August 8th, 2022

NW Chapter Newsletter

Welcome from President Pete Pasterz!

Hey, NAHMMA Northwest Chapter members, welcome to the first issue of the NW Chapter Newsletter; what we hope will be a long-running newsletter by members for members. We intend this to be a way to keep you informed and engaged with the Chapter, without clogging your email.

We're planning to have news about Chapter activities and events, along with other regular sections on topics such as news from NAHMMA National, important legislation, feature articles on happenings in programs around the Northwest, and job openings. As a "by members, for members" publication, we'll be looking to you, for article ideas and authoring! Please send your ideas and article submissions to Kim Southwell, our Chapter Secretary Extraordinaire, and newsletter editor/publisher/distributor. Kim can be reached by email at kimjones@kingcounty.gov.

Annual Plan and Upcoming Training Opportunity

Your Executive Committee has been hard at work planning the 2022 - 2023 operating year. We are focusing on education and training opportunities. Plans include a fall 2022 hybrid workshop and training event and a traditional Chapter Conference which we hope to offer in fall 2023. We'll be forming the Conference Planning Committee soon, please consider joining the committee to help make the 2023 Chapter Conference a success!

The Fall 2022 hybrid workshop and training event will be jointly sponsored by the NAHMMA Northwest Chapter, Washington Ecology, and Oregon DEQ. For "bi-state" convenience, we're planning to hold the in person portion in Vancouver, Washington. We'll also be holding our annual Chapter Membership Meeting at this event. In conjunction with the workshop, we're planning to offer the NAHMMA 8 Hour and 24 hour HAZWOPER trainings both in person AND virtually. This is the first time

the 24 hour training will be provided in a virtual format. The Northwest Chapter is proud to be piloting this accessible and affordable training. The final details will be emailed to you soon!

News From National

NAHMMA's 37th annual conference was held in Fort Myers, Florida last week. The attendance was down a bit from the last pre-COVID conference, which was held in Denver. Nonetheless, those who chose to attend the in-person event were treated to a great conference.

The keynote address was by Dr. David E. Guggenheim, founder of Ocean Doctor. Dr. Guggenheim has been studying the coral reef system around Cuba for decades. He reported how those reefs are in much better condition than most other reefs in the Caribbean due in large part to Cuban environmental protection policies.

There were ten training opportunities ranging from Disaster Debris Management to SQG New Inspector Training. 126 HHW Professionals participated in these unique NAHMMA educational opportunities. There were also two tours of local SQG and HHW related venues to supplement the excellent selection of conference proceedings and award ceremonies.

Next year the conference will be held in Tempe, AZ (a Phoenix suburb) the week of September 17, 2023. That may make it easier to attend as it is much closer to the northwest. Start making your plans!

Feature Article - Lane County Household Hazardous Waste Facility

I have had the benefit of being a NAHMMA member for some time, and to me, one of the great things about NAHMMA is the chance to interact with others in the household hazardous waste (or HHW) field. More specifically, I mean those folks like me who work at and operate HHW collection facilities.

We are not a big group and we can easily be lost in the mix when compared to the sheer number of people who work in the solid waste field, either in the Northwest region or certainly at the national level. That can make opportunities to meet, network and discuss pertinent topics somewhat rare.

One of the objectives of the new Northwest Chapter newsletter is to expand those opportunities by offering an avenue for HHW collection facility topics to be discussed on a more regular basis. Topics including facility design and construction, operational history, collection and processing procedures, safety protocols, special projects and new or unique wastestreams are just some of the topics that are open for discussion. I look forward to sharing information and the history of the HHW facility that I work in, as well as learning about other HHW facilities in the NAHMMA region.

Having set the stage, I'll start by leading off with some background on the facility that I have worked at for the past 19 years: the Lane County Household Hazardous Waste Facility located in Eugene, Oregon. The facility opened for HHW collection in July 1998. Prior to that, Lane County held large-scale one- and two-day HHW collections dating back to May 1986.

Currently, we are open for HHW collections on Thursdays and Saturdays year 'round, except on holidays. We do have our customers make appointments for our collections, either over the phone or by utilizing our online appointment maker. I am not certain, but I think having customers make appointments may be unique for HHW facilities in the Northwest Chapter. I will admit that it can also cause a little dismay with our customers, as some folks do not really like to make an appointment for anything let alone a trip to our HHW facility.

However, for us it is an effective tool in allowing us to spread more appointments out over a collection and not have them bunched up at certain times. This enables us to staff the HHW facility more effectively, and makes it so customers do not have to wait in line for long periods but can get in and out of the HHW facility in only a few minutes. Appointments also enable us to screen waste that is not collected at our HHW facility. Lead-acid automotive batteries, antifreeze, used motor oil and filters, for example, are collected at the Lane County transfer station recycling area that is adjacent to our HHW facility. Appointments also allow us to screen waste streams we can't accept. Industrial gas cylinders, blasting caps and detonating cord are some of the items that come to mind that we've directed elsewhere for disposal rather than coming into the HHW facility.

I look forward to learning more about other HHW facilities in future Northwest Chapter Newsletters. If you would like to put your HHW Facility in the spotlight, please email Kim Southwell, kimjones@kingcounty.gov. We would be more than happy to share an article about your HHW facility in our next newsletter.

Best Regards,

Chad FICEK - NAHMMA Northwest Chapter Treasure

Here are some numbers from the Lane County Household Hazardous Waste Facility:

- Customer appointments in 2021 – 3,217
- Total amount of hazardous waste collected 2021 – 732,219 lbs.
- Very Small Quantity Generator - 651
- Fluorescent lamps recycled – 70,564 lbs.
- Oregon PaintCare paint collected – 363, 250 lbs.

Jobs

Have a job to share with NAHMMA NW Chapter Members? Email it to Kim Southwell, kimjones@kingcounty.gov, and she will include it in the next newsletter.

October 14, 2022

NW Chapter Newsletter

Fall Membership Meeting and Training Update

The chapter executive committee had hoped to host a workshop and a 24 Hour HAZWOPER Training event this fall, but due to logistical difficulties, the workshop has been postponed until next year. The 24 Hour HAZWOPER Training will be held this winter in the Portland area.

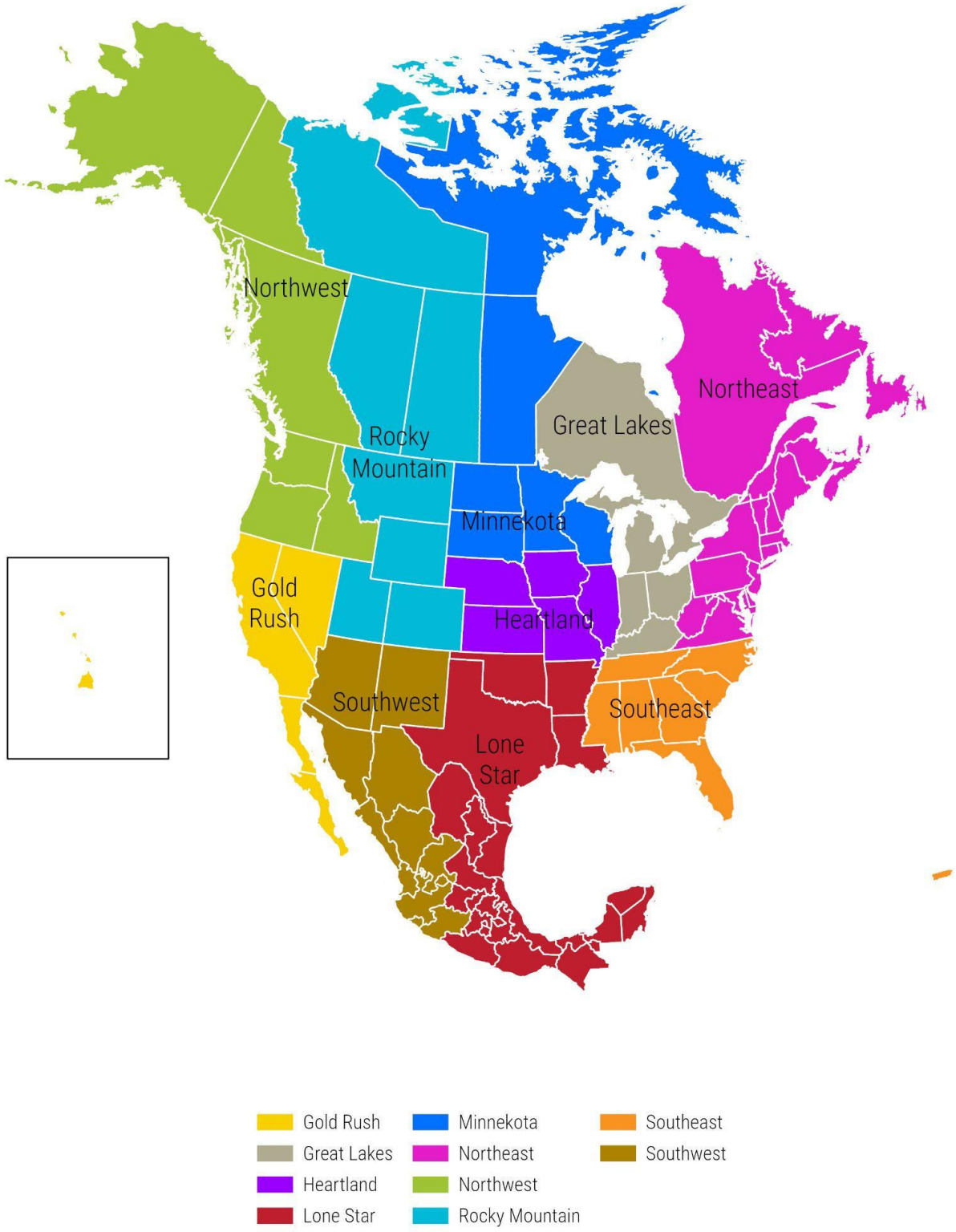
There will still be a virtual Chapter Membership Meeting on November 15th, from 3:30-5:00pm followed by a networking event from 5:00-5:30. During the Membership Meeting, we will discuss:

- Nominations for chapter leadership positions and election
- Presentation of updated by-laws
- Planning for a workshop and/or conference in 2023

Please join us for this important opportunity for networking and information sharing. Watch your email for a meeting invitation!

News From (Inter)national

Yes, you read that right. In keeping with the organization's name, the Board of Directors has voted to expand the territories of the existing Chapters to most of North America. As you see on the map below, NAHMMA's reach now includes all 50 U.S. states and the territory of Puerto Rico, along with all Canadian provinces and Mexican states. This was done to recognize current membership and interest from HHW professionals in Canada and Mexico, and to reach out to new members in the expanded areas.


Northwest
Rocky Mountain
Great Lakes
Northeast
Minnekota
Gold Rush
Heartland
Southwest
Lone Star
Southeast
Gold Rush
Great Lakes
Heartland
Lone Star
Minnekota
Northeast
Northwest
Rocky Mountain
Southeast
Southwest

Some chapter names will change due to expansion of their territories. For instance, the Florida Chapter will now likely be named the Southeast Chapter, in recognition of adding Tennessee, the Carolinas, and the Deep South states of Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia.

Our Northwest Chapter footprint has also changed; in addition to Oregon/Idaho/Washington, British Columbia, and Yukon have been added. Montana, formerly part of the NW Chapter, will now be part of the expanded Rocky Mountain Chapter. British Columbia in particular has been an international leader in innovative waste management concepts, and we look forward to a closer relationship with professionals there.

Note that the expansion does not include many nations of North America, such as Caribbean countries like Cuba, Dominican Republic and Jamaica; nor does it include the southern North America nations sometimes referred to as Central America, such as Costa Rica, Honduras, or Belize.

It's Great to be Needed

As Labor Day has passed, and Autumn is upon us, that means Elections can't be too far away. Not only those important local, state and federal ones…but the Northwest Chapter, too. Unlike those BIG elections, the Chapter has not yet even fielded a slate of candidates—that's where you come in.

Officers the Chapter will need to elect:

- **Vice President/President-elect:** This is a two year term position; the first year is served as Vice President and the second as President.
- **At Large Member of the Executive Committee:** This is a one-year term position.

Please seriously consider running for one of our two open Executive Committee offices. Having strong leadership is key to a strong, supportive organization. NAHMMA is only as useful an organization as you make it. Putting on conferences, hosting trainings, even mailing this newsletter takes work! The chapter needs your involvement now, more than ever, to refresh, reinvigorate, and reconnect.

If you have any interest in being more involved, or serving on the Chapter executive team, do not hesitate to reach out. Please contact Past President Megan Warfield, Chair of the Nominations Committee at megan.warfield@ecy.wa.gov, or 360-701-9683.

Federal Work on Battery Management

The federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provided funding to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address many aspects of battery

management including collection and recycling, research and development, labeling, and communication and outreach.

EPA: The BIL requires the EPA to develop battery recycling best practices and battery labeling guidelines. Earlier this year, EPA hosted a series of webinars to gather input from interested parties. They also issued a formal Request for Information (RFI), seeking information on topics such as:

- Scope and prioritization of battery collection best practices;
- Understanding the battery collection and recycling system;
- Information on labeling guidelines for batteries regarding reuse and recycling; and
- Information on communication materials directed towards both battery producers and consumers regarding battery reuse and recycling.

You can read all the written responses to the RFI at Regulations.gov. To learn more about this important work, visit EPA's website, and sign up for updates.

DOE: BIL funding supports several battery-related grant programs under DOE. Many of the funding opportunities are geared toward battery manufacturing and recycling. These critical investments in infrastructure will improve the outlook for collection and recycling of batteries nationwide. More information on DOE's programs can be found on their website.

Upcoming Events

Six Common Mistakes in HHW Collection Facility Design Webinar hosted by Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA) Evergreen Chapter on November 9th from 11:00am - noon. Find more information and register here: Upcoming Trainings & Events | Washington Evergreen Chapter (swananw.org).

Virtual Chapter Membership Meeting and Networking hosted by NAHMMA Northwest Chapter on November 15th. Membership Meeting from 3:30-5:00pm, networking event from 5:00-5:30. Watch your email for an event invitation.

Jobs

Have a job to share with NAHMMA NW Chapter Members? Email it to Kim Southwell, kimjones@kingcounty.gov, and she will include it in the next newsletter.

December 13, 2022

NW Chapter Newsletter

NW Chapter Membership Meeting

The annual NW Chapter Membership Meeting was held on November 15th. Twenty chapter members attended the meeting. Agenda topics included upcoming elections, updates to our bylaws, our July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 work plan, and future event planning. Meeting minutes are attached to this email.

24 Hour HAZWOPER, In-Person AND Remote!

The Northwest Chapter, in cooperation with the NAHMMA Training Committee, is bringing you the first-ever HYBRID version of the popular NAHMMA 24 Hour HHW and VSQG Collection Operations Training.

This training provides hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPER) first responder awareness level training for personnel operating HHW and/or VSQG programs. Training is provided by means of classroom presentations and participation, PowerPoint slides, videos, hands-on exercises, and more. This is not just some "generic" hazardous waste training, but is specific to the unique work in operation of HHW and VSQG collection and materials management.

The course will be taught over three consecutive days; **Wednesday, January 11 through Friday, January 13 from 8am to 4:30 pm PST**. It will be instructed by some of NAHMMA's most seasoned trainers, in-person and remotely. You can choose to join us in-person in St. Helens, Oregon at the Columbia County Public Works facility, or from anywhere in the world with a simple internet connection. This will be the first time this 3-day course will be offered in hybrid fashion.

The tuition for the course is **$499 for NAHMMA members, $649 non-members** for both in-person or remote learners. All students will receive a copy of the newly-printed 3rd Edition of the Household

Hazardous Waste & VSQG Collection Operations Training Manual for your on-going reference. The SWANA certification exam is also available for additional cost. Now is the time to get your staff trained for their safety and for your compliance. Learn more and register here: North American Hazardous Materials Management Asso - Meeting/Event Information (nahmma.org)

Northwest Chapter Elections

Ballots to elect new members to the chapter executive committee will be arriving in email boxes soon! Ballots will be sent to all chapter members in good standing. The two positions up for election are member-at-large and president-elect/vice-president. The deadline to cast your vote will be before the end of the year. With how hectic this time of year can be, don't delay and cast your vote soon. Questions about the election can be sent to Megan Warfield, megan.warfield@ecy.wa.gov, 360-701-9683.

Upcoming Events

NAHMMA is hosting a Webinar Series on Lithium Ion Batteries. The next webinar is scheduled for 1/24/23 from noon-1:30 pm MST. It will focus on global and local management of electric vehicle batteries. Learn more here: North American Hazardous Materials Management Asso - Meeting/Event Information (nahmma.org)

Jobs

Please send Kim Southwell, ksouthwell@kingcounty.gov, job openings you would like included in the NAHMMA NW Chapter Newsletter.