
From: Wyant, Dan (DEQ)
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2013 8:22 AM
To: DEQ-WRD-ALL
Cc: DEQ-EXE-MGMT-TEAM; DEQ-EXE-MGMT-TEAM-Secretaries
Subject: Wetlands - Message from Director Dan Wyant

Dear WRD Staff:

I want to let everyone know that on Wednesday the House passed the wetland bill, Senate Bill (SB) 163, with a bi-partisan vote. Although I want to meet with the WRD wetland staff soon to have a personal conversation about the bill and what this means for our program, my schedule does not allow a meeting at this time. So for now, I want you to know the passage of this bill confirms the Legislature's commitment to maintaining Michigan's 404 program.

The House passed the bill with a few technical amendments; however, I expect the Senate to concur with the changes quickly. Then the bill will be sent to the Governor for his signature.

We will be working closely over the next several weeks and months with the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine how we will implement the program changes in the bill. I will be travelling to Chicago with Maggie Datema, Kim Fish, and Amy Lounds the last week of June to meet with the EPA. As you may have heard, the EPA has informally expressed some concerns with the bill, and we will be working with them, our stakeholders, and the Legislature to address those issues over the next several months.

I also want to thank you again for your hard work and dedication to the DEQ and this program. Your

professional administration of the program helped us obtain the trust and commitment we need from the Legislature to maintain the program.

Thank you.

Dan Wyant
Director