

From: [Shekter Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#)
To: [DEQ-ODWMA-All](#)
Subject: Reflections on a Friday afternoon.
Date: Friday, April 05, 2013 1:08:00 PM

Happy Spring. Hope everyone enjoyed their Easter and Passover holidays. And today is opening day at Comerica Park. Go Tigers!

It's been pretty quiet here in the office this week with so many folks out for spring break. Thought I'd share a few things that have been going on:

This week, the Revolving Loan Section invited the Director to their Section meeting. Good information and feedback were shared.

We continue to meet and discuss our space needs and the re-stack of Constitution Hall. Currently, our staff on 3S (Revolving Loan and Operator Certification) are scheduled to be moved to swing space around June 21st. All of Lansing ODWMA (except district of course) are scheduled to move into 4S the beginning of August.

We had a call this week with EPA to discuss our DWRF set-aside funding as they continue to be concerned about our un-liquidated obligations (ULOs). In plain English, that means that they are concerned that we have fund balances in a number of set-asides and Congress is beginning to scrutinize why. If we aren't spending the money, why have we continued to take more? Going forward, we will not be able to carry any balances that are over three years old. To that end, we are about to close out our 2009 grant by moving \$1M from our Administration set-aside to loans and we anticipate closing the ARRA grant this year too. While we are not required to close out the 2010 grant, we will be making good progress on that grant this year also. As we continue to spend down these balances, you may be asked to modify your coding going forward. We'll also be amending the work plan as we adjust our activities to match up with funding shifts. Please be patient as we continue to make these changes.

Our Drinking Water Operator Certification and Training staff completed reviewing 583 DW exam applications. Great job to all who helped us get this task completed in a timely manner.

Last week, Lansing district staff were involved in meetings regarding the city of Flint, Genesee County and Treasury. Flint continues to explore the option of leaving DWSD and connecting to the Karegondi Water Authority (KWA) which would supply them with source water from Lake Huron. KWA has received a permit for a new intake and construction is expected to begin this spring.

In addition, the last two Asset Management seminars were held last week. This was a collaborative effort between drinking water, wastewater, revolving loan and OEA staff. In all, approximately 500 people attended four seminars held across the state. Feedback at the seminars was very positive!

And finally, we have some relatively new staff and some really new staff in ODWMA. Melissa Gangluff joined our Administration Section – she'll primarily be responsible for tracking the public water supply and DWRF grants (we're sharing Melissa with AQD); Katelyn Pomaville is our new

Analyst in the Kalamazoo DO; Rebecca Kaiser is our new Analyst in the Saginaw Bay DO; Stephanie Johnson joins the team as an Engineer in SEMI; Scott Schmidt is our new EQA in the Operator Certification program (Matt Tomlinson's replacement – boy does he have big shoes to fill!); and Starla Walter is our new secretary supporting the Noncommunity and Private Drinking Water Supplies Unit. Please join me in welcoming all to ODWMA!

Liane