



Annual Report

2019

Report of the Chair

June 20th 2020

INTRODUCTION – Organizational Foundations

Non-profit status

Work began back in 2018 through 2019 on building our foundational concepts. These transformed into the core of Operators Without Borders (OWB) and defined our vision and mission statements.

The vision and mission drove developing the framework to apply for our registration as a Canadian Federal non-profit corporation which we celebrated receiving in February of 2019. (The official French translation of our name is: Operateurs Sans Frontières.) Articles of Incorporation and creation of our bylaws formed part of this significant undertaking.

Our Inaugural Directors Meeting followed with confirmation of many “working parts” including election of the executive and various federal requirements related to membership and financial/banking matters. December saw the Board beginning down the policies development road of identifying priorities and themes.

Charitable status

In parallel with the initiatives to secure federal non-profit incorporation status, we began the longer journey of seeking Charitable Status. The requirements for this status, particularly for international assignments, are greater given the nature of the work we do. We celebrated once more sending in the application in September of 2019 and were appointed a review officer in February of this year. COVID-19 has delayed completion of the process. We hope to address the results in OWB’s 2020 Annual Report.

Our Secretary, Madeleine Butschler, took on the additional leadership role of pulling all the pieces together of developing these applications. It was an incredible amount of work and we are most grateful .

Board formation and members

OWB has been fortunate that exceptional individuals consented to step up to the plate and take on the Board duties of the organization. They all bring extensive leadership experience in the water and wastewater industry. The initial Board 2018-19 Board members comprised the following individuals:

Chair:	Valerie Jenkinson
Treasurer:	Kalpna Solanki
Secretary:	Madeleine Butschler
Member At Large:	Robert Haller
Member At Large:	Carl Yates

WHAT DID WE DO?

Disaster Relief

Dominica

In 2017 OWB existed through our actions to aid, although we were not then a registered NGO. In Dominica volunteers went to help rebuild after Hurricane Maria decimated the Island. Not one building was spared damage and the \$24 million dollars of new water infrastructure the utility, DOWASCO, had put in recently was destroyed. DOWASCO faced a mammoth rebuilding effort. With monies raised at the CWWA conference OWB was able to send a team of three volunteers, Glen Ketchum, Marcel Misuraca and Jason Mank, to assist DOWASCO. The three did an outstanding job in helping DOWASCO's operational crews get the wastewater treatment plant up and running and restoring water supply to three small towns. I would like to thank all three for leaping into the unknown on our first deployment.

Grand Bahamas

Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas very hard in 2019. Marsh Harbour, the capital city of Abaco, as many would have viewed in the news, was completely wiped out. Likewise the East side of Grand Bahamas was completely devastated.

OWB reached out with an offer to send certified water and wastewater operators to assist the Grand Bahamas Port Authority (GBPA) in rebuilding their damaged infrastructure when the time was right. In response to a request from General Manager, Mr. Turnquest, OWB sent 4 people to conduct a condition assessment starting October 23rd for an initial 2 week period.

Five teams were deployed to work with the GBPA between October 24th and December 13th 2019. OWB is grateful to GBPA for providing accommodation and a vehicle. This allowed us to be more productive and to stretch our funding to enable more volunteers to deploy. We are also grateful for the welcome we were accorded and the time Geron Turnquest, as well as his senior staff members, gave to our teams or briefings and discussions – often at the end of their long days.



Figure 1 Jason Mank finishing building the portable RO system in Grand Bahamas

The first team, which went to complete a needs assessment, included two operators, Jason Mank and Marcel Misuraca from Ontario, Canada, one engineer, Andy Phillips a CARICOM

national, and Valerie Jenkinson, OWB's Chair. Andy and Valerie were there for one week while Jason and Marcel stayed an extra week to assist in operational tasks.

Todd Saums and Tom McGrain from Ohio then took over. They were our first US volunteers. They were followed by Ulli Holdenried from Vancouver, BC and Brian Earl from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. They were joined by Gavin Waterfield, at which time Brian, deployed to assist another NGO, Water Mission, run their Reverse Osmosis in Abaco.. When Ulli and Brian left Jim McKerr joined Gavin. Both Jim and Gavin are from BC. Jim was able to stay a little longer than the two-week usual assignment and was joined on the last few days by Aisha Niang from the Texas who has expertise in sampling and Standard Operating Procedures.

Mentoring

Belize

At the request of Belize Water Services (BWS), OWB sent a team to assist in capacity building . The services provided included conducting Safety Training and doing a brief operational assessment that gave feedback and recommendations to BWS staff on operational improvements.

The team consisted of five Canadians :Valerie Jenkinson (Operators without Borders Chair), Ron Enns (Safety Training), Patrick Reeves (Distribution/Collection/Construction), Dan Skidmore (Wastewater Collection and Treatment) and Ian (Mac) McIlwham (Water and Wastewater treatment), who were assigned various areas to review based on their backgrounds. .



Figure 2 Ron Enns facilitating Safety workshops in Belize

The project consisted of nine days of in class and on-site practical training for management and front-line staff in the areas of confined space entry, utility work, trenching and shoring, WHMIS, chemical safety and handling. In total 120 staff went through the safety training. In conjunction, field visits and observations occurred over ten days at several water pollution control plants, pumping stations, water treatment plants, well systems, distributions systems and administrative areas.

Barbados

At the request of the Barbados Water Services Authority (BWA), OWB deployed a team to interact with BWA staff and provide mentoring and field evaluation of their country wide water and wastewater systems.

The team consisted of three Canadian operators who were assigned various areas to review based on their backgrounds and education. The volunteers were Ian (Mac) McIlwham (Water and Wastewater Treatment and Compliance), James McKerr (Wastewater and Water Treatment and Distribution) and Dan Skidmore (Water Distribution, Wastewater Collection and Construction). Valerie Jenkinson (Operators without Borders Chair) also liaised with the team and assisted in deployment.

The project consisted of several days of field visits and observations at several water pollution control plants, pumping stations, water treatment and reservoirs, well systems, distributions systems and administrative areas. An extensive report was written outlining all findings and recommendations

The Board commends all the volunteers who gave so generously of their time and skills.

Fundraising efforts

In order to send volunteers funds are needed for travel expenses. Average cost to send one volunteer is just under \$2000.00. When we undertake capacity building activities OWB asks the utility to provide accommodation and food and help with airfares where possible.

Fundraising has often been done where OWB is invited to make a presentation at a national or local conference. Silent Auctions, as well as individual donations are tools we use in those situations. Other organizations have also been generous in making donations. OWB wishes to acknowledge the following for their support:

The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA)	The Environmental Operators Certification Program (EOCP)
The Associated Boards of Certification (ABC)	The Water Environment Federation
The Caribbean Desalination Association (CaribDA)	Ohio Water Environment Association

Communications and Presentations

To establish an awareness of OWB and to assist in fundraising, OWB was very active in presenting articles for publication and making presentations at various conferences and organizations. OWB's Treasurer Kalpna Solanki played a lead role in writing and disseminating

information. Articles were published and fundraising material sent out by the following organizations:

EOCP	ABC	Global Water Partners Caribbean GWP-C)
CWWA	Water Environment Association (WEF)	Water Environment Technology
The Water Mark (BCWWA) Water Canada	Water Canada WEOA Influent magazine	Water Operators Network

In addition, Todd Saums and Tom McGrain conducted two TV interviews in Ohio both pre and post deployment to assist in Grand Bahamas.

Presentations were made at the CWWA conference in both Newfoundland and Montreal; the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association Conference in Jamaica; the EOCP conference as well as Ontario Water Environment Association.

An updated website was launched in 2019 . Our thanks to Kalpna Solanki and the EOCP for their help as well as to Madeleine Butschler and her husband Steve for all the work that was done to put this together.

Forging relationships

Building relationships with other organizations is a key focus for OWB. Over the last year there has been a concerted effort to build relationships with the following organizations:

CWWA Caribbean	EOCP	Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association
CaribDA	Florida Utilities Group	ABC
GWP-C	Caribbean Disaster Management agency	CWWA Canada
WEAO	WEF	Rotary Clubs
UNICEF	World Water Mission	

OWB will continue to build are relationships with these and other local and International Organizations as we move forward.

LOOKING FORWARD

As we concluded 2019 COVID 19 was not yet a consideration. OWB will push forward and adapt as needed with safety of our volunteers being our #1 focus.

As travel restrictions impact delivery of our services we will look at virtual platforms that keep us engaged and providing benefit to developing countries. Our name, and what we bring to the table, is being increasingly recognized and with that will come more demand for our services.

We hope to have our charitable status approved as soon as possible and alongside that, additional policy development, including ToRs for Committees that are formed and protocols more that are more finely developed.

We have done much good since our inception and I would especially like to thank Kalpna Solanki, Madeleine Butschler, Carl Yates and Robert Haller for their unceasing commitment and support as well as all the volunteers who have done such tremendous work in the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Jenkinson
Chair

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. The Income Statement:

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues

Donations	\$17,095.90
Other	\$0.00
Total Revenues	\$17,095.90

Expenses

Deployments	\$10,283.33
Public Relations and Communications	\$928.56
Bank Charges	\$37.71
Other	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$11,249.60

Net	\$5,846.30
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2. The Balance Sheet:

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

CURRENT

Cash	\$5,846.30
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$0.00
	\$5,846.30

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT

Accounts Payable	\$0.00
	\$0.00

NET ASSETS	\$5,846.30
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