



On-Site Wastewater Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Report November 25, 2024 | 1:00 p.m.

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In-person:

Board of Registration for Professional
Engineers and Land Surveyors

605 11th Ave SE, Suite 201

Olympia, WA 98501

Committee:

Mike Harney, PE

Ric Wilkerson, Designer

Roger Parker, Inspector, DOH Representative

Bob Suggs, Designer

Robert Goodman, Designer

Support staff:

Ken Fuller, PE, Director

Kristina Horton, PLS, Deputy Director

Vonna Cramer, Licensing Lead

Mackenzie Wherrett, Executive Assistant

Bryce Dickison, Administrative Assistant

Greg Schieferstein, Communications and Outreach Manager

Guests:

Leigh McIntire, Designer

Marjorie Lund, PE, SE

Discussion topics

WOSSA update

New Executive Director Introduction: Leigh McIntire will assume the role of Executive Director of WOSSA in January 2025, succeeding Chuck Ahrens. Leigh introduced himself and shared updates on WOSSA's initiatives:

- Enhancements to WOSSA training and webinars in collaboration with DOH.
- Plans to revise and improve exam preparation classes provided by WOSSA.



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- Leigh agreed to participate in the On-Site Wastewater Committee to further these efforts.

Update of DOH/WOSSA Regulator training

Update provided from DOH & WOSSA concerning the new regulator training outline

- Month 1: (after hire) Inspector 101 course
- Month 2 – 6: Field experience and WOSSA courses
- Month 6: DOH COC course
- Month 7 – 10: field experience and additional WOSSA courses
- Month 10 & 11: WOSSA WAC review
- Month 12: Certificate of Competency exam

EXAM Complaint

The board office received a written complaint about the exam's difficulty and inconsistent cut scores. The committee had an open discussion on:

- Exam requirements for regulators and designers.
- The committee discussed the possibility of introducing a new Certificate of Competency exam, which would require a DOH rule change along with the requirement of inspectors to take and pass the exam within 2 years. of employment.

Action Item: The topic will be revisited at the next OSW Committee meeting.

- Staff to respond to the complainant providing exam history and grading details.

EXAM New forms, adding design calculation items to each exam.

The discussion highlighted a gap in mathematical questions necessary to assess competency in design calculations.

Action Item: The committee referred this matter to the OSW Subject Matter Expert (SME) group for follow-up and potential exam updates.

Tank Fall protection safety device proposal from the industry and next steps forward

- The committee discussed a tragic incident that took place in Lakewood, WA this year, where a child lost their life after falling into an unsecured tank. This tragedy has prompted many in the profession to start looking at possible state legislation changes/updates or possibly within the local/county level. Possible updates to the RS&G's. NOWRA (National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association) & WOSSA are working together to identify possible changes.