



Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators MALEHA

Representing Local Environmental Public Health Departments in Michigan

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Forum Report October 2018

This is my first forum report as your President. I expect this year to fly by and want to take a moment now to reiterate some of our organization's priorities over the coming year.

1. **Statewide Sewage Code:** There is another draft, released in early October to a small group of individuals who have been actively working with the bill sponsor. MALEHA is not included in that list. They have been embargoed from releasing it for others to review. I have reached out to Rep Lower's office to request a copy for review. I have not yet heard back. I think we should expect something to happen quickly when a new draft is released publicly and work proactively now to be prepared for that eventuality.

2. **PFAS:** This emerging contaminant continues to be front and center in many of our communities. There are many unanswered questions and uncharted territory. I am very pleased we have added an ad hoc committee of MALEHA members who can help us navigate questions and advocate for the crucial role that Environmental Health holds in a PFAS response.

3. **Committees:** If you haven't been actively involved in a MALEHA committee, there is no better time than now! Our committees help shape so many important facets of our work – accreditation, rules, laws, and staying up to date with the latest topics through educational conference planning. They are the program specific experts we rely on for our decision making and also serve as an outstanding mentorship opportunity for associate members to grow into leadership roles in our organization.

Other Hot Topics:

A draft bill that would exempt third party food delivery services (like Grub Hub or Uber Eats) from any liability. I have asked the food committee to review this draft bill.

DHS payments – several local health departments have noted they have not been reimbursed in a timely fashion, or in some cases at all, by DHS/LARA. Orlando Todd is working on this and will provide some updates at the October 18 meeting.

Ronda Page, from DEQ DWMAD is scheduled to attend our November 15 forum meeting to discuss DEQ IT improvement plans for drinking water and environmental health.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristen Schweighoefer, 10-15-18