

WHEREAS, the Northeast Section of the Ohio Water Environment Association (NESOWEA) is a section of the Ohio Water Environment Association (OWEA) which is a 501(c)(3) Organization and a Member Association (MA) of the Water Environment Federation (WEF); and

WHEREAS, NESOWEA relies upon accurate policies and procedures to help govern the organizations and maintain consistency in responses to questions, inquiries and practices; and

WHEREAS, Policies and Procedures (P&P) shall be considered living documents subject to revision based on experience and the changing environment of NESOWEA, OWEA and WEF and for which NESOWEA wishes they be maintained in an accurate and up to date manner.

WHEREAS, NESOWEA is required to keep records for taxes, payroll, insurance, and income tax reporting in accordance with requirements of the Internal Revenue Service for nonprofit organizations;

WHEREAS, NESOWEA requires its financial records to be auditable, accurate, consistent, clear, easy to understand by all Board Members.

THEREFORE, NESOWEA has adopted the following policy regarding financial management:

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Fiscal Year

The OWEA fiscal year is January 1 through December 31. The OWEA tax filing deadline is May 15th of each year. Extensions (up to two) can be applied for, to allow reporting up to November 15th of the year.

Taxes

OWEA is liable for reporting financial information as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. IRS reports are 990 and 990T.

Past practice has been for OWEA to hire an accounting firm to prepare the tax filing forms. The accountant should be selected by a bid proposal and have experience with like or similar organizations to OWEA. Tax filings shall be signed and submitted by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Required information for tax reporting may include but not be limited to the following:

- QuickBooks file with all accounts payable and accounts receivable as of December 31 included. Information from the four sections are also required.
- Board minutes for the subject year.
- List of board members for the subject year with contact information (including email).
- Bank reconciliation and bank statements for all accounts as of December 31 from the previous year and January 31 of the next year.
- Investment statements for the year.
- Invoices for any fixed asset purchases made during the year.
- Attendance information related to workshops and annual conference.
- A copy of the Buckeye Bulletins for the year in question.

The tax reporting forms will be retained at the OWEA office. The Secretary-Treasurer may keep as copy as well.

Auditing

Financial audits can be internal and external. OWEA has required that an auditing committee be compromised of appointed members. The audit committee should conduct a review of financial information and practices by March 31st. The committee will meet with the Executive Manager and Secretary-Treasurer to conduct the review the books. Materials to be reviewed are bank and investment statements, QuickBooks reports, of credit card transactions and payments to officers and staff.

An external audit is conducted by an accredited accounting firm. Audits can be performed on three levels of complexity with corresponding costs. It is recommended that the OWEA conduct a basic review audit every two years, an intermediate at three, basic at four and a full audit at five year intervals. A full audit shall be conducted whenever the Treasurer changes.

Insurance

The NESOWEA may consider purchasing event insurance as necessary.