

## MSTA 2017 Spring Meeting

The Michigan Septic Tank Association (MSTA) 2017 Spring Meeting, held April 22, 2017 at National Vacuum Equipment in Traverse City, Michigan, was very successful. Many folks not only enjoyed a great educational opportunity, but also left with a full stomach and up to 5-1/2 Continuing Septage Education Hours (CSE's) toward their next septage license. Many thanks to the over 90 people who attended and participated. Many more thanks to Scott Sodini (NVE Manager) and his team for hosting the meeting at their facility. They showed the various products National Vacuum Equipment manufactures and provided an informative tour of the facilities, which (along with the food) were first class. Also, thanks to our new MSTA Executive Officer Karlyn Wickham for working out the logistical details for this great event.

Additional thanks to the following speakers/presenters:

- Matt Johnson, Infiltrator Water Technologies presenting “Effluent Water Treatment with Infiltrators and EZ-Flow.”
- Larry Stephens, presenting information about the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (MOWRA) and touching on a State Wide Sanitary Code for Michigan.
- Jim Stieber and Kyle Haase of Imperial Industries for presenting on “Imperial Vacuum Truck Construction / Operation and Available Accessories” which included a “truck-tour” of two MSTA members’ new Imperial built vacuum trucks.
- Nick Sergeant (Sergeant Septic Services) and Zach Gerdes (Scott’s Excavating), both of Roscommon, MI, who brought their new trucks.

Article submitted by: Mark Scott (MSTA Director)



**Our Hosts**



**Business Meeting**



**MSTA member and endorsed insurance company representative Mick Natzel, Jr. (The General Agency Company) gives a report on their customized insurance.**



**MSTA Legislative Representative Judy Augenstein reports on what is happening in Lansing**

**2017 MSTA  
Fall Board Meeting  
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Mark your calendars for the Fall Meeting  
and 4th Annual Chili Cook Off  
in Mt Pleasant.

Saturday, October 14, 2017  
Mount Pleasant.

Further details will be posted on the  
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and in the Fall Newsletter.  
Hope to see everyone there!

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## From the President

Here we go back into the busy season of our industry. It's a great time in Michigan, green grass, trees getting their leaves back, flowers, and the birds are returning. Good bye old man winter!

I would like to thank our members for the great turn out to the spring meeting at National Vacuum Equipment in Traverse City. What a fantastic host and facility. They really are a great group of people and I hope our membership takes advantage of the products they manufacture. Quality people and quality products. To Andrea Langler, Brent Hickey and Scott Sodini, all from NVE, thank you. And to our own Executive Officer Karlyn Wickham, on her first organizing of our meeting, thank you. You did a fantastic job. I hope we can do this again next year.

We have an issue in Lansing that we are watching very carefully. Representative Tom Barrett has introduced HB4438 to the House. Most of you know this is in regards to farmers being able to service their own and transporting portable toilets without being licensed with the State of Michigan as a septage hauler. We see some real problems with this besides tapping into our industry unlicensed, but the health issues this could have on the products being grown and sold. We are asking our members to contact your Representative and Senator to vote no on HB4438. If you do not know who your legislative person is, please go to the website: [www.senate.michigan.gov](http://www.senate.michigan.gov), for your Senator and [www.house.michigan.gov](http://www.house.michigan.gov), for your Representative. We need to fight this and will need everyone's help. If you see an event that your legislative person will be attending, I would suggest seeing them and let them know your issue with HB4438. Together we can make a difference. Also please support your MSTA PAC Fund with a donation. Thank you!

I hope you all have a great summer and make time to enjoy what we have in this water wonderland called home and Michigan.

Sincerely submitted by:  
Dave W. Snyder (MSTA President)



**Business Meeting**



**Business Meeting**



## Classy Pumper Trucks from Michigan

These photos were taken at the Indianapolis “WETT” Show of some of our own pumpers. The pumper truck is Nick’s from Sargent Septic and the Portable unit is Tony’s from Lil Willies. Send us a photo of your classy pumper truck!





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# Legislative Report for MSTTA

Judy Augenstein, Legislative Consultant

## March Report

Governor Rick Snyder has presented his 2017-18 budget recommendations to the legislature. Snyder recommended small increases in spending in a variety of programs, but cautioned against calls from Republicans to cut the income tax. Lt. Governor Brian Calley and Budget Director Al Pscholka strongly pushed back on an income tax rollback and stated the state already had implemented considerable tax and fee relief, much of which will come on-line in the coming years.

Highlights of the budget include a 3/4% increase for higher education, a \$20 million deposit into the infrastructure fund and a \$260 million deposit into the Budget Stabilization Fund.

With lease payments kicking in for the new Senate office building and salary increases for legislative workers, the Legislature would see a \$13 million increase in the budget recommendation from Snyder. The Legislature would receive \$179.3 million, an 8.3 increase.

The executive recommendation provides a \$130 million increase in the Michigan Transportation Fund and an \$84.3 million increase for state roads. Those funds are from the first full fiscal year of increases in fuel taxes and registration fees.

Snyder wants \$48.8 million to deal with the lead in Flint's public water supply, \$20 million for various infrastructure repairs and an extra \$325 million into the K-12 budget, as part of a \$12.3 billion School Aid Fund.

During a dramatic late night session where Speaker Tom Leonard, R-DeWitt pressed for votes to pass HB 4001, legislation to gradually decrease the income tax to 3.9 percent over four years, met a stunning defeat. The bill failed 52 - 55, three votes short of passage. One legislator lost his committee chairmanship over his "no" vote on the proposed income tax decrease.

Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and House Transportation Budget Subcommittee Chair, Rep. Shane Hernandez, R -Port Huron are planning to take a hard look at the MDOT budget to make sure that resources are put into asphalt and concrete. Both believe that the first way to find more money to deal with improving the crumbling infrastructure is to review spending at the Department of Transportation and local road agencies.

MDOT and Governor Rick Snyder would like to open P.A. 51 in an effort to restructure the funding formula. MDOT/Governor Snyder contend the formula should be redistributed to more populated areas. House Transportation & Infrastructure Chair, Rep. Triston Cole and Senate Transportation Committee Chair Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba prefer to leave P.A. 51 "alone".

Legislation to create Public Private Partnerships (PPP's) has been re-introduced by Senator Mike Kowall, R-White Lake. SB 97 allows companies to put up money to get projects moving ahead without state dollars and is being "pushed" by Governor Rick Snyder. As the bill creates a framework for toll booths on roads sold by private companies, we continue to lobby against the measure as we did last year before it failed during the lame duck session.

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Okay, who put the beer there?



Matt & Misty DeJonghe (Matt DeJonghe Septic Tank Service – Britton, MI) with their faithful canine “Murphy”



MSTA Members Mark Scott (Scott’s Excavating) and Jay Brendal (Brendels Septic Tank Service L.L.C.)



MSTA member Matt Johnson (Infiltrator Water Technologies) presents on Effluent Water Treatment with Infiltrators and EZ-Flow



Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (MOWRA) representative Larry Stephens presents on his association and the wastewater industry

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I hosted a lunch meeting with Rep. James Lower and staff to discuss the status of statewide sanitary code legislation. Ken Goike spent a lot of time reviewing the issue with him in an effort to get him started in the right direction. Rep. Lower will keep me informed as to questions he has or any possible work meetings to further develop the bill. I will keep MSTA, especially Ken updated on meetings where he will be beneficial to writing of the bill. The bill will require a tank be pumped at the point of sale which is still an issue of contention with the realtors. Sponsor Rep. Lower is attempting to downsize the bill to make it as “simple” as possible--good luck with that one.

I continue to meet, greet and share our goals with the 43 new legislators sworn into office in early January, a daunting task. I started with legislators from the north and continue to move, east, west and south--so far so good

### **April Report**

SB 97, legislation to create Public Private Partnership, sponsored by Senator Mike Kowall, R-White Lake is on a “fast track” at the request of Governor Rick Snyder. The bill has passed the Senate and is awaiting debate by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. The measure creates a framework for toll booths on roads sold by private companies. We continue to oppose the bill as we did last session. Rep. Triston Cole, Committee Chair, has strong reservations about the bill and will not bring it up for a hearing until it is “certain” that toll booths will NOT be included in the bill.

Governor Rick Snyder has submitted nine projects as priorities for federal funding as President Donald Trump continues to discuss the need for a \$1 trillion national infrastructure plan.

The list includes:

- 1) A new lock at Sault Ste. Marie to replace the aging Poe lock.
- 2) Construction of a 350 plus acre proving ground for testing, development and validation of autonomous vehicles.
- 3) Replacement of the collapsed sewage interceptor in Fraser that created a massive sinkhole.
- 4) Funding the replacement of lead pipes nationally, in a nod to the flint water crisis.
- 5) The long-sought expansion of the Blue Water Bridge Customs Plaza at Port Huron.
- 6) Construction of a new lock and channel with electric barriers in Illinois to protect the Great Lakes basin from aquatic nuisance species.
- 7) Paying for the new customs plaza at the Gordie Howe International Bridge in Detroit.
- 8) The M-1 Rail project, also known as the QLine, in Detroit.
- 9) Funding national broadband infrastructure.

Governor Snyder commented, “It is very encouraging to see President Trump working with governors from across the nation to identify investments in infrastructure that will have the most impact on ensuring a robust economy and a greater quality of life for residents. This is one of the best working relationships Congress and a presidential administration have had with governors in a long time.

The House of Representatives has passed legislation to expand the Freedom of Information Act to the Executive Office and creating the Legislative Open Records Act to make public some legislative communications. House

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leadership contends that if transparency is good for local government to ensure accountability, it is reasonable that the Legislature and Office of the Governor do the same. The 10 bill package has been referred to the Senate where it has received stiff opposition as the Senate Majority Leader opposes the bills.

Legislation, HB 4205, sponsored by Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona was reported out of the House Oversight Committee and awaits full House consideration. The bill limits state rules from being stricter than federal ones and was re-introduced this year after Governor Snyder vetoed the measure last session.

Rep. James Lower, R-Cedar Lake continues to struggle with writing legislation to create a statewide sanitary code. The realtors continue to be the road block. I meet weekly with Rep. Lower for progress updates. Last week I attended a campaign fundraiser for Rep. Lower on behalf of MSTA.

Senator Jim Stamas, R-Midland has prepared a bill to allow septage haulers access to secondary roads during spring break-up. Senate Transportation Chair, Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba has agreed to schedule the bill for debate. Rep. Triston Cole, Chair, House Transportation & Infrastructure supports the bill and plans to schedule it for debate once it reaches his committee. The MSTA executive committee recently signed off on the new language so the bill should be introduced before the April spring meeting in Traverse City.

Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Pottersville has introduced 4438. The bill allows farmer to install and maintain porta johns on their property for migrant workers. Please contact your legislator to inform him/her of your opposition to this bill. The bill was referred to the House Agricultural Committee which Rep. Barrett Chairs,

In February and March I attended a total of 22 fundraisers averaging \$250 a ticket. I have met with over 20 “newbie” legislators or hosted lunch for them. I am looking forward to seeing you in Traverse City on April 22.

### May Report

Rep. Scott Dianda, D-Calumet has announced his campaign for the 38th Senate District and his colleague, Rep. John Kivela, D-Marquette has also announced for the senate seat. Both legislators are term-limited from the House and the 38th Senate district seat will be open in 2018 with Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba term-limited from the Senate.

On the Republican side, former Rep. Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan plans to announce his candidacy for the senate seat soon. This race will likely be a race to watch with lots of drama. Senator Casperson won the seat in the tea party wave of 2010 with about 55 percent of the vote and easily won re-election against

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MSTA members Jim Stieber and Kyle Haase (Imperial Industries) present on “Imperial Vacuum Truck Construction / Operation and Available Accessories”



MSTA members Jim Stieber and Kyle Haase (Imperial Industries) present on “Imperial Vacuum Truck Construction / Operation and Available Accessories”



National Vacuum Equipment Representatives ? and Brent Hickey (Product Manager) demonstrate one of their newest vacuum blowers

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a largely no-name candidate in 2014. But, an open seat race in this district with three experienced, known names will be a battle unlike previous years.

Michigan will see more money going to road repairs and construction beginning this year, but a recent national study claims the funding will not be enough to keep the state's roads and bridges from deteriorating. In 2015, the Legislature approved a proposal to add \$1.2 billion to highway funding, with \$600 million of that coming from the General Fund. But a study by Michigan TRIP, a Washington, D.C. based transportation organization, said that funding will not be enough to meet some \$3.3 billion in projects, more than \$2 billion worth in the Detroit area alone, that are needed now.

The funding the Legislature authorized increased fuel and registration taxes, as well as earmarked additional money from the General Fund. The tax increases took effect this year and the first allocations of additional funding have begun to be made to counties and cities. Through 2023, the increases and the General Fund monies should generate another \$4.2 billion in transportation funding, boosting the annual allocation from \$2.2 billion to \$3.4 billion for fixing roads and bridges. But the General Fund portion of the increase is not guaranteed and if the state sees another economic recession before 2023, those monies may be needed for other priorities.

MDOT has announced a \$900,000 transportation economic development grant to the Crawford Road Commission for road improvements between I-75 and the proposed particle board plant in Grayling Township. The ARAUCO plant is expected to draw \$400 million in private investment and provide 266 full time jobs. The grant will cover rebuilding and widening the 1.5 miles of Four Mile Road leading to the plant. The county is planning to add a turn lane and wider shoulders near the plant.

Public Private Partnerships (PPP's) continues to be bottled up in the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. SB 97 sponsored by Senator Mike Kowall, R-White Lake has language to create a framework for toll booths on roads. We continue to oppose the bill.

Senator Jim Stamas, R-Midland has introduced SB 315, a bill to allow haulers access to secondary roads during frost restrictions for emergency purposes. Senate Transportation Committee Chair Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba and House Transportation Committee Triston Cole, R-Mancelona both support the bill and plan to schedule the bill for debate. Both are truck drivers by trade, timing is everything in this era of term limits. I predict it is now or never for this issue.

Unfortunately, Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Pottersville, Chair, House Agriculture Committee, has sponsored HB 4438. The bill allows farmers to install and service porta johns for migrant workers which MSTA opposes. Ralph Bailey, Ken Goike and myself met with Rep. Barrett and staff to outline our areas of concern. Rep. Barrett is willing to compromise on language to not allow farmers to haul across a road, but not much else. Ken Goike and I have discussed political tactics to deal with the bill. We are aware of opposition in the Senate to the bill as written and will work both the House and the Senate against the bill. We need to activate our "grassroots network" along with daily lobbying at the Capitol to defeat this bill. It is important that you contact your legislators urging them to OPPOSE HB 4438 and your reasons for opposition!!!

## **June Report**

Who has the authority to name the recreational projects and land acquisitions that are funded out, the Michigan Natural Resources Fund trust board or the state legislature? Should the trust fund spend all the money it has available for projects or set some aside for a rainy day?

*(continued on page 16)*



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Those are questions senators are trying to answer with SB 280, sponsored by Senator Darwin Booher, R-Evart which is being discussed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. When the trust fund board submitted its current recommendation to the legislature for approval, it included 27 acquisitions worth \$27.7 million and 87 development projects worth \$19.9 million. When Senator Booher submitted his bill he added back into those recommendations 43 projects worth \$7.7 million that the trust fund board had ruled out. Booher contends that the trust fund board and DNR are setting money aside as savings for the future, including \$8 million this year and contends that if the board ended that practice it could fund more projects.

Committee Chair, Dave Hildenbrand, R-Lowell contends that if the trust fund board quit setting aside those dollars, it could fund all projects that had been submitted for grant money this year, which includes those 43 projects added back. Among those 43 projects are boat launches, pavilion renovations, path expansions, park development and other projects.

Senator Hildenbrand said Senate staff are meeting with the DNR to see if some areas of disagreement can be resolved. Booher said this is not a new concern for him. He said he has told the trust fund board in years past that he would make an issue of it "if they kept doing this." When he saw that they set aside \$8 million this year rather than fund some projects with the money, he decided to introduce the bill.

The NRTF was put in the state constitution when voters adopted Proposal B in 1984. The amendment requires that oil, gas and other mineral leases and royalty money be placed in the trust fund and be used to acquire and develop public recreation land. The amendment created a \$500 million fund from which interest could require and develop park land.

Legislation to allow all commodity haulers to use a multiple use permit tailored after Wisconsin law has been introduced by Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona . HB 4644 was referred to the House Transportation Committee and will be set for a hearing in June.

HB 4438 sponsored by Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Pottersville held a hearing last week and the bill is expected to be set for another hearing in early June, no meeting has been set as of this writing. The bill allows farmers to provide, service and move porta johns which was requested by the Michigan Farm Bureau. It is my view that MFB decided to wait for Ken Goike to be term limited before submitting the bill. Dave Snyder and Ralph Bailey testified against HB 4438 and gave suggestions on how to make the bill more palatable. This week I met with sponsor Rep. Barrett and I am confident that many of our concerns will be addressed.

I also met this week with Rep. Terry Sabo, D-Muskegon and shared our list of concerns which he supports. He would like to know the name and location of the blueberry farmer Dave Snyder brought up in committee a Muskegon farmer as a good example of how the process should work for farmers providing porta johns as Rep. Sabo is from Muskegon. I met with the chief of staff to Rep. Ben Fredericks, R- Owosso and staff to Rep. Brian Elder, D-Bay City, DVC to share our concerns. The committee members were surprised as to the issues we brought up such as possible cross contamination of "poop" and blueberries or any other food product. The committee members really seemed to be listening to Dave and Ralph. I attended an event later in the day and the Agriculture Committee legislators approached me and commented how useful our testimony was to them.

The Legislature was only in session two short days this week and before we know it will be Wednesday 7 the pending date for the House Agriculture Committee to meet for a second time to discuss HB 4438--the date is tentative. I am meeting with Steve Daunt policy director tomorrow and will report my findings as to date and language changes.

A special primary election for the 109th House District to fill the vacancy left by the death of Rep. John Kivela will be held on August 8 and the general election on November 7.

Judy Augenstein  
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MSTA member Misty DeJonghe's (DeJonghe Septic Tank Service) guard dog (Murphy) watches over one of the trucks at the Spring meeting.





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