

From: [Shekter Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#)
To: [Busch, Stephen \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: RE: Goings On
Date: Friday, June 05, 2015 11:13:00 AM

You have been busy! Nice note to staff.

From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 10:12 AM
To: Antil, Jeffrey (DEQ); Brennan, Patrick (DEQ); Drake, Jerry (DEQ); DuMont, Ralph (DEQ); Joseph, Mark (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Rennaker, Joanne (DEQ); Rosenthal, Adam (DEQ); Skinker, Bethel (DEQ); Swendsen, Kurt (DEQ)
Cc: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Subject: Goings On

My schedule has been chaotic the last couple weeks, but I wanted to give you a little update as to what has been going on and what is upcoming in case you've missed me. I am in Lansing today to work on some Flint stuff and try to get a little organized for the weeks ahead.

- EPA has released its own non-enforcable health advisory levels for the algal toxin microcystin, and draft implementation guidance is expected to be finalized by mid-June. The HAL's differ from what was established by WHO and this will impact communities in Monroe County. Jerry, Jeff, and I will be working with them to make sure everyone is on the same page about monitoring and public notification should an event occur. As of now weekly updates from NASA and Michigan Tech indicate that nutrient loading is down significantly compared to previous peak years in that area of Lake Erie.
- Flint continues to get results below the 80 ppb level for TTHM's but will remain in violation, unless August results come back low. An inquiry from Rep. Neely was addressed last week and the City is permitting replacement of filter media with Granular Activated Carbon.
- I have been trying to scratch out time to keep working with Kurt on training, but appreciate Lansing District staff transferring their historical knowledge of the systems in his district. Kurt and Jeff will be attending a multistate EPA sanitary survey training course here in June.
- The 2012 Michigan Plumbing Code is being updated based on the 2015 International Plumbing Code and the committee I have been working with on this just finished (substantially completed) the draft this week freeing a couple of dates that had been on hold.
- Work on the EPA lead-free law implementation federal workgroup has slowed since a public meeting was held last month, and my role should be closing out soon.
- I had the opportunity to attend a Leadership Forum in mid-May where Governor Snyder gave the keynote speech in the morning and I attended sessions on infrastructure funding

attended by MDOT, ASCE, and Mayors of E. Lansing and suburban Detroit. The other session was on Data Management with representative from DTMB, consultants, and a Detroit data project. I ended up sitting down with member of the Public Service Commission to discuss some AWWA proposals and a SEMCOG consultant to discuss the DWSD/Great Lakes Water Authority.

- The ODWMA is being audited by the Michigan Office of Auditor General and with the Lansing District providing the easiest access to the community water supply program we are being asked to “show off” our work. OAG staff will be imbedded with ODWMA on the fourth floor for a few months so this isn’t just a simple/quick process. We had a brief meeting this week, but may need to spend some time to help educate them on what we do and just how we do it.
- The AWWA Groundwater Source Water conference was earlier this week and attended by several of you. I gave a presentation on microcystin and the harmful algal bloom situation in Lake Erie yesterday that appeared to be well received. The content of the conference was overall very good. (Director Wyant was the keynote and gave a specific shout out to our district and indicated that ODWMA is the best at customer service/compliance assistance).
- Yesterday I attended a meeting to discuss implementation of an Electronic Data Management system within ODWMA. The Office is at the top of the lineup within the Department for implementation and district community water supply implementation will begin in the Lansing and Jackson districts over the next 2 years. This will be a huge shift in how we all conduct our work and there will be a lot of growing pains as we move through the process and get our legs under us again. (More on this will be discussed in Jackson on Monday)
- Monday is the Director’s first district roundtable visit where we are bringing in local stakeholders to discuss their issues, and Director Wyant will also spend some significant time with district staff. Liane is going to attend and will spend time with staff as well. The Lansing roundtable is in mid-October.
- I continue to work with others in ODWMA to help define how the office will proceed with addressing secondary treatment systems at water customers, and have future meetings with the hospital association and DLARA programs for plumbing, building, and health care facilities.
- Following discussions from a Lansing ODWMA staff meeting last month we will have a planning meeting next week regarding a statewide drinking water lime reuse/disposal workshop for lime softening WTP’s. This will include OWMRP, OEA, and MDARD staff.
- Next week also includes a plumbing board meeting, district supervisor meetings for both Lansing and Jackson districts, some enforcement meetings

I may have left something out but as you can see I have been a busy bee. I look forward to spending more time returning my focus to the work going on in our district offices, thankful that you all keep plugging along with what you need to do! Have a great weekend.

Stephen Busch, P.E.

Lansing and Jackson District Supervisor

Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance

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