



MWRA Update

Serving Michigan's Waste and Recycling Industry Professionals Since 1996

Spring 2017

President's Remarks

Kevin Kendall

I am most honored to be leading MWRA in 2017. I was not looking to be in this role this year, but with the merger of Granger and Green Valley the Board felt things would be better balanced if John Van Tholen assumed a role other than President. John and I switched roles and John is now the Secretary-Treasurer. I want to thank John for his leadership and contributions to our organization in 2016 as President. I look forward to working with John and all the board members in 2017. I congratulate Chris Phillips on his new role as Vice President and I look forward to working with him in his new role. We have a lot of work to do in the year ahead. We have a great leadership team in place to get it done.

MWRA had a very active 2016 from an advocacy perspective through our Legislative Committee. The committee has provided an update in this newsletter. Advocacy updates can also be found in our webpage. We were very involved in the Governor's Recycling Council and the Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel. I want to thank Tonia Olson for leading the charge and fighting hard to get our association perspectives incorporated in these reports. The hard work that went into advocacy in 2016 will continue in 2017 as things move to the next phase. Your association will continue to fight for what is best for industry and our state.

Steve Essling has volunteered to chair our Technical Standards Committee in 2017. We will continue to work with the DEQ on issues regarding Financial Assurance for Landfills and the concept of Functional Stability for Post Closure.

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New Member Welcome!

USA—GHD has joined MWRA. GHD is one of the world's leading professional services companies operating in the global markets of water, energy and resources, environment, property and buildings, and transportation. We provide engineering, architecture, environmental and construction services to private and public sector clients.

Michigan Waste & Recycling Association

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Legislative Committee Report

Tonia Olson, Chair

MWRA has spent a significant amount of time the last two years participating in the Governor's Recycling Council and the Solid Waste and Sustainability Panel. On Friday, March 24, 2017 the two groups released reports with recommendations intended to double Michigan's recycling rate and update environmental regulations to support sustainable management of materials.

The original objectives identified by our membership for this process included:

- Integration of recycling reporting
- Modification of county planning requirements to reflect state policy and the Governor's recycling initiative
- Addressing outdated and challenging functions, such as reciprocity, flow control and plans used as enforceable mechanisms
- Contemplating new technologies (regulation and planning)
- Exploring solutions to provide adequate and appropriate Department funding to advance state goals
- Increasing regulation on compost facilities

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Membership Committee Update

Chris Phillips, Chair

I would like to welcome Douglas Gatrell of GHD as our newest member to the Michigan Waste & Recycling Association (MWRA). For those of you not familiar with GHD, they provide engineering, architecture, environmental and construction services to the many facets of the waste and recycling industry.

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Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2017
1:30 p.m.
MHSA, Lansing

Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2017
3:00 p.m.
MHSA, Lansing

Michigan Safety Conference April 11-12, 2017

Suburban Collection Showplace
Novi

[http://
www.michsafetyconference.org/](http://www.michsafetyconference.org/)

MDEQ

www.michigan.gov/deq

President's Remarks, Cont'd

In 2017 Chris Phillips will again lead the Membership Committee and Russ Boersma and John Van Tholen will co-chair the Transportation Committee. Thanks to both for volunteering once again.

I look forward to leading a very experienced and talented leadership team in the year ahead. I know we will be active and involved on several fronts. Thanks to all for your efforts to advocate for our interest in the year ahead.

Legislative Committee Report, Cont'd

Michigan has an effective system of waste management that is environmentally protective. The SWSAP report recommends updating this program to expand the focus to sustainable use of natural resources by improving recycling and utilization of materials. MWRA supports these recommendations.

The current estimated recycling rate of 15 percent for the state of Michigan can increase, and MWRA supports steps for improvement. The GRC Report, however, contains some statements and assumptions, as well as a call for imposing certain statewide recycling policies via statute, that may not be appropriate for all communities and may lead to a reduction of recycling in some areas due to expensive state mandates. MWRA urges policymakers to carefully consider those recommendations.

The reports are intended to serve as a framework to develop statute and rule changes. MWRA intends to remain actively involved in the process through the legislative committee.

For additional information and links to the full reports:

www.michigan.gov/swra

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-wmrpd-SWSAP_Report_FINAL_555407_7.pdf

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-wmrpd-GRC_Report_FINAL_555408_7.pdf

Recycling Report Reminder

In June 2016, Part 175, Recycling Reporting, of Act 451 became a law. Part 175 requires certain recycling facilities to report the amount of materials recycled each year. To better measure the amount of materials recycled in Michigan, recycling facilities not required to report are encouraged to report voluntarily using the Michigan Recycling Reporting system, housed in Re-TRAC CONNECT. For the first fiscal year, reportable recyclable materials recyclers must register with the DEQ either electronically or via mail in form by October 1, 2016. Facilities do not need to begin to report until January 1, 2017, for quarterly reports or October 1, 2017, for annual reports.

MWRA supported this effort and was instrumental in its successful passage. It creates a simple method of reporting to allow for an annual calculation of the rate of state-wide recycling. Our interest was to have accurate information to inform policy. If you have not yet registered you are encouraged to do so.

The DEQ has a web page dedicated to recycling reporting to assist you. It contains relevant forms, tutorials and instructions.

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-70153_69695_76895-403858--,00.html

Membership Committee Report, Cont'd

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 www.michiganwasteandrecyclingassociation.com.

In addition to Membership Chairman I'm honored to be serving as Vice President of this association for this year. If you are not involved in one of our many committees I would encourage you to participate. Member participation in our advocacy efforts is critical to the success of MWRA's mission. We are a stronger association if everyone lends their expertise and participates. If you are willing to serve, please contact me at cphillips@landfillmanagement.com or our office at kbaker@mhsa.com.

