
From: Wyant, Dan (DEQ)
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2015 3:29 PM
Subject: March 9, 2015, SMT Highlights - Message from Director Dan Wyant
Attachments: Legislation List 3.9.15.doc; OWMRP Presentation to SMT 3-9-2015.pptx; ALT project solicitation letter_2015_final.pdf

Dear DEQ Staff,

Below is the information from the March 9, 2015, Senior Management Team (SMT) meeting. If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact your division/office management directly.

DEQ SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING NOTES

Director's Report

Calendar items include a speech at the Michigan Municipal League, meetings with other state department directors, SMT/State Chamber reception, Michigan Recycling Council meeting, and other internal meetings. The Director will be at the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) meeting on March 16-18, 2015, in Washington D.C. This travel will also include a meeting regarding ozone as well as Congressional visits.

Deputy Director's Report

Jim Sygo meet with the Department of Treasury regarding water and air permits tax exemptions. Jim will review the issues with Bill Creal and Lynn Fiedler.

Rich Alexander will be retiring this spring and interviews will be held in the near future for the chief of the Office of Environmental Assistance position. In addition, we are working on position descriptions for the district coordinator positions so that they can also be posted and filled as the time will be expiring on the current district coordinators.

DTMB Partnership Session - Laura Mester, MDOT Chief Administrative Officer, provided an overview of MDOT's partnership effort with DTMB to identify opportunities to address service issues. MDOT and DTMB underwent a yearlong process specifically focused on information technology service issues and were able to identify and implement solutions to provide greater role clarity, strengthened communication, and improved services. DEQ is considering undergoing a similar process.

Office of Policy

Dave Fiedler reported that the rules-set for 2013-101 EQ "Oil and Gas Operations" may be filed with the Office of the Great Seal the week of March 9, 2015 (this was done on March 11, 2015).

Jim Goodheart reported that the Healthy Waters initiative is progressing. Tribal meetings continue to be held as well.

Office of Communications

Brad Wurfel reported that the informational session and public hearing for two DTE Electric Company permits will be held on March 11, 2015, in River Rouge.

Brad continues to work on the city of Flint issues with the Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance and with other agencies.

The State Journal did a recent article on the aging of state employees and future retirements.

Legislative

Sarah Howes reported that the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees will be holding a joint committee on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. Industry representatives including Andy Such of Michigan Manufacturers Association, John Griffin of API, and Jason Geer of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce will be testifying on the successes of the legislative changes to Part 201, Environmental Remediation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), and to Part 213, Leaking Underground Storage Tanks, of NREPA. They will also discuss their increasingly positive relationships with the DEQ.

The House Tax Policy and House Oversight and Ethics Committees will be holding a hearing on the 2014 Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Program's Performance Audit. The Department of Treasury, Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Department of Environmental Quality will present on this together.

House Regulatory Reform Committee will be voting out House Bill 4054, authored by Representative Andy Schor, which aims to create better communication between regulatory agencies in regards to mobile home communities.

Attached is the legislative update for the week of March 9, 2015.

Division/Office Chief Reports

Remediation and Redevelopment Division

Please see the legislative report.

Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals

In a recent case, the Michigan Court of Appeals agreed with landowners that the MPSC did not document its review of environmental impacts for a pipeline segment. This is just a reminder of the importance of documenting our processes, even if that means just checking a box that it has been done. Our high-volume hydraulic fracturing rules will have resided with JCAR for the requisite 15 session days as of March 10, 2015. Controversy over oil and gas drilling in high-density residential areas continues; two bills were recently introduced—one to grant zoning authority over oil and gas operations to townships and counties, and one to increase setbacks to 1,000 feet in high-population counties.

Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance

The ODWMA staff attended the Michigan Groundwater Association (well drillers) Convention and Trade Show in Battle Creek. Staff participated both as speakers and as attendees. The conference was an excellent opportunity to improve communications and develop our ongoing relationship with stakeholders.

Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection

Bryce Feighner, Chief, OWMRP, presented information on priorities and updates. Please see the attached PowerPoint for some great information on the OWMRP.

Office of Environmental Assistance