



Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators MALEHA

Representing Local Environmental Public Health Departments in Michigan

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MALEHA Presidential Report April 2022

NCWS Workgroup –

The NCWS Workgroup began meeting early this year. This is a high priority for both MALEHA and MALPH. The workgroup consists of MALPH, MALEHA, EGLE and Non-Community Water Supply Coordinators. The members are diverse to represent different areas and needs of the State. They are as follows:

Dan Thorell, HDNW
Eric Johnston, Benzie – Leelanau
Tony Drautz – Oakland
Ken Bowen – Ionia
Andrew Cox – Macomb
John Wilson – Livingston
Katie Fendt – St. Clair

Elizabeth Suggitt – LMAS
Connor Wickham – EGLE
Scott Kendzierski – EGLE
Dana DeBruyn – EGLE
Sara Simmonds – Kent County

During the first meeting we reviewed the MALEHA letter and brainstormed. We discussed areas that EGLE could support LHDs operationally such as EGLE managing complex systems, systems with ALEs, and advanced treatment. When we left the first meeting, it was clear that we needed a clear definition of “complex”. This task is EGLE’s. They will bring it back to the workgroup for review and feedback. The conversation was robust and productive.

The second meeting we discussed again in greater detail what should be considered complex. We determined that a scoring system would be needed. Due to the EPA audit being conducted, this task will not be completed until our June meeting. The May meeting will be about funding and the current funding formula. MALPH assigned three representatives from the Admin Forum to join us. The current funding formula will be evaluated to come up with recommendations to modify the funding formula to increase reimbursement to LHDs. There will be further updates in the coming months.

MDHHS – Department of Environmental Health (DEH) –

I reached out to MDHHS DEH to try and recreate connection. I spoke with Gerry Tiernan, who replaced Steve Crider, and Adam Ward about how to improve and re-establish our relationship. I learned Gerry came on only a few weeks before the COVID 19 pandemic began. I asked to see their organizational chart. I asked them to come to our next MALEHA meeting to explain their org chart and their section functions. This will be a good first step in understanding their intention, capacity, and ability to support local public health. I am hope that you will find it beneficial and helpful. Aaron Ward will be attending our monthly meetings moving forward. There is a question on how to best communicate future updates from the rest of the sections from DEH.



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Regulations/Legislation –

There are a few of regulations that are being pushed right now. Norm Hess is working on our behalf to find out more about the Lead Bills that were introduced by Representative Hood. They have been untied barred them and it has been stated that there will be movement on select un – tie barred bills. It appears that they have not left committee.

There are also two bills introduced for POU filters for lead in schools, daycares, etc. One of the bills provides funding for the filters. The other is the regulation allowing them to be used. This was passed on to our Legislative Committee for review. There is also a septic repair fund that will likely be approved. I do not have further information on this. I learned of it during the April MALPH meeting. I was surprised.

Board –

The Board met in April. During the meeting, we discussed revising the By Laws. We decided revisions to the following section would be requested of the membership Section 2 – Associate Membership. The goal is to clarify and improve Section 2. We are also requesting the elimination of Section 3 – Adjunct Membership. The proposed changes will be brought to the membership for a roll call vote. I am working on the language per the discussion with the Board. I have not had the opportunity to start it yet. When they are completed, the revisions will be sent to the Board and then membership for a roll call vote. The outcome will be determined by the will of the voting membership.

There is information being sought from the TnT group about the cost of the switching to a digital platform. A huge thanks to Don Hayduk and the rest of the TnT group for all they have done to find out the best solution for MALEHA.

Opportunity -

We also discussed creating a workgroup to develop an onboarding and mentoring opportunity for new members. If you are interested in working on this, please let Andrew Cox or I know.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Simmons".