



## 2025 Annual Conference Oregon Onsite Wastewater Conference

# FACING THE FUTURE Together

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*Facing the Future Together Unity, collaboration, and teamwork are essential to overcome challenges and achieve success.*

**Riverhouse Lodge 2850 NW Rippling River Court, Bend OR 97703 | March 20-22, 2025**

**Conference Registration available online at <https://o2wa.org/annual-conference/>  
Thursday, March 20, 2025**

12:00 - 1:30	Registration Desk Open / Equipment Rodeo Check In & Equipment Available / Exhibits Open / Lunch / DEQ available for Q&A Your DEQ Online	
1:30 - 2:30 0.1 CEU	Opening Session <b>Updates from Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Onsite Program - Progress, Challenges, and Next Steps</b> Kiley Clamons, DEQ In this session, we will highlight the progress made in these areas over the past year, as well as the challenges we continue to face, and we will share our goals for the coming year. By working together, we aim to further strengthen Oregon’s Onsite Wastewater Program and enhance our response to emerging challenges.	
2:45-3:45 0.1 CEU	<b>Inspecting and Troubleshooting Soil Treatment Systems</b> Sara Heger, University of Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment Program This session will cover evaluating and inspecting soil treatment systems, including gravity and pressure distribution. As part of troubleshooting, we must evaluate the vegetation and depth of ponding. It will include a discussion on various distribution methods and the related development of a biomat. Problems associated with hydraulic and organic overload will be highlighted. Common device and product issues from within homes and businesses will be discussed.	
3:45-4:15	Break / Exhibits Open / *DEQ available for Q&A Your DEQ Online	
4:15 - 5:15 0.1 CEU	<b>Tools to Educate Property Owners -</b> Sara Heger, U of M How do we educate septic system owners? Over the last several years the University of Minnesota along with partners has offered in-person and webinar training events during Septic Smart Week to educate property owners. With EPA funding NOWRA developed interactive homeowner/public training for septic system owners and the public with best management resource for property owners to keep their septic systems functioning properly. Focus on the importance of wastewater treatment, an overview of treatment in an onsite system, typical onsite system features, final treatment and dispersal, management, maintenance, safety, and system troubleshooting.	
5:15 – 6:15	Welcome Reception	
Friday, March 21, 2025		
7:00 - 800	Registration Desk Open / Equipment Rodeo Check In	Exhibits Open / Breakfast
8:00 - 8:15	Welcome and Introductory Remarks – O2WA President Edward Varga	
	Track 1	Track 2
8:30 - 9:30 0.1 CEU	<b>Lessons Learned from Commercial Sampling</b> Sara Heger, U of M This presentation will include the equipment needed and provide instructions on how to take a good sample and the related timing. It will show case studies of commercial system sampled and range in data and related performance.	<b>Simplification Of Conventional Construction Methods</b> Ajay Chudasama, Topcon This class focuses on the simplification of conventional construction methods with the use of an easy to operate layout + machine control software that will help finish projects quicker while maintaining quality.
9:40 - 10:40 0.1 CEU	<b>Water Tables - Definitions and Circumstances as They Apply in Oregon</b> Brian Rabe, Elkhorn Consulting The Oregon rules for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems define two types of water tables – temporary and permanent. This is different than how water tables are defined in other states. This presentation will dive into the details of each type and discuss circumstances where the distinction might not be so clear.	<b>Math - Critical Equations for The Onsite Industry to Learn</b> Micah Hozen, New Creations Contracting We will be discussing Math for Septic Installers, including Tank Volume, Reserve Volume, Gallons Per Inch, Float Settings, Setting and Shooting Grades, etc. Look forward to a lively debate on the pros and cons of using tenths or inches (metric?).
10:40–11:10	Break / Exhibit Hall Open / *DEQ available for Q&A Your DEQ Online	
11:10 - 12:10 0.1 CEU	<b>Challenging Wastewater Streams</b> Sara Heger, U of M This presentation will discuss research projects related to RV parks, convenience stores, water softening salts, home kidney dialysis, state parks shower houses and dump stations.	<b>Existing Septic System Report (ESER)</b> Kevin Riddle, Sweet Water Sanitation Who can perform evaluations. What to look for before, during and after pumping, how to fill out the ESER, examples of ESER's, Lid safety. Q and A.

12:00 – 1:30	Exhibit Hall Open / Lunch / Roe D Hoe Competition / *DEQ available for Q&A Your DEQ Online	
1:30 – 2:30 0.1 CEU	<b>Maintenance, Nitrogen Reduction</b> Joe Rebori with Bio-Microbics Introductory concepts for wastewater treatment with examples of how they are applied to septic systems, including retention time, mass load, dosing, and practical understanding of how solid and dissolved contaminants are removed from wastewater.	<b>Onsite Wastewater Jeopardy</b> James Erlei & Doug Dilley, Fergeson Waterworks Contestants will be answering questions by categories covering pumping, design, maintenance, installation, components.
2:40 – 3:40 0.1 CEU	<b>Septic Tank Sizing – Bigger is Better</b> Sara Heger, U of M The presentation will highlight hydraulic retention time in relation to the settling and storage of sludge and scum. Additionally, the importance of ensuring watertightness, providing access, and the need for secondary protection in access risers will be covered.	<b>Funding Options for Homeowners for Repair and Replacement Systems</b> Heather Nielsen, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District & Lacey Ogle & Tawny Read, Craft3 Review funding options, including local options as well as statewide assistance options with Craft3. Participants should come with questions and any resources they have found.
3:40 – 4:10	Break / Exhibit Hall Open / *DEQ available for Q&A Your DEQ Online	
4:10 – 5:10 0.1 CEU	Closing General Session - <b>Design, Installation and Management Considerations for Septic Systems Serving Vacation Home Rentals</b> Sara Heger, Un. of Minnesota More of your customers may be renting out their vacation homes either part-time or full-time. The concern is overall increased hydraulic loading. Another is peak loading of water and cleaning products. The third concern is having renters who do not understand how septic systems work and the limitations and rules around proper use.	
5:30 – 9:00	Reception / Annual Members Meeting & NOWRA Update / Dinner / Roe D Hoe Awards / Auction	
Saturday, March 22, 2025		
7:00 – 8:30	Registration Desk Open Exhibits Open / Breakfast / *DEQ available for Q&A Your DEQ Online	
	Track 1	Track 2
8:30 - 9:30 0.1 CEU	<b>2020 Beachie Creek/Lionshead Fire &amp; Septic Systems</b> Kimberlee Aldrich / Danielle Brown, Marion County What happened, how did we organize, what we would do differently and how we financed it.	<b>AXRT Design / Installation / O &amp; M</b> Steve Sinks Orenco Cover Homeowner and Preconstructions Meetings, System Location, Design Consideration and System Model Selection. Treatment data and UV disinfection requirements. Installation requirements, antibuoyancy requirements & recommendation.
9:40 - 10:40 0.1 CEU	<b>System Troubleshooting Dialog</b> Scott Hammerschmith, Orenco Common troubleshooting problems for onsite systems with examples of how to read wiring diagrams and troubleshoot relays. Ask questions or give examples of problems in the field and talk about solutions.	<b>Q&amp;A Design Best Practices</b> Brannon Lamp, Aqua Resource Design & Consulting, LLC
10:40 - 11:00	Break / Exhibit Hall Open / *DEQ available for Q&A Your DEQ Online	
11:00-12:00 0.1 CEU	<b>Calibration How, Why and What</b> Steve Rose, Septic Technologies Discussing the importance of proper pump calibration, where to get tank dimensions, various calibration techniques, and how to use the data.	<b>Soils Structure for Oregon Installers</b> Kimberlee Aldrich, Marion County Explore what soil’s structure is and what does it mean to us, and how does it come into sizing a septic system.
12:00 – 1:30 0.1 CEU	<b>Lunch Teamwork in Action: O&amp;M Program – Past, Present, and Future</b> Erin O’Connell, Columbia County / Kiley Clamons, DEQ This session will invite input from industry stakeholders on the next steps for the O&M Program, focusing on annual reporting and service excellence. Together, we will shape the future of onsite wastewater management in Oregon. We will discuss critical issues that have emerged during the program’s development and showcase the proactive steps being taken to address these concerns, such as the O&M Task Force, the Project Start-up initiative, and rule changes that aim to improve process, accountability, and consistency. As we look to the future, we recognize the importance of collaboration within industry.	
1:30	Closing Remarks – Edward Varga, O2WA President	
*Introduction and Help with the DEQ online license portal YDO Get support and help with set-up or accessing Your DEQ Online, the portal to your DEQ license. DEQ license staff will be available throughout the conference to guide you. Bring your laptop or tablet or use one at the table and the staff will guide you through the process and send you home with what you need to make submittals and renew your license. Walk-up or by appointment DEQ will be here Thursday through Saturday.		

**NOTE: Schedule, Speakers and Topics subject to change.**

**LODGING: Riverhouse Lodge Book online [www.o2wa.org/Annual Oregon Onsite Wastewater Conference](http://www.o2wa.org/Annual Oregon Onsite Wastewater Conference) | Call Riverhouse Lodge at 541.389.3111**  
**Special rate available before February 16th and subject to availability.**