

ONSITE WASTEWATER NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUE #7 | February 21, 2018

This bulletin is focussed on Continuing Professional Development.

In this issue

- 1.0.** ASTTBC Policy – Continuing Professional Development
- 2.0.** WCOWMA Convention and Trade Show, Kamloops, March 1 – 3 2018.
- 3.0.** WCOWMA training opportunities.
- 4.0.** BCOSSA training opportunities.
- 5.0.** Friday Afternoon Wastewater Groups in Victoria and Fraser Valley.
- 6.0.** Capital Regional District Annual Meeting/Maintenance Seminar, Victoria, March 12 2018.

1.0 Continuing Professional Development Requirements

ASTTBC requires all members to comply with ASTTBC Code of Ethics, Certification Policy and Practice Guidelines. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a condition of ongoing certification.

Excerpts from ASTTBC Code of Ethics

Principle 2. Undertake and accept responsibility for professional assignments only when qualified by training and experience;

Principle 3. Provide an opinion on a professional subject only when it is founded upon adequate knowledge and honest conviction;

Principle 6. Keep informed to maintain proficiency and competence, to advance the body of knowledge within their discipline and further opportunities for the professional development of their associates;

Excerpt from Onsite Wastewater Certification Board Certification Policy

8.0 Conditions of Certification

8.1 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

8.1.1 As per the ASTTBC CPD Policy (see Appendix 5) all ROWPs shall maintain their competency through continuing professional development.

Excerpt from OWCB Certification Policy, Appendix 5 – Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Policy**Purpose**

In our ever-changing technological environment, the public expects that technologists, technicians and technical specialists keep informed of the latest developments related to the services they provide. Public expectations are supported in the ASTTBC Code of Ethics first principle that all members hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public, the protection of the environment and the promotion of health and safety within the workplace. This is achieved through principle 6: Members of ASTTBC shall keep informed to maintain proficiency and competence, to advance the body of knowledge within their discipline and further opportunities for the professional development of their associates. To uphold these membership principles, we must keep informed by participating in various lifelong learning or continuing professional development (CPD) activities.

Policy

1. Effective January 2015, ASTTBC members¹ will be required to record a summary description of CPD activities and the CPD points earned each calendar year. Members and registrants will enter the information in their member account on the ASTTBC website <http://cpd.asttbc.org/>
2. Members shall achieve an average of 20 CPD points annually. The points may be averaged over a five-year period.
3. The CPD information recorded in member accounts will be accessed and used by the Registrar or designate to generate a report on member compliance with the policy.
4. ASTTBC Registrar shall submit annually to the Practice Review Board (PRB) a report on Member Compliance to CPD with recommendations on non-compliant members.
5. The PRB will issue to non-compliant members a notice of their CPD status and the intention of ASTTBC to consider suspending their membership renewal until the member complies with the CPD policy.
6. The mandatory CPD requirement does not apply to honorary, lifetime or retired members.
7. The PRB is authorized to conduct an audit of CPD activities and points claimed by members.
8. In extraordinary circumstances, if a member is unable to achieve an average of 20 CPD points per year over 5 years he or she may submit to the PRB a written explanation of the reason for non-compliance to the policy and request a temporary exemption from CPD activity. The PRB may accept or reject the explanation and the member's request for temporary exemption from CPD.
9. A description of accredited CPD activities and the formula to determine the CPD points earned is provided in Table 1 (*Description of Acceptable CPD Activities and Points Earned*).

Refer to the entire OWCB Certification Policy at <https://owrp.asttbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/OWCB-Policy-Jan-26-2017-.pdf>

2.0. WCOWMA CONFERENCE

Once again, the Western Canada Onsite Wastewater Management Association (WCOWMA) is hosting their Annual Trade Show and Convention, scheduled for March 1 – 3, 2018, at the Coast Hotel and Conference Centre in Kamloops. Check the WCOWMA website for details and registration <http://www.wcowma-bc.com/>

This event is an excellent opportunity for Continuing Professional Development. Numerous presentations by subject matter experts provide technical knowledge and helpful perspectives about issues affecting the onsite wastewater industry. The Trade Show provides access to suppliers of sewerage components and treatment technologies, with displays of products. Social aspects include a Banquet and entertainment on Friday (always a highlight), and networking opportunities throughout.

ASTTBC supports this event and encourages members to attend. The event provides effective technical instruction, discussions about important issues affecting our industry, orientations to hardware and technologies, and an opportunity to connect with peers and industry leaders. Attendance qualifies as Continuing Professional Development for Practitioners and Professionals.

3.0 WCOWMA TRAINING

WCOWMA continues to provide training opportunities.

They provide entry level training to assist trainees with achievement of the occupational competencies required for certification as a Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP). Those mandatory ASTTBC competencies are listed in OWRB Certification Policy Appendix 1 at <https://owrp.asttbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/OWCB-Policy-Jan-26-2017-.pdf>

Check the WCOWMA website for training details at <http://www.wcowma-bc.com/training/>. Their website indicates a very significant change for entry level training. They report that training is now based on the BC regulatory framework as per this quote, *the WCOWMA Onsite Wastewater Management Association of BC is pleased to present industry training based on the BC SPM V3 for Onsite Wastewater Professionals.*

The revised duration of training is reported as 68 hours of home study plus 8 days of classroom attendance. A detailed description of the WCOWMA training Learning Outcomes are posted at <http://www.wcowma-bc.com/files/2017/12/Training-Outcomes-and-Competencies.pdf>.

ASTTBC fully supports WCOVMA's transition from delivery (in BC) of instruction focused on the Alberta regulatory framework, to their new approach - emphasizing the BC Regulations and Standards. Their website reports that the revised training program will include application of the BC Sewerage System Standard Practice Manual, the BC Sewerage System Regulation, with an outline of the roles of ASTTBC, The BC Ministry of Health and the Health Authorities.

Excerpt from the Sewerage System Regulation

Authorized persons

7 (1) A person is qualified to act as a registered onsite wastewater practitioner if the person

(a) has successfully completed a post-secondary training program through

(i) an organization recognized by the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia as offering sewerage system training programs that provide an applicant with the qualifications required for registration under the *Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Act*

WCOVMA supplements the entry level training program with advanced training and Continuing Professional Development opportunities, including (but not limited to) the following:

Site and Soils Field Training. A detailed description of the training Learning Outcomes are posted at <http://www.wcovma-bc.com/files/2018/02/Soils-Evaluation-Training-Outline-One-Day.pdf> .

Maintenance Provider Training. This program is described by WCOVMA as follows:

This training is conducted over a period of five days. The session will incorporate classroom as well as field and hands on experience opportunities. The training will focus the operation and maintenance required for conventional systems including trenches, beds, mounds and at-grades with some aerobic tank discussion. The second part concentrates more specifically on Aerobic Tanks, drip irrigation, single pass and re-circulating media filters. The final classroom component will focus on business practices for maintenance providers. A field hands on session will follow the classroom training and an exam administered at the conclusion. This course is being offered in partnership with the National Association of Wastewater Technicians.

4.0. BCOSSA TRAINING

The BC Onsite Sewage Association (BCOSSA) continues to provide training opportunities.

They provide entry level training to assist trainees with achievement of the occupational competencies required for certification as a Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP).

Check the BCOSSA website for details at <http://www.bcoffa.org/>.

Their website indicates scheduled delivery of entry level training from April 16 to April 27, 2018 in Langley BC.

ASTTBC continues to support BCOSSA's long tradition of effective training in support of ROWP certification. Their program remains focussed on the BC regulatory framework.

The duration of training varies depending on the categories of ROWP certification sought by trainees. The entire program for installation and planning is approximately 40 hours of home study plus 11 days of classroom attendance. BCOSSA also offers courses for maintenance and inspection. Detailed course outlines are posted at <http://www.bcoffa.org/training/course-outlines.html>.

5.0. FRIDAY AFTERNOON WASTEWATER GROUPS

There are currently two informal groups that meet regularly to discuss wastewater industry issues. The original was launched in Victoria by Michael Payne, PEng, PGeo. Michael adopted the *Friday Afternoon Wastewater Group* title, colloquially referred to as FAWG. Speakers from industry provide brief presentations, with group discussion. BCOSSA typically provides updates. Representatives from local government including the Capital Regional District are often engaged.

Inspired by Michael's initiative, a similar group has been launched in the Fraser Valley by Brent Dennis, PEng. As a 'shout out' to Victoria FAWG, Brent has adopted the FAWG term to identify his group. Typically, the location is in Chilliwack. Brent has adopted a similar approach to the Victoria FAWG, with speakers from industry and government, group discussion and informal dialogue. Both groups are completely independent of industry groups and regulators. Michael and Brent indicate they would welcome other groups throughout BC to adopt a similar approach, with the same FAWG title if desired.

Victoria FAWG meets on Friday, February 23, 2018 at 3:00 pm. John Rowse will report on BCOSSA activities and plans. Jim Andersen will provide a presentation about Professionalism in Practice. Fraser Valley FAWG meets on April 6, 2018.

Michael and Brent provide a very effective continuing education opportunity. FAWG attendance qualifies for ASTTBC Continuing Professional Development. ASTTBC fully supports these initiatives and encourages ROWPs to attend. Contact Michael at PayneEngineering@shaw.ca or Brent at brent.dennis@bwdengineering.com for information and registration.

6.0. CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT MAINTENANCE TRAINING

ASTTBC continues collaborations with the Capital Regional District (Victoria region) to support their local bylaw for mandatory sewerage maintenance.

The CRD Onsite Sewage System Maintenance Bylaw requires septage pump out every five years for type 1 systems and maintenance of type 2 and type 3 systems in accordance with the maintenance plan, at least once per year.

Refer to their website at https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/bylaws/liquidwasteseptagesewersourcecontrolandstormwater/3479---onsite-sewage-system-maintenance-bylaw-2007B.pdf?sfvrsn=3cc83e72_0 .

ASTTBC will deliver a free maintenance workshop in conjunction with the CRD Annual General Meeting for onsite wastewater and trucked liquid waste on March 12, 2018. Anyone working in the industry from any region is invited to attend. Further information can be found at [CRD AGM and Free Workshop](#). To register, email septic@crd.bc.ca or call the CRD at 250 360 3187.

This workshop will provide critical information for those ROWPs that provide client services for compliance with the CRD Bylaw. It will also be helpful to anyone seeking certification as a ROWP Maintenance Provider or Private Inspector.

The ASTTBC/CRD maintenance workshop will be delivered by Jim Andersen, Manager, Onsite Wastewater Program. Content is outlined below:

1. Applying the Sewerage System Standard Practice Manual for maintenance and monitoring of onsite sewerage systems.
2. Understanding requirements for Onsite Sewerage Systems under CRD Bylaw 3479 – Onsite Sewage System Maintenance.

CONCLUSION.

Please note, earlier ROWP Bulletins are available on our website at, <https://owrp.asttbc.org/news-updates/>

Those bulletins include important information regarding ROWP Practice.

If you have any questions or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact:

Jim Andersen, ROWP

Manager, Onsite Wastewater Program

ASTTBC office 604 585 2788 ext 254

jandersen@asttbc.org