Order to exempt septic trucks for septic pumping emergencies during difficult winter periods. The work involved getting an Executive Order is lengthy and time consuming. These efforts must show the need and have to be accepted by multiple agencies before being presented to the Governor. MOWA didn’t get that exemption every year, but for a string of 6 years in a row, we were lucky enough to be granted the order. As of June 1, 2024, there will be a permanent springtime overweight

exemption for our professionals during emergency pumping.

It is worth noting that without the support of MOWA Members testifying and writing letters of support, this effort would not have been successful. It was a years-long effort and a thank you to everyone involved is warranted. Many states start with an emergency exemption first and then move onto a permanent exemption. MOWA will continue to support this, and we encourage our members to support that process as well.

**Bill Language:**

**Sec. 48. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 169.829, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:**

**Subd. 5.** Sewage septic tank trucks. (a) For the purposes of this subdivision, “emergency pumping services” means a sewage septic tank truck’s response to:

(1) uncontrolled and unintended seepage of the contents of a septic system into the ground, around a structure, or into a body of surface water;

(2) damage or malfunction to a septic system that requires removal of the contents of the septic system for repair or maintenance; or

(3) a condition that creates an immediate hazard to the health, welfare, or safety of a person.

(b) When a sewage septic tank truck used exclusively to transport sewage from septic or holding tanks is performing emergency pumping services, sections 169.823 and 169.826 to 169.828 do not apply, and the weight limitations under section 169.824 are increased by ten percent when

transporting sewage from a single point of service to the point of unloading.

(c) Notwithstanding section 169.824, subdivision 1, paragraph (d); 169.826, subdivision 3; or any other law to the contrary, a permit is not required to operate a vehicle under this subdivision.

(d) The seasonal weight increases under section 169.826, subdivision 1, do not apply to a vehicle operated under this subdivision.

(e) A vehicle operated under this subdivision is subject to bridge load limits posted under section 169.84.

(f) A vehicle operated under this subdivision must not be operated with a load that exceeds the tire manufacturer’s recommended load, the manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating as affixed to the vehicle, or other certification of gross vehicle weight rating under Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, sections 567.4 to 567.7.

(g) The exceptions under this subdivision do not apply to a sewage septic tank truck’s operation on an interstate highway.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective June 1, 2024.

Link to Full law: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2024/0/Session+Law/Chapter/104/>

**Over the past 30 years,  
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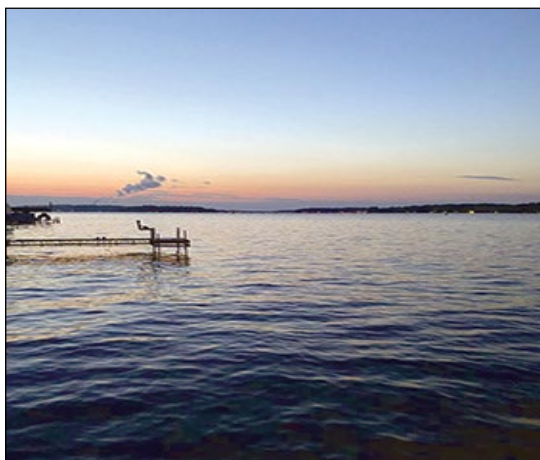
## A Message from the MOWA President

### 2024 promises to be another productive MOWA year!

by Jake Bell; MOWA President

Hello MOWA Members,

As we get started into another busy summer season, I would like to reflect on the things we have accomplished and been working on so far this season. We had a great winter convention followed up by our annual strategic planning meeting. We have also been planning the summer soils seminar, along with all the different committees and numerous tasks they have been working on.



**Don't miss the Summer Soils Seminar on August 9th in rural Grand Rapids at beautiful Pokegama Lake Resort (shown above). Register early! Attendance is limited to 50 participants!**

I would also like to thank Kurt for all his hard work as MOWA President this past year. He is a great asset to our organization and wealth of knowledge, and I will do my best to fill those shoes. I would like to thank all the members, vendors, convention committee and especially Tammy for all the hard work and support they put into the winter conference in Duluth. It was one of the best attended conferences we've had, and personally, I enjoyed the Duluth conference the most. With that said, each year the convention attendance continues to increase and we as a board felt we needed to make sure the experience attending the conference is first class and we cannot wait to see you all in St. Cloud at the amazing new Park Event Center Feb. 3-4, 2025. It's a beautiful brand-new venue to host the conference. It also has a great/bar restaurant named Mavericks and two hotels each adjoining the convention center.

A big thank you to Lori Ende for success in the Sewage Septic Truck Weight Exemption Bill. She has been an advocate for this bill for many years and it is a huge accomplishment to make this change. Lori has always been a big supporter of MOWA and giving back to the association and it's members. Thank you, Lori Ende!

We are also in the registration process for our Summer Soils Seminar that will be held August 9, 2024, in Grand Rapids at Kurt Christopherson's Pokegama Lake Resort. We hope to see many of you there who need their soil CEU's. The site offers some fun soil characteristics and a great location to make a long weekend out of it.

I would also like to say a big thank you to Tammy and the Board of Directors for all the hard work they have done this year and continue to do. MOWA would not be the great organization it is without all their dedicated time and effort to make sure we are at the forefront of the onsite industry. Thank you all for the support and have a great summer.

Jake Bell  
MOWA President

**This is a bi-annual publication of the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association.  
Editor: Tammy Trantham, Email: mowaexec@gmail.com**

The articles printed in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this organization. Readers are encouraged to respond to the articles with their own points-of-view. We welcome industry-related comments or articles. Information or inquiries should be sent or made to any of the following:

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## MOWA Summer Soils Seminar 2024

### Stony Point? We will believe it when we see it...

By Dan Wheeler, Onsite Sewage Treatment Program, University of Minnesota

Our host location for the 2024 MOWA Summer Soils CE is located on Stony Point in beautiful North-central Minnesota! Stony Point you say? Will there be rocks in the field? How about any sand? Anything more complex or interesting?

Yes. Yes. Yes. And you betcha! This Soils CE location has been a part of many geologic events that have influenced the soils that we will be describing and interpreting in August. From a number of glacial till deposits, glacial outwash from the Mississippi River along with wind- and glacial lake-deposited sediments, these soils will definitely keep us on our toes. We will expect the unexpected and be prepared for the many textures, soil colors and varying characteristics that challenge our knowledge here. Stony Point is only the tip of the iceberg (or should we say soilberg?)...

Our classroom session will attempt to cover the multitudes of background information we understand about the soils, geology and landscapes of north-central Minnesota. As we approach

the field portion, we will describe all of the observed soil properties and explain the multipart interpretations. Be sure to bring all of your field tools and perhaps we will have a chance to use them all in one soil pit! Just when you get the soils down, there is plenty more to consider including pine trees, lakes and wetlands, steep slopes, etc.

We will not knowingly leave any stone unturned during this dynamic day... By the end of the day, we may have to rename Stony Point to something like... "Platy Silt Loam underlain by Single-grained Very Gravelly Loamy Coarse Sand Point!!!"

### Summer Soils Seminar!

**When: August 9, 2024**

**Where: Pokegama Lake Resort,  
20610 Stony Point  
Grand Rapids, MN**

**Plan to attend the 2024 MOWA Soils Seminar  
to learn about complexity in our soils  
from sandy to gravel-dominated soils.**

**Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.  
We are also planning a lunch break with  
demonstrations from various sponsors.**

**MOWA members must log in  
to [www.mowa-mn.com/summer-seminar/](https://www.mowa-mn.com/summer-seminar/)  
to register for the class.**

**The event is limited to 50 participants!**

**6 CEs for soils have been approval  
by MPCA for this training.**



2023 Soils Seminar Fieldwork. For more information about the 2024 Seminar, go to <https://mowa-mn.com/soils-seminar/>





## 2024 Convention Wrap-Up and Highlights!

### Annual Winter Convention and Trade Show draws record numbers

MOWA hosted its annual winter convention in February in Duluth. It was a great convention and there was wonderful attendance at the Trade Show. Unseasonably warm weather graced the event, so walking to the DECC wasn't nearly as cold as previous years.

MOWA hosted Nick Dykes from Lawson, Missouri as one of the Keynote speakers, and he talked about how we have grown as an industry throughout the years. We continue to grow and technology changes. As professionals, it is important that we educate ourselves about all the available technology out there to service our customers. MOWA also hosted Kenny Blumenfeld who had great information about Minnesota's changing climate. Thank you to both of our Keynote speakers for kicking off the convention.

MOWA had a great showing of exhibitors at the Trade Show too. Attendees had opportunities to visit with all different exhibitors to learn about potential treatment techniques. Thank you to every one of our exhibitors for making the show possible. Networking with other professionals is one of the best

parts of this event. Several professionals commented on the time they had to visit with others and listen to what is going on around the state.

The Roe-D-Hoe showed great competition among our members through the skills tests with the backhoe. There are cash prizes for first, second and third place winners. Thanks to all participants and the winners for 2024 are: 1st Place – Seth Gravidahl, 2nd Place: Tanner Smith, and 3rd Place: Rick Smith.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Silent Auction and Live Auction at Hoops Brewery. We successfully raised over \$6,000 for the Tony Ruppert Scholarship Fund. We gave out six scholarships in 2023!

Thank you to all of our speakers who provided breakout sessions too. We had some great presentations that spurred wonderful conversations. It was great to have such a great variety of classes available.

**Winter Convention Highlights, Continued on Page 7**



**2024 Roe-D-Hoe winners are (left to right) : 3rd Place: Rick Smith, 2nd Place: Tanner Smith, and 1st Place – Seth Gravidahl.**

**Winter Convention Highlights,***Continued from page 6*

Finally, MOWA had its General Membership Meeting. Kurt Christopherson led the meeting as his final act of being President the past year. He passed the gavel to Jake Bell, Bell Excavating, who has become MOWA's President for this current year.

The MOWA Board has several goals for this year, so stay tuned to the website for new changes and project updates.

MOWA also thanks the Board Members, who finished their terms on the Board. Stacey Feser and Brian Humpal were great members that helped build MOWA while they were on the Board.

We welcome new Board Members: Pete Otterness, Tristan Ende, and Chris Uebe; and welcome Ryan Lashinski back for another term.



*Representing Continuing Education programs were (left to right) Danielle Yantes; Sara Heger, UofM OSTP program; and Dan Wheeler, Water Resource Center OSTP. Retiring from the Board of Directors with a hearty thank you for her service was Stacey Feser (right).*

MOWA is always looking for additional volunteers for our Committees. You can see the available Committees on our website here: <https://mowa-mn.com/committees/>. This is a great way to give back and get to know the association.



*Stepping up to serve as the 2024 MOWA Board of Directors are (left to right): Jesse Kloepfner, Kloepfner Services & Designs, LLC; Mary VonEschen, Secretary - Scott County Environmental Services Dept; Pete Otterness, Water Resources Center OSTP; Kurt Christopherson, Past-President; Keith Valento, Smilie's Sewer Service; Ryan Lashinski, Treasurer, Lashinski Services Inc.; Rick Viita, President-Elect, Viita's Excavating; and Jake Bell, President, Bell Excavating, Inc. Not shown: Robbie Fritts, Rep Rite Burk & Associates; Tristan Ende, Ende Septic Service; Alex Pepin, Ten Thirty Environmental Solutions; and Chris Uebe, Midwest Sewer Services.*

### ***It's not too early to plan for 2025! Save the Date!***

The 2025 MOWA Winter Convention will take place in St. Cloud at The Park Event Center on February 3-4. More information will come out later this year on this event.





## Tony Ruppert Scholarship winners announced

### Recipients of the Tony Ruppert Scholarship Program for 2023

Every year, MOWA honors the memory of Tony Ruppert by awarding several scholarships to youth that are related to MOWA Members. Applicants must be a full-time student in a post-secondary education program, no more than 26 years of age, and they can only win the scholarship once.

We had six outstanding applications this year. Our Scholarship Committee does a blind score on the essay submittals of the applicants.

Thank you to our Scholarship Committee members: Sara Heger, Chris LeClair and Ryan Lashinski.

#### This year's winners are:

**Matthew Rud** is the son of Brent Rud, member of MOWA from Bemidji, MN. He is a student at the University of North Dakota majoring in Commercial Aviation. Matthew is the recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship.

**Nicole Beyer** is the niece of Alex Pepin, member of MOWA from Blaine, MN. She is a student at University of North Dakota majoring in Aviation Safety and Operations. Nicole is the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship.

**Joel Nieminen** is the grandson of Greg Halling, member of MOWA from Watertown, MN. He is a student at Aalto University majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Joel is the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship.

**Carson Nybo** is the grandson of JoAnne Utecht, member of MOWA from Forest Lake, MN. He is a student at University of Minnesota-Duluth majoring in Biology. He is the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship.

**Avery Shinehouse-Gansen** is the daughter of Jennifer Shinehouse, member of MOWA from Belle Plaine, MN. She is a student at Iowa State University majoring in Psychology. She is the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship.

**Logan Capra** is the son of Mike Capra, member of MOWA from Hugo, MN. He is a student at Central Lakes College majoring in Heavy Equipment Maintenance and Operation. He is the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship.

The 2024 Scholarship application window will open later this summer. Be sure to watch the MOWA Updates via email to apply for the scholarships.



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## OSTP awards 17 "Keep It Going" Scholarships

### 2024 Inaugural "Keep It Going" (KIGG) Scholarship Update

by Onsite Septic Treatment Program staff, University of Minnesota

It is with great pride that the University of Minnesota - Onsite Sewage Treatment Program announces the overwhelming success of our first ever Keep It Going (KIGG) scholarship cycle! Our UM OSTP is founded on supporting and strengthening the onsite wastewater industry across Minnesota through excellence in education. The KIGG scholarship is a natural advancement of these ideals. We began this scholarship program officially on December 1, 2023, with the expectation of receiving 3-5 applications in this first year, which we would have considered a success. Imagine our eyes when we tallied the applications in early March to find that we received 23 applications from all across our great state of Minnesota (see more details below)! Ultimately we were able to award 17 scholarships to 14 different applicants across all seven certification areas.

If you missed the announcement or application deadline for 2024 or did not get awarded a scholarship this year, the UM OSTP plans to offer the KIGG scholarship annually. While details might change as we review and receive feedback, this opportunity will continue into the future. If you are interested in supporting this effort, the University of Minnesota Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been charged by the Regents of the University of Minnesota to receive and administer gifts on behalf of our KIGG scholarship in Fund 21850 - Onsite Sewage Treatment Program Fund.

#### KIGG - By the numbers

##### A. 23 total applications received

- 6 Central Region
- 5 Northeast Region
- 4 Northwest Region
- 2 Southwest Region
- 6 Southeast Region

##### B. 15 Existing SSTS certified professionals

##### C. 8 Non SSTS certified applicants

##### D. Multiple applicants for all 7 certification courses (each applicant could apply for up to 2 courses)

- 6 Installing
- 4 Maintaining
- 6 Service Provider
- 5 Designing
- 6 Inspecting
- 4 Intermediate
- 3 Advanced

**Thank you all very much for your efforts every day to keep our industry going strong!**

Please contact Dan Wheeler for any additional information around this scholarship opportunity at [wheel027@umn.edu](mailto:wheel027@umn.edu).

### SepticSmart Week Webinar is September 17th via Zoom!

**Being Septic Smart provides information that enables property owners to maximize their septic investment!**

To celebrate [SepticSmart week 2024](#), the [Onsite Sewage Treatment Program \(OSTP\)](#) at the University of Minnesota is once again offering *Being Septic Smart* training. *Being Septic Smart* provides information that enables property owners to maximize their septic investment, including:

How a septic system works

- The purpose of the tank
- Details about the drain field/mound
- Importance of clean-water and healthy soils
- How often a tank should be pumped
- Whether additives are a good idea
- How to prevent winter freeze-ups

And much more

Being Septic Smart events will be offered by Sara Heger of OSTP, which is part of the [University of Minnesota Water Resource Center](#). This webinar is co-sponsored by the [Otter Tail County Land and Resource Department](#), the [Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association \(MOWA\)](#) and the [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(MPCA\)](#).

The webinar will be held Tuesday, September 17th from 7-9 p.m. via Zoom.

Being Septic Smart is FREE for all interested persons.





## Professionalism starts with participation!

### **Making the Onsite Industry Stronger and More Professional Starts with You** *Joining your state association is the best way to have a seat at the table when impactful decisions are made*

**By Todd Stair, Onsite Installer - May 16, 2024**

Each year I visit several continuing education events in Wisconsin where the attendees are there to get their required credits to keep their installer-related licenses.

The idea is they learn something by listening to speakers, have lunch and receive the credits they need to keep their licenses.

Many of the events I attend average 200 to 300 attendees and I am there to talk about the Wisconsin Onsite Water Recycling Association, the state's onsite industry association.

The attendees paid little, if anything, to attend these events, and walk away with their credits, and in most cases a pretty good lunch. They see a few vendors and get updates from the state and counties.

This is not an article to bash those events; they serve an important purpose.

The hurt is when I get up in front of the room and ask how many attendees are members of our state association, and maybe if I'm lucky I get one or two hands raised.

I state the benefits of being a member, their eyes glaze over and later a few will come up and ask for membership information.

I know the thinking. Why do I have to join an organization, if all the things they do will get done without me anyway, where is the benefit in joining?

Here's what they don't realize: A state organization is not them. A state organization is made up of us. The members are onsite installers, soil testers, designers, the vendors we buy from every day and regulators who volunteer their time to help direct the industry.

When I get up in front of them, it's not some professional "association" guy. My company installs an onsite system or two every day (that weather allows). I soil-test; I'm a plumber/installer like they are.

These are some of the things our association does that don't just happen. These organizational functions need your help:

— We organize and run a three-day annual conference. At our annual conference we partner with the pumper organization and have 50 vendor booths, dozens of classes that gain continuing education credits for installers, soil testers, pumpers, etc. At our conference, members can be trained and certified in confined-space entry, OSHA-competent person for trench safety and other licenses and certifications.

— Some members sit on a state Code Advisory Committee where we voice installer/industry input and recommendations regarding changes in our code.

— Some association members are on a state Technical Advisory Committee. This committee allows the industry and the state to partner in discussing products and technologies that have applied for state approval.

— Association members work closely with legislative representation (lobbyists) who keep a close eye on bills that are coming up for a vote in the state legislature, and they guide us through the process of opposing or supporting proposed legislation that would directly affect our industry. This might sound dry, but consider this:

Our lobbyist alerted us to a state representative who, because he received letters from retired voters who don't think they should have to pay for pumping or replacing their systems, was preparing to add the following into the budget: Homeowners can "inspect" their own systems to determine if they need to be pumped or not, and if their system fails, they would not have to replace their systems if the surface discharge remained within their lot lines.

The scary part is this was going to be part of a budget. Unlike a bill, a budget does not allow any public comments. We had to very quickly go to meet every state legislator involved and explain the importance of properly maintaining onsite systems and the health risks that unchecked surface discharge would cause due to vector attraction, pathogens, etc. We met many legislators and had to educate each on what this addition in the budget would mean.

If we did not have a strong association with a top-notch lobbyist, and that budget passed, we'd all be swimming in poo over here.

— Our association members have gathered together and installed systems at no cost for people in need. We've used those installations to bring out the local state representatives and further educate them on our industry.

— Our association works very closely with researchers in our state and other states to keep learning and understanding what works best to treat wastewater and protect public health. We always want to keep getting better and more efficient at what we do.

I want to say again, this isn't them, it's us—installers, soil testers, county and state regulators, tank manufacturers and our vendors working together to be better.

OK, maybe I do feel like a professional association person. I've been a member of our state association for over 30 years, on the board for most of those years, and president twice. But I'm not

**The Power of Membership, Continued on Page 11**





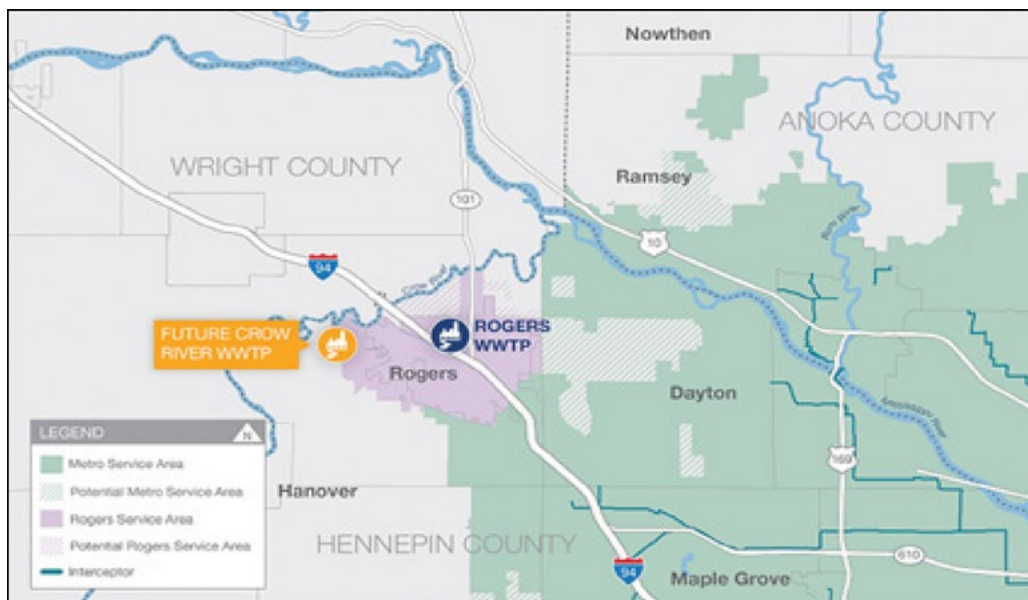
## Action Alert: Met Council needs feedback on use!

### Notice to all septic pumpers in Wright, Hennepin & Anoka Counties

By Lori Ende, MOWA Legislative Chairperson

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services is building a new wastewater treatment plant in Rogers, MN. As part of the planning of this new WWTP, we have been following the project and pushing for another septage and commercial disposal site. We have been following this project and working with representatives of Met Council to allow for septic pumpers to dispose of septage at this new facility, which is proposed to be up and running in 2030.

Met Council needs to hear from you immediately so the planning of a disposal site can be implemented in the construction of this new facility. If you are in need of another disposal site for septage and commercial waste, Met Council needs hear from you.



Please call Bryan Page, 651-602-4707, or send an email explaining why this is so important to our industry to [bryan.page@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:bryan.page@metc.state.mn.us)

#### The Power of Membership, Continued from Page 10

a person who thinks I know anything. I'm a person who wants to keep learning and do whatever I can that might help guide our industry. There is a place where we work together for our industry. It's our state association.

Jack Welch, former head of GE, liked to say, "Control your destiny or someone else will."

I don't know about you, but the second I heard we had a state association, I was on the phone asking how to join. I wanted to be a part of the association; I believe in Welch's quote.

There are too many people that are just fine going out each day, installing a system and hoping for the best. At least for me, that's not good enough. Hoping for the best won't do it.

If you are a system installer or septic pumper or tank manufacturer, this tells me you are a hard worker. Take some of that effort and join your state association. Or start a state organization if you don't have one. Be an active member. Be a board member. Have your voice heard in the industry.

#### About the author

Todd Stair is vice president of Herr Construction, Inc., with 34 years' experience designing, installing, repairing, replacing and evaluating septic and mound systems in southeast Wisconsin. He is the author of *The Book on Septics and Mounds* and a former president of the Wisconsin Onsite Water Recycling Association.

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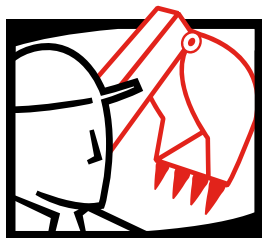
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