

NOWRA 2024 – 2027 Board Elections Candidate Profile

All candidates are listed alphabetically by last name.

Candidate: Christopher Chapman (MO) - incumbent

Category: Service Provider

Candidate Statement/Bio:

I wish to be considered as a candidate for a 2nd term on the NOWRA Board of Directors. I understand the commitment this role requires and look forward to fulfilling the expectations as a Board Member. My interest specifically lies in the area of Service Provider. I can offer years of experience and knowledge in this specialty area.

I received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with emphasis in Management and Marketing from Columbia College, Columbia, MO in 2008. I then continued my education in Soil Sciences at the University of Missouri under the guidance of Dr. Randy Miles and am now one of the top Soil Onsite Soil Evaluators in the state of Missouri for Onsite Waste Water Applications. After finishing my schooling and state certifications I began my company, Show Me Soils, specializing in soil evaluations for onsite systems in Franklin County and surrounding counties. We have now been serving our clients for the last thirteen years. Show Me Soils also offers clients onsite system inspections for real estate transactions and is a licensed distributor for Norweco treatments systems since 2012. I hold Missouri State Certifications as a Basic and Advanced Installer (Since 2008), Onsite Soil Evaluator and Inspector for Real Estate Transactions. I also hold Illinois State Certifications in Private Sewage Installation. We service approximately 1500 systems a year and this number continues to grow; we have recently started to precast our own concrete septic tanks. These sanctioned certifications and experience along with my background growing up installing Wastewater Systems in the family business has given me a well-rounded view of the process these systems involve. Overall, I would estimate my years in the Onsite Wastewater in some capacity to be 27 years.

What specific area of interest do you desire to work with the NOWRA Board on industry issues and how you will make a contribution?

I desire to continue what I have started in my first term on the Board of directors. I feel like the growth and experience I have gained during this time can't be quantified and will allow me to help NOWRA and this industry even more in the upcoming years. I have seen NOWRA make substantial strides in many areas but I personally have been a part of the marketing committee, specifically creating a social media presence. I think we can continue to grow our presence and get through to the next generation of Onsite wastewater professionals that are needed.

Why you are willing to serve on NOWRA's Board as a leader in the onsite industry?

I am willing to serve on the NOWRA Board to assist the other members in continuing to move the wastewater industry forward.

What is your perspective(s) on the directions that NOWRA as an organization should consider in order to increase its leadership role in the industry?

I think the main goal is to become a voice that is respected on a national stage so that we may increase our funding and bring more respect and recognition to our industry as a whole.

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What are the critical issues that NOWRA’s Board should be addressing on behalf of its members?

I think the main focus should be continuing to grow the industry as a whole but still find way to help the specific needs of members on the state level.

Candidate: Michael A. Dunn (ME)

Category: Supplier/Manufacturer

Candidate Statement/Bio

Prior to my current position at FujiClean USA, my onsite equipment manufacturing stints included a great experience working for the folks at Hoot Systems in Louisiana, Troy, Todd & Ron, as the Eastern Regional Manager where I first concentrated on residential systems, especially in Maryland at the beginning of the Bay Restoration initiative, and then developed the Eastern Commercial Program with Ron. I certainly learned a lot from them, and I hope that they did from me as well.

After a number of years, I moved on to work for the fine folks at Premier Tech as their Commercial, Community & Institutional Manager for the Mid-Atlantic Region concentrating mainly development of their commercial applications and platforms, which I found both rewarding and challenging managing though the early days of Covid.

After my time at Premier Tech, I moved into my present role at FujiClean USA where I troubleshoot issues, consult with engineers and offer detailed preliminary concepts and review every commercial application that we have in North America & the Caribbean. I view this position as the apex of my career converging of all of my skills and experiences and have become integral to the company’s growth in North America. I am hoping that I can transfer that synergy to a position at NOWRA. I believe that I can and will be an effective and contributing team member.

What specific area of interest do you desire to work with the NOWRA Board on industry issues and how you will make a contribution?

Coming in from the manufacturing side, I see how delicate the balance is between product, installation, and ongoing service. Having worn all of these hats, I can see all the points of each discipline and the frequent difficulty of cross-discipline communications. With my multiple-discipline perspective, I believe that I can help work toward a solution where each step of that ladder is a support rung that truly holds the weight of the other, thereby eliminating, for example, finger pointing in front of the client. Professionalism from start to finish is a total support issue that I believe in.

Why you are willing to serve on NOWRA’s Board as a leader in the onsite industry?

Well to quote a famous marine from my home town “if not me then who” in essence we all need to step up and take a turn at the wheel. We all have experiences, knowledge, knowhow, common sense, values, and we need to share them - why not with a group of peers with a common cause. I am at a time in my life where I can devote the time.

What is your perspective(s) on the directions that NOWRA as an organization should consider in order to increase its leadership role in the industry?

Leadership implies that we are going somewhere, so 10 years from now NOWRA could be where it currently envisions itself. For example, I would like to see new national codes that reference NOWRA or NOWRA

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efforts. I would like to see more National Training Standards for Installations and O&M that we help set and help administer. NOWRA’s role can be limitless, but our common goal is still the same... Clean Water

What are the critical issues that NOWRA’s Board should be addressing on behalf of its members?

Well, I almost feel as though this is a trick question even though I know it’s not, So I’ll go here “representing the onsite and decentralized wastewater industry. To protect water resources and promote the economic, environmental, and public health benefits of septic systems.” Now I know that I took this right from the home page mission statement but it’s what I see as the critical issues - the nuances and development of which I hope to learn better as I get acclimated as a new board member should I be lucky enough to be elected. Our future awaits us. How we shape it is up to us.

Candidate: Claude Goguen (IN) - incumbent

Category: Supplier/Manufacturer

Candidate Statement/Bio

I appreciate the opportunity to be considered for a second term on the NOWRA Board of Directors as a supplier/manufacturer. Over the last three years, I’ve had the pleasure of working with my fellow board members, and I’ve learned so much from this experience.

I am a civil engineer with the National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA) where I hold the position of VP of Education. I have worked in the concrete and construction industry for almost 30 years. Since my start with NPCA in 2008, I focused on our wastewater related precast concrete products, and that allowed me to travel to numerous county, state and national onsite wastewater events to network, exhibit and present. I have a passion for training and education, and I have enjoyed being in front of so many industry professionals over the years.

Sixteen years and counting, I’ve learned so much about the onsite wastewater industry and have become passionate about its growth. This has led me to serve on ASTM, NAWT and NOWRA committees, serve on the Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association (IOWPA) board of directors and then to NOWRA’s board. In these roles, I have been able to further contribute to this industry and hope to continue for many more years.

What specific area of interest do you desire to work with the NOWRA Board on industry issues and how you will make a contribution?

With my experience in education, I am invested in helping NOWRA enhance its training by offering content on the latest technologies and best practices. I also would like to continue helping state associations and NOWRA affiliate members to enhance their programs and events, so they can deliver more value for their existing members and attract new ones.

Why you are willing to serve on NOWRA’s Board as a leader in the onsite industry?

I have a passion for the onsite wastewater treatment industry and am committed to help in its evolution. The experience of serving on the NOWRA Board with such dedicated and knowledgeable individuals allow me to continue to find ways to contribute. It also allows me to proudly represent our many NPCA members throughout North America who supply to this industry.

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What is your perspective(s) on the directions that NOWRA as an organization should consider in order to increase its leadership role in the industry?

The more united we are as an industry, the stronger we become. NOWRA should continue to expand its affiliate membership program to add value and bring in more participants. Each added region brings more voices to the discussion and strengthens our message. When state affiliates are supported, they can enrich their programs and grow. This lifts the entire industry.

We also need to explore partnerships and collaborations that serve our industry and expand NOWRA’s reach.

What are the critical issues that NOWRA’s Board should be addressing on behalf of its members?

Online education has evolved leaps and bounds over the last few years, and we need keep up. While still respecting the value of a live classroom, expanding NOWRA’s reach depends on its ability to deliver training and outreach to where and when people want it. These programs can continue to deliver the latest best practices and resources available so we can raise the quality of installations, inspections, and maintenance. Working with an expanding network of state affiliates will boost our ability to deliver this training.

Candidate: Nicholas Huber (OK)

Category: Regulator

Candidate Statement/Bio

I would like to be considered for the open regulator position on the NOWRA Board with elections occurring fall of 2024. I have reviewed and understand the commitment expectations placed on the position.

I have been a member of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality since December 2003. During this time, I have served as an Environmental Program Specialist responsible for implementing the Agency’s On-site program across a large region of the State. In January of 2018 I moved into the role of Environmental Program Manager responsible for the On-site Program. As Program Manager, I have worked diligently to review and revise our on-site regulations to incorporate industry standards and pave the way for new technologies.

What specific area of interest do you desire to work with the NOWRA Board on industry issues and how you will make a contribution?

If I am selected to the NOWRA Board, I am interested in continuing to assist with the development of new training materials and helping expand the membership’s understanding of our industry’s new technologies.

Why you are willing to serve on NOWRA’s Board as a leader in the onsite industry?

I see this role as an opportunity to help to bring the issues in my State to the national level and assist with sharing our successes with others. I believe these points are in line with the direction of NOWRA to assist in a comprehensive evaluation and implementation of the On-site Industry in North America.

What is your perspective(s) on the directions that NOWRA as an organization should consider in order to increase its leadership role in the industry?

I see that the largest issue facing many of the members is related to the funding available to address much of the aging infrastructure used by underserved population. The importance of decentralized wastewater

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systems, both individual and community systems, is at the heart of continuing to provide the level of protection of human health and the environment we all work towards.

Candidate: Brian Koski (MN)

Category: Installer

Candidate Statement/Bio

Thank you for considering me for the NOWRA board of directors' position coming up in 2024. I have read the elections overview information and understand the commitment to holding a board position. I am writing this letter to nominate myself, Brian Koski, for the installer board position opening.

I first started in the onsite industry in 2004 after completing an Associates' Degree in Water Quality Science. This 2-year program was focused on water and wastewater treatment and allowed me to obtain my water and wastewater operators licenses in 2005. Starting with an internship with Septic Check in 2004, I have stayed with the company ever since and eventually became sole owner of the company in 2013. Over my time with Septic Check I have obtained all onsite licenses available in Minnesota and have 20 years' experience in all of the disciplines including design, inspection, installation, service provider, and maintainer. I have been involved with our state organization, MOWA, since 2005 and have attended conferences and continuing education every year since. I have also served on the MOWA board for 2 terms, was president for 2 terms, and was also involved in many of the committee functions.

What specific area of interest do you desire to work with the NOWRA Board on industry issues and how you will make a contribution?

I enjoy leveraging my experience in the field as a professional and as a business owner to help other professionals in any way I can. Basically, I am happy to help anywhere I can provide the organization value. I have always been a forward thinker and mostly enjoy strategic thinking and creative problem solving. With that said, I think I can contribute to the board meetings discussions as well as some of the committees. I am also willing to serve on the executive committee if it makes sense to do so in the future.

Why you are willing to serve on NOWRA's Board as a leader in the onsite industry?

I enjoyed my time on the MOWA board and continue to enjoy being involved in leadership for our company and industry as a whole. I believe it is my duty to lead our industry by example through our daily work within our company and business. Operating our business with a high level of integrity and professionalism is the only way in my opinion to show our community we serve that our industry is a long-term solution for decentralized wastewater treatment.

What is your perspective(s) on the directions that NOWRA as an organization should consider in order to increase its leadership role in the industry?

The first thing that comes to mind for me is creating massive value for its members and stakeholders so that it cannot be ignored. Creating that value can be done in many ways, but probably starts with supporting state organizations, providing a voice at the regulatory and policy level, and creating a level of consistency across the industry through research, education, and code standards.

What are the critical issues that NOWRA's Board should be addressing on behalf of its members?

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Some of the critical issues I see in Minnesota and surrounding states mostly revolves around regulation and the workforce. There has been a lot of turnover in the last 5-10 years in all disciplines which seems to have created an experience and knowledge gap. Attracting new, and retaining existing professionals, to the onsite industry seems to be a challenge for us and across all trades. Ultimately the onsite industry is competing with all other trades for a smaller amount of skilled professionals, so focusing on helping with this seems like a worthwhile pursuit.

A second issue I see is lack of consistency in regulation. At least in our state, application of the code is different at every LGU and the state level. I think some of this is due to lack of experience or knowledge as noted above. In my opinion, if we cannot rely on regulation for a benchmark, or know that our work is being reviewed with the same level of consistency and accountability as other areas, it is difficult to see how the industry as a whole can improve its reputation as a viable long-term solution.

Lastly, I think investing in research that can inform policy, training, and many other key industry areas should be heavily considered. If we are equipped with factual data, better decisions can be made, whether it's counseling policy makers and regulators, or training professionals.

Candidate: Tricia Scott (NE) - *incumbent*

Category: Regulator

Candidate Statement/Bio

I would like to formally declare my interest in re-applying for a position on the NOWRA Board as a representative of the regulatory community. I understand this three-year commitment means I will be required to attend at least one face to face meeting every year, attend monthly ZOOM meetings, and to read and review printed materials submitted to the board prior to meetings. Additionally, I will be a point of contact for other state regulators, as well as serving as a representative voice and mentor for the regulatory community in NOWRA matters.

I am a lifelong resident of Nebraska who grew up in a small town very close to the Wyoming border. I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in geology. After college, I started working for the State of Nebraska in the Division of Weights and Measures. In 2014, I took a position with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in their Field Services and Assistance Division. In 2016, I moved to the Onsite Wastewater Section, where I worked as a Staff Assistant until being promoted to an Onsite Wastewater Program Specialist in 2019. I have 20 years of experience working in state regulatory agencies, and eight years of experience working in onsite wastewater regulation. I am currently employed as an Onsite Wastewater Program Specialist for the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. In my free time, I enjoy writing, reading, and riding my moped.

What specific area of interest do you desire to work with the NOWRA Board on industry issues and how you will make a contribution?

The connections I have made during my term on the NOWRA board have been invaluable in learning more about how other states regulate onsite wastewater, as well as how other stakeholders, including service providers and installers, view and respond to their specific state's regulations. Being able to consult with and hear from leaders in all areas of the industry is helping Nebraska build a better, stronger Onsite Wastewater program in every aspect. Nebraska's aging, rural community who live on fixed incomes and have failing systems they cannot afford to replace is still a chief concern for our state. I am looking forward to working with



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SORA and other groups and stakeholders to find innovative and sustainable ways to fund repairs and replacements for these systems.

Why you are willing to serve on NOWRA’s Board as a leader in the onsite industry?

Taking a position on NOWRA’s Board has allowed Nebraska to establish a nationwide network of leaders and professionals in the onsite industry to share knowledge and experience. Nebraska’s Onsite Wastewater Section has experience developing an online system registration tool, working with local entities to achieve compliance, and resolving complex compliance issues. Through NOWRA connections, Nebraska has found more education opportunities for our certified professionals and a much greater understanding of the Onsite industry as a whole. By serving a second term, I hope to gain more connections in the industry and to deepen my knowledge base and experience. Having the amazing resource that is NOWRA available to us has given me many ideas that I can share with my program and Department, as well as the onsite community in Nebraska and beyond.

What is your perspective(s) on the directions that NOWRA as an organization should consider in order to increase its leadership role in the industry?

I am a firm believer that outreach and education are some of the most important functions leaders can provide. Informed, educated members of an industry are better prepared to identify issues and enact solutions. Knowing that they have a knowledgeable and accessible group of various members of the onsite wastewater community makes it easier to work cooperatively to create balanced and appropriate regulations and guidelines for safe, effective, and efficient onsite wastewater treatment systems.

What are the critical issues that NOWRA’s Board should be addressing on behalf of its members?

The available pool of certified professionals who do onsite wastewater work is aging and retiring. The number of registered certified professionals has gone from stagnant to decreasing within the last four years in Nebraska. Many young people entering the workforce are unaware of the demand for onsite wastewater professionals and have little access to information about relative start-up costs to build an onsite wastewater business. Training classes are difficult to access or non-existent, especially in rural areas with poor internet access, though Nebraska is making strides in providing more training.

As concerns grow about the quality and availability of potable water, groundwater quality is more important than ever. Onsite wastewater treatment via traditional systems is not always viable due to soil types, setback distances, and environmental factors. More and more companies are proposing alternative treatment systems that need to be evaluated for efficiency and effectiveness. While a one size fits all approach to evaluation isn’t feasible or desirable, some standardized guidelines for evaluation would be helpful, especially for regulatory agencies who may not have such processes in place.
