



MWRA Update

Serving Michigan's Waste and Recycling Industry Professionals Since 1996

July 2016

President's Remarks

John Van Tholen

Greetings!

Summer is in full swing with the state legislature in recess and the Tigers in 2nd place in the central division. While legislative initiatives are on hold, new beginnings are on the horizon for MDEQ and MWRA.

Last week Governor Snyder named a new MDEQ Director, Heidi Grether. Ms. Grether's career includes experiences in the public sector, serving as the deputy director at the Michigan Agency for Energy and as staff in both legislative chambers, and the private sector where she was an external affairs manager for BP America. Her appointment begins August 1.

MDEQ held a hearing on July 20 to receive public comment on Part 115 recommendations. The legislative and technical standard reports are working on this issue and will have soon details on the proposed changes.

American Society of Engineers (ASCE), thru its Michigan section, has invited MWRA to participate in the incorporation of solid waste into its 2017 national infrastructure report card. A board member will be selected soon to represent MWRA on this important issue.

MWRA's board of directors will hold a strategic planning retreat in August. Key elements of the plan include organizational sustainability, success, and growth. A subcommittee will be appointed to complete the plan by year-end.

We want to celebrate your success! We invite you to submit company awards, community work, or other items of interest to share with your colleagues.

Safe travels! See you in August.

New Member Welcome!

MWRA welcomes new member **DTE Energy**. Rob Bacyinski is the Program Manager for Alternative Fuel Vehicles at DTE Gas Services.

Learn more about DTE Gas Services at

[DTE Energy](#)

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Legislative Committee Report

Tonia Olson, Legislative Chair

MWRA member-provided recycling programs underutilized

At the Governor's Recycling Summit in early May, a waste characterization report funded by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was shared. A key finding of the report was that 42 percent of garbage is "easily recyclable" in communities with recycling programs. Hence, existing recycling program infrastructure is underutilized.

This information supports the findings of the 2015 MWRA member survey, which found 81 percent of single-family households in communities with 10,000+ residents have access to recycling.

The Economic Impact Potential and Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in Michigan is the result of the Michigan Municipal Solid Waste Characterization and Valuation Project, an effort launched last year by the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum to characterize economic and environmental opportunities available through recycling, composting and other waste diversion strategies. This project was funded primarily through a \$50,300 grant from the DEQ.

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Membership Committee Update

Chris Phillips, Chair

MWRA is proud to announce that we are celebrating our 20th anniversary of advocating for the safe and environmentally friendly handling of waste and recycling materials in the state of Michigan. To mark this occasion, MWRA will be bringing together members past and present to reminisce and discuss the future of the industry. Look for more details on this event in the coming weeks.

As membership chair, I continue to reach out to potential members regarding the advantages of becoming a member of MWRA. If you know of a professional working in our industry that would benefit from or already is benefiting from the collective efforts of our association I would encourage you to approach them about becoming a member. Our membership application and code of ethics are available online at [MWRA](http://www.mwra.org) or please feel free to refer them to myself or Keeli Baker for more information.

Upcoming Events

Strategic Planning

Retreat

(Board Members)

August 16, 2016

10:00 a.m.

MHSA, Lansing

Lunch will be provided

Membership Meeting

August 10, 2016

1:30 p.m.

MHSA, Lansing

Board of Directors meeting will follow

Public Service Commission Appointment

Governor Snyder appointed Rachael Eubanks, director of public finance for Robert W. Baird & Co. Inc. in Michigan, to the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Ms. Eubanks fills a partial term vacated by the former commission chair, John Quackenbush. Her term will end in July 2017.

Legislative Committee Report, Cont'd

The study concludes that efforts to increase the recycling rate in Michigan should first focus on the 42 percent of materials that have market value, which would include all standard recyclable commodities but glass, plus textiles. To learn more, visit WMSBF.

Public input sought on Part 115 changes

The Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel (SWSAP) is an advisory panel formed in April 2015 and comprised of a multitude of stakeholder representatives. The group was formed to comprehensively review Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. In order to further our state's solid waste and sustainability goals, the SWSAP developed a set of proposals to set a vision for the future of waste and materials management for the state.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2016, to seek public input. As next steps, the SWSAP will review the input received, finalize proposals, use proposals to advise DEQ and work with DEQ and interests groups to analyze and draft legislation. The process is expected to carry into 2017.

MDEQ Staff Update

Bob Wagner, Program Deputy Director: Mr. Wagner will serve as the DEQ Program Deputy Director coordinating closely with Chief Deputy Director Jim Sygo to assure a smooth transition after Jim's August 31 retirement. Bob will oversee all regulatory program divisions and offices. Bob has more than 31 years of state experience, including most recently serving as the Remediation and Redevelopment Division Chief. Bob has also served as a field inspector for the Groundwater Division, inspecting waste disposal facilities, groundwater discharge facilities, liquid waste haulers, and septage haulers.

Bryce Feighner, Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Chief: Mr. Feighner will serve as the Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Chief, responsible for leading statewide drinking water and environmental health efforts, as well as overseeing municipal infrastructure financing programs. He is currently the Special Advisor on Drinking Water.

Michael Shore, Communications Director: Mr. Shore will serve as the DEQ Communications Director, responsible for coordinating closely with the divisions, offices, and stakeholders to develop and implement a department communication strategy. One of the department's top priorities is to implement a comprehensive strategic communication plan. His private sector experience spans 19 years, including 12 years as head of Shore & Co. Strategic Communications.

Sue Leeming, Remediation and Redevelopment Division Interim Chief: Ms. Leeming will serve as the Remediation and Redevelopment Division Interim Chief. She has been with the DEQ for 35 years serving as the Remediation and Redevelopment Division Assistant Chief for the last three years. Prior to that, she managed the Brownfield Redevelopment Program for 10 years.

Mary Ann Dolehanty: Ms. Dolehanty has served as the Interim Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Interim Chief since January. She will transition back to the Air Quality Division Assistant Chief on August 8.