



ASTSWMO, Providing Pathways to Our  
Nation's Environmental Stewardship Since 1974

## **BYLAWS**

### **ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS, INC.**

#### **PREAMBLE**

The Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, Inc., also known as "ASTSWMO," is an organization representing the 50 States, 5 Territories and the District of Columbia (hereinafter "Members"). Our mission is to enhance and promote effective State and Territorial (State) programs and to affect relevant national policies for waste and materials management, environmentally sustainable practices, and environmental restoration.

#### **ARTICLE I** **NAME**

The name of this Association shall be the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, Inc., referred to herein as "the Association" or ASTSWMO.

#### **ARTICLE II** **OBJECTIVES**

The Association's primary functions are to enhance our State and Federal partnerships, promote effective State programs and provide Members with technical assistance, training, and forums for information exchange. This allows the Members to develop their program capabilities and manage their programs in the most efficient and effective manner possible. An additional feature of ASTSWMO's non-profit approach is its relative objectivity. ASTSWMO represents the balanced interest of all Member programs, which necessitates consideration of all sides of any given issue. In addition, State Members can gather their fellow State members' viewpoints through the Association and then incorporate those responses into their approaches to program implementation and strategy. This helps foster program consistencies across the States.

#### **ARTICLE III** **TYPE OF ORGANIZATION**

Section 1, NON-PROFIT PURPOSES: The Association is organized solely for non-profit purposes as set forth herein, and no part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its Members, Board of Directors, Officers, or other private persons, except

that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the objectives set forth in these articles.

Section 2, TYPE OF NON-PROFIT: The Association shall be devoted exclusively to promoting the common business interests of its members. The Association shall not exercise any power nor engage in any activity which would prevent it from obtaining exemption from federal income taxation as a corporation described in Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as the same may from time to time be amended (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or cause it to lose its exempt status under such exemption.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS**

The principal place of business of the Association shall be in such location as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE V**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1, MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION: “Members” shall be the States, Territories, and the District of Columbia (States). The Members shall designate “Member Representatives” who may represent the Members in various capacities within the Association. Member Representatives shall be individuals employed by the Member with individual responsibility for the regulation or management of wastes and hazardous substances, including remediation, tanks, materials management, and environmental sustainability programs. Upon approval by the Board of Directors, Member Representatives may participate in Association Steering Committees, Task Forces, Focus Groups, Work groups, Subcommittees, and other ad hoc groups. Member Representatives shall be eligible to hold leadership positions in the Association. Leadership positions include Association Officers, Regional Representatives on the Board of Directors, Subcommittee Chairs or other elected or appointed positions.

Section 2, DUES: The Board of Directors will establish the Membership Dues annually. Dues shall be paid to the Association by September 30th of each fiscal year (October 1 - September 30).

Section 3, RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES: Members are obligated to pay dues that are assessed by the ASTSWMO Board of Directors each year. Any Member that defaults on payment of the dues shall be deemed “not in good standing” and will not be entitled to benefit from the rights and privileges of membership. Members in “good standing” shall be entitled to the full rights and privileges of the Association, including the right to vote on issues that come before the Association. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to impose an assessment on the Members should the need arise and designate the date that payment is due.

Section 4, VOTING: Each Member shall designate one individual to be the “Voting Representative” who shall be entitled to only one vote when the Membership of the Association conducts business. Member votes shall be cast by the Voting Representative or an individual officially designated by proxy for the Voting Representative. Such designation shall be submitted in writing by the Voting Representative to the Executive Director prior to the vote.

Section 5, SUSPENSION: Membership in the Association may be suspended for cause, including defaulting on the payment of dues, or violating any Association policy. A Member Representative may be suspended from participating in all or some Association activities for violating any Association policy. Any Member or Member Representative so suspended shall, until reinstated, forfeit all rights and privileges of membership in the Association; provided, however, that suspension shall not relieve a Member of the requirement of financial obligations to the Association incurred. A suspended Member or Member Representative shall be reinstated to good standing upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Prior to reinstatement, the suspended Member must have all payments made in full of all dues owed. The Member and Member Representative shall have a right to appeal a suspension decision to the Board of Directors in accordance with Association policy.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Section 1, ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: The Association shall hold an Annual Business Meeting each year and may hold a Mid-Year Business Meeting, the exact date(s), and place(s) to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Association.

Section 2, SPECIAL MEETINGS: The Association may hold Special Meetings during the year, the exact date(s), and place(s) to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Association or at the request of at least one-fourth of the Members.

Section 3, NOTICE: The Executive Director of the Association shall notify all Members of the Association of the Annual Business Meeting and any Special Meetings by e-mail sent to each member at his/her address in the records of the Association not more than sixty (60) days nor less than ten (10) days before the date of the meeting. The notice shall state the place, day, and hour of such meeting. Notice of a Special meeting shall include a description of the purpose for which the meeting is called.

Section 4, QUORUM: The presence in person or by proxy of at least one-third of Members must be present to participate virtually to constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**OFFICERS**

Section 1, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS: The Executive Officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and the immediate Past-President. Executive Officers shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may elect such other officers or agents, including an Executive Director, one or more Assistant Secretaries, and one or more Assistant Treasurers, as it shall deem desirable, and such officers shall have the authority and perform the duties prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 2, DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT: The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, at the Annual Business Meeting, and at any other Membership Business Meetings. The President shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors: establish and disband all committees not designated in Article X as appropriate; appoint the chairpersons of all standing Committees and Subcommittees; and sign all contracts and obligations with the Secretary-Treasurer unless delegated to the Executive Director. At the conclusion of the President's term of office, the President shall assume to the position of Past-President for a one-year term.

Section 3, DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT: The Vice-President shall perform all duties of the President in the event of the absence or inability of the President to act or if there is a vacancy in that office. The Vice-President may Chair or Co-Chair with the Past-President, as determined by the President, any select Committees that the President may establish with concurrence of the Board of Directors. At the conclusion of the Vice-President's term of office, the Vice-President shall advance to the position of President for a one-year term.

Section 4, DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER: The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Association and shall participate at all meetings of the Board of Directors, at the Annual Business Meeting, and at any other Membership Business Meetings. The Secretary-Treasurer shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors: review meeting notes; give a report of the financial accounts at each meeting of the Board of Directors; serve as Chair of the Finance Committee; send written notices of termination of service to Board Members who have been absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without adequate explanation; and shall perform all such duties as are incident to the office. The Board of Directors may delegate the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer to the Executive Director.

Section 5, DUTIES OF THE PAST-PRESIDENT: The Past-President shall Chair the Nominating Committee. The Past-President may Chair or Co-Chair with the Vice-President, as determined by the President, any select Committees that the President may establish with concurrence of the Board of Directors.

Section 6, OFFICE TERM: For the purposes of this article, a year shall mean from the close of elections at the Annual Business Meeting to the close of elections at the next succeeding meeting regardless of the time that has lapsed. No member shall be elected more than one term as Vice-President and no more than two terms as Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 7, ELECTION: The Vice-President shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting. The Vice-President shall be elected from a slate presented by the Nominating Committee for a one-year term by a majority of the Voting Representatives or individuals with Voting Representatives' proxies present and voting at the Annual Business Meeting. If the Vice-President is required to perform the duties of the President in the event of a vacancy, the Vice-President shall still advance to the position of President for a one-year term at the conclusion of the Vice-President's term of office. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected from a slate presented by the Nominating Committee for a two-year term by a majority of the Voting Representatives or individuals with Voting Representatives' proxies present and voting at the Annual Business Meeting every even-numbered year.

Section 8, REMOVAL: Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Association would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer so removed.

Section 9, VACANCIES: A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term and will be permanently filled at the subsequent Annual Business Meeting in accordance with these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1, COMPOSITION: The Executive Officers of the Association identified in Article VII shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall also consist of one Representative (hereinafter "Regional Representative" or "Board Director") from each of the regions recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or other means by which States are organized into regions (hereinafter "Regions").

Section 2, APPOINTMENT: The Voting Representatives in each Region shall nominate the Regional Representative. A Regional Representative may not concurrently hold an Association Executive Office. The Board of Directors may identify other leadership position(s) that a Regional Representative should not hold concurrently as appropriate. The nominated Regional Representative must be confirmed by the Board of Directors at the meeting of the Board of Directors held in conjunction with the Annual Business Meeting. The Voting Representatives in each Region shall nominate a Regional Representative to fill a vacancy that may arise in the period between Annual Business Meetings. The nominated Regional Representative must be

confirmed by the Board of Directors at the subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors and shall serve the Region's unexpired term.

Section 3, TERM: A Member Representative may serve one term of three (3) years as a Regional Representative. As set forth in Section 2, ASTSWMO relies on the Voting Representatives of each region to nominate a qualified regional member representative for that Region. No Member shall have a Regional Representative on the Board of Directors for consecutive terms. All other Directors shall serve their terms as described in Article VII.

Section 4, GOVERNANCE: Governance of the Association shall be vested in the Board of Directors with full power and authority to conduct the affairs of the Association and to set policy for the Association. The Board of Directors shall have a fiduciary obligation to protect the financial position of the Association and ensure that the Association has sufficient resources to support the operations and programs of the Association. The Board of Directors may by general resolution delegate to officers of the Association and to committees such powers as provided for in these Bylaws.

Section 5, ANNUAL BUDGET: The Board of Directors shall consider the annual budget presented by the Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Director and, after any revision may determine it to be advisable, it shall be adopted. It shall make such subsequent revisions in the budget as it may deem advisable after consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer and the Executive Director.

Section 6, COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: The Board of Directors shall have power of approval of the President's appointments of Committee and Subcommittee Chairpersons and legal counsel.

Section 7, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: The Board of Directors shall have full authority to employ an Executive Director and direct the activities assigned to that employee by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall require that employees be bonded as deemed necessary to conduct the business of the Association. The Board of Directors may delegate the Board of Directors' authorities to the Executive Director as appropriate. The Board of Directors may assume authorities granted to the Executive Director as may be necessary.

Section 8, FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS: Neither an Executive Officer nor the Executive Director shall obligate the Association beyond the limits of an approved budget without specific authority in writing from the Board of Directors.

Section 9, APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR: The Finance Committee, in consultation with the Executive Director, will recommend an auditing firm to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall appoint the auditor as provided in Article XII of these Bylaws.

Section 10, REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board of Directors shall require periodic reports on operations from the Executive Director and from the various Committees.

Section 11, RESIGNATION: Any Director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or, if no time is specified, at the time of acceptance thereof as determined by the President or Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE IX** **BOARD MEETINGS**

Section 1, FORM OF MEETING: Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation or the Bylaws, any or all Board Directors may participate in a meeting of the Board of Directors or a committee of the Board of Directors virtually or by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear one another, and such participation shall constitute in-person presence at the meeting. It is expected that Board Members shall attend meetings in-person unless they are unable to do so due to travel restrictions or due to other reasonable circumstances.

Section 2, MEETINGS: The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the President or upon the written petition of two (2) Board Members.

Section 3, MEETING NOTICE: Notices of both regular and special meetings shall be sent by the Executive Director to each Member of the Board of Directors at least seven (7) days before such meeting.

Section 4, QUORUM: A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Board of Directors and a majority vote of those present shall decide all motions raised for a vote.

Section 5, MEMBER ABSENCES: Although the Board of Directors is composed entirely of volunteer Member Representatives, these Member Representatives are expected to participate and contribute toward the goals and objectives of the organization at various levels. Absence by a Board Member from three (3) consecutive meetings without adequate explanation shall be considered resigned from the Board of Directors and such member shall be notified by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 6, ACTION WITHOUT MEETING: Any action required by law to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors, or any action that may be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by a majority of the Board Directors.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **COMMITTEES: APPOINTMENT, MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTIONS**

Section 1, STANDING COMMITTEES: In addition to the Standing Committees identified in these Bylaws, the Board of Directors may establish additional Committees as may be deemed advisable by the Board of Directors and reports to the President or their delegate. No such committee shall have the authority of the Board of Directors in reference to amending, altering or repealing the Bylaws; electing, appointing or removing any member of any such committee or any Director or officer of the Association; amending the Articles of Incorporation; adopting a plan of merger or adopting a plan of consolidation with another association; authorizing the sale, lease, exchange or mortgage of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Association; authorizing the voluntary dissolution of the Association or revoking proceedings therefor; adopting a plan for the distribution of the assets of the Association; or amending, altering, or repealing any resolution of the Board of Directors which by its terms provides that it shall not be amended, altered, or repealed by such committee. The designation and appointment of any such committee and the delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors or any individual Director of any responsibility imposed upon it or him by law.

Section 2, TERM: Unless otherwise specified, each member of a committee shall continue as such until the next annual meeting of the Directors of the Association and until his successor is appointed, unless the committee shall be sooner terminated, or unless such member be removed from such committee, or unless such member shall cease to qualify as a member thereof. With the approval of the Board of Directors, the President may establish and disband other Committees or Subcommittees.

Section 3, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive Officers of the Association identified in Article VII, Section 1. The Executive Committee shall perform the functions of the Board of Directors in the routine management of the affairs of the Association during the intervals between meetings of the Board of Directors. All actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be presented for ratification at the next meeting of the Board of Directors. This Committee shall be responsible for the annual review of the Executive Director.

Section 4, FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee shall consist of five members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as Chair of the Committee. The Past-President shall also be a member of the Committee. The President shall appoint three other Board Members to the Committee. The Committee shall assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for the financial reporting process, the system of internal control over financial reporting, the audit process, and the Association's process for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations and the code of conduct. The Finance Committee shall periodically make recommendations to the Board of Directors for selecting firms to provide accounting and auditing services. It shall perform such other functions dealing with finance as assigned by the President with concurrence of the Board of Directors.



Section 5, NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Past-President shall chair the Nominating Committee with other Committee members, as appropriate, appointed by the Past-President. The Committee shall present a slate of candidates for Executive Office to be presented to the Members for the election at the Annual Business Meeting. They shall solicit suggestions for the slate of officers from the Membership at least 90 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 6, Other COMMITTEES: With the approval of the Board of Directors, the President may establish and disband other Committees or Subcommittees.

Section 7, APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSONS: The President shall appoint Chairpersons of Committees and Subcommittees after discussion and concurrence of the Board of Directors. Except for the Committee Chairpersons designated in these Bylaws, a Subcommittee Chairperson may not concurrently serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 8, MANNER OF ACTING: Unless otherwise provided in the resolution of the Board of Directors designating a committee, a majority of the whole committee shall constitute a quorum and the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee. Each committee may adopt rules for its own governance consistent with these Bylaws or with rules adopted by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE XI** **LEGAL COUNSEL**

Legal counsel shall be appointed by the Executive Director with the approval of the Board of Directors. All matters involving interpretation of Federal law and State law, local ordinances, and legal responsibilities of the Association shall be promptly referred to such counsel for opinion and advice. Charter, Bylaws, and subsequent amendments shall be submitted to legal counsel for approval before adoption.

## **ARTICLE XII** **AUDIT**

The financial records of the Association shall be audited annually by a certified public auditor appointed by the Board of Directors. The auditor's report shall be filed with the records of the Association. A summary of this report shall be provided to the Membership annually at a Member Business Meeting. The Association shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its Board of Directors and committees having any of the authority of the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE XIII**  
**AMENDMENTS**

Section 1, AMENDMENT BY MAJORITY VOTE: These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of a quorum of the Voting Representatives at the Annual Business Meeting, providing notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all Voting Representatives not less than thirty (30) days before the Annual Business Meeting and providing that a copy of the proposed amendment shall accompany the notice.

Section 2, AMENDMENT BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTE: These Bylaws may also be amended by a majority vote of a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors, subject to ratification by a majority vote of a quorum at the next Annual Business Meeting, providing notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all Voting Representatives not less than thirty (30) days before the subject meeting of the Board of Directors and providing that a copy of the proposed amendment shall accompany the notice. Should the revised Bylaws not be ratified at the Annual Business Meeting, the Bylaws shall immediately revert to the form which existed prior to the amendment by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE XIV**  
**DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the Association or the winding up of its affairs, the assets of the Association shall be distributed in a manner consistent with the Association's Section 501(c)(6) status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

**Approved by the ASTSWMO Voting Members on October 26, 2023, in Arlington, VA.**