



MWEA Government Affairs Posts for Water Wednesday

March 27, 2019

Current Legislation and Regulatory Activities

The MWEA GAC is following a number of bills and related activities

MWEA and AWWA meet with state senators and representatives

MWEA President Greg Kacvinsky and members of the MWEA GAC and the Michigan Section of AWWA met with a number of Michigan state senators and representatives on February 26. The meetings were arranged by our new MWEA-AWWA lobbying firm, Midwest Strategy, and laid the groundwork for future collaboration between our two organizations and key legislators. Topics included a proposed Stormwater Utility Bill and a Basement Backup Bill (*both scheduled to be introduced in April*), PFAS (SB 14) and a general offering of technical resources by both MWEA and MI-AWWA on bills related to water. This is the first meeting of its kind and we believe it will elevate the visibility of our organizations and lead to a greater impact on future legislation affecting our members.

Gov. Whitmer Directs MDEQ To File a Request for Rulemaking to Establish PFAS Drinking Water Standards. <https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499-493041--,00.html>

PFAS has become a critically important issue in Michigan especially as it pertains to drinking water, but is also having an impact on biosolids disposal for certain Michigan communities. MWEA will be following these late-breaking developments and is working with MI-AWWA to become involved with the science advisory panel proposed by this gubernatorial directive.

WEF National Water Policy Fly-In April 3-4

MWEA will be attending the Water Week activities in Washington, D.C. arranged by the Water Environment Federation. <https://www.wef.org/advocacy/water-week/>

We have arranged to meet with both our US senators and working to meet with several of our representatives to discuss issues vital to supporting our water environment and infrastructure. Follow MWEA on Facebook and Twitter for the latest news related to this outreach.

Other business

Michigan Waste and Recycling Association

Keith McCormack and Elaine Venema met with staff of DEQ and representatives of the MWRA to discuss the implications of PFAS on landfills and water resource recovery facilities. The MWRA recently compiled a Statewide Study on Landfill Leachate PFOA and PFAS Impact on Water Resource Recovery Influent.

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/6f7f77_9b845fefde8b4fd3b42e6a7bd321e21f.pdf

Midwest Strategy has alerted MWEA to a potential bill that could potentially give broad discretion to communities to prohibit land application of biosolids. The GAC has alerted Chad Antle, chair of the MWEA Biosolids Committee, and Allen Gelderloss, chair of the MWEA Process Committee, to have their

committees comment on the potential implications of this bill. The GAC will be working with these committees and with Midwest Strategy to develop a response.

The GAC is also following these bills:

SB 49 creates a Human Right to Water and requires all state agencies to establish criteria for water affordability

SB 194 provides for a water quality alliance and sewage discharge alert system

The MWEA GAC met on March 20, 2019, to discuss these issues and other committee business. Anyone interested in joining the Government Affairs Committee, please submit your resume in an email of interest to Allison Wood at AWood@mi-wea.org.

Prepared by Keith McCormack, GAC Chair