

TEXAS ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

*Presentation by Brian L. Padden, P.E., DEE
and Janet Meyers*

*Improving On-site Wastewater
Treatment and Reducing Costs by
Enhancing Technology Transfer
and Facilitating Research*



TEXAS ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Purpose of Presentation

The Council...Who, What, Where,
Why and How?



COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Governor appoints eleven members each for a two-year term; terms are staggered.
- Council comprises:
 - 2 Home Builders
 - 1 Real Estate Developer
 - 1 Local Regulator
 - 1 Professional Engineer
 - 2 TCEQ Employees
 - 1 Industrial Representative
 - 1 Rural Water Quality Specialist
 - 1 Soils Scientist
 - 1 General Public Member



PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Janet R. Boone
- Richard Gerard
- Susan R. Johnson
- Sockalingam Kannappan, P.E.
- Sarah Kirksey
- Janet Dee Meyers
- Brian L. Padden, P.E., DEE
- Carl M. Russell, Jr.
- William F. (Dubb) Smith III
- Ronald (Ron) Suchecki, Jr.
- Anne Boatright
- Rural Water Quality Specialist
- Local Regulator
- TCEQ Employee
- Professional Engineer
- TCEQ Employee
- Home Builder
- Soils Scientist
- Real Estate Developer
- Home Builder
- Industrial Representative
- General Public Member



Support Staff / Mailing Info

- Sandra Mota, Executive Secretary
- Cassandra Derrick, Administrative Manager
- Any Council Member

TOWTRC
c/o TCEQ
OSSF Program MC-178
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

- Council Attorney

Melissa Juarez, Office of the Attorney General



COUNCIL'S PRIMARY GOALS

- Pursue improvements in residential on-site wastewater treatment technology in order to reduce the cost of those systems to the consumer and increase the level of protection to Texas' water supply.
- Provide information exchange and continuing education opportunities for the OSSF industry.



STATUTORY AUTHORITY / RULES

- Authority found in Chapter 367 of Texas Health and Safety Code.
- Rules found in Title 31 (Natural Resources and Conservation) of Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 286.
 - In addition, the Council establishes operational procedures which are available on our website.



TOWTRC WEBSITE <http://www.towtrc.state.tx.us>

- Contains significant information on Council's history, membership, goals, authority, etc.
- Contains TOWTRC calendar, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, conference proceedings, and information on grant application process and forms.
- Contains copies of discontinued Quarterly Newsletter.
- Contains TOWTRC sponsored research reports



GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

- The Council awards grants and contracts to support applied research at:
 - Any accredited colleges and universities in Texas,
 - Any governmental entities, and
 - Any acceptable public or private entities.
- The research must be in regard to:
 - On-site wastewater treatment technology,
 - Reducing the cost of providing wastewater treatment, and
 - Applicable for use in Texas.



GRANTS AND CONTRACTS (cont'd)

- The Council also awards grants and contracts to enhance technology transfer regarding on-site wastewater treatment through:
 - Educational courses
 - Seminars
 - Symposia
 - Publications
 - Other forms of information dissemination



GRANTS AND CONTRACTS (cont'd)

- Grant applications are available to view and/or print in HTML and MS Word on the Council's website at:

<http://www.towtrc.state.tx.us>



GRANTS AND CONTRACTS (cont'd)

- Grants are subject to the Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS) issued by the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning pursuant to the Uniform Grant Management Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 783, and the rules promulgated thereunder in 1 TAC §§5.141-5.167.



Grants and Contracts (cont'd)

- Since 1991
 - 54 research grants awards have been made totaling \$3,359,962
 - 22 information transfer grant wards have been made totaling \$864,871



FUNDING / FEES

- Funding Derived from fees:
 - Local permitting authorities collect \$10 fee for each OSSF permitted.
 - Fees are billed by the TCEQ and deposited in the State's General Fund.
- Funding Allocated by the Legislature
- Funding currently \$330,000/yr.



Conferences

17 annual conferences have been completed

- Conference has grown into one of the largest OSSF shows in the nation
- 1,100 attended the conference last year, 903 of whom received CEUs
- Conferences are often self funded through attendee registration fees and vendor booth fees



MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- Next Scheduled Quarterly Meeting
 - June 8, 2010
- Next Scheduled Conference
 - March 2011 Location TBD



TOWTRC different than TCEQ

- TCEQ provides a comprehensive regulatory program for the management of OSSFs, including minimum OSSF standards, local authorized agents, and licensing.
- The Council has no regulatory authority.



QUESTIONS?

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