

## >>> NEWSLETTER <<<

# MI GREAT LAKES CHAPTER



MICHIGAN GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

## >>> PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**SUMMER  
HITCHENS**

**MI SWANA  
CHAPTER  
PRESIDENT**



Another year is quickly coming to an end and I would like to say Thank You to all our members! This year has been busy for the Great Lakes Chapter and the Board of Directors hope to continue to offer a valuable experience for each member. The Board is always open to ideas on how we can better serve our membership and we welcome suggestions.

I am excited to see how the Chapter develops and looking forward to seeing everyone in 2025!

# ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

## >>> NOVEMBER 7, 2024 IN LANSING, MICHIGAN

On November 7, 2024 the Chapter gathered for our Annual Meeting. The day started with Breakfast sponsored by Tetra Tech and a Safety Share provided by Granger followed by "Updates on Part 115 Implementation" by Rhonda Oyer of EGLE. The second presentation focused on industry safety presented by GLF's, Jennifer Conklin. After a quick break and networking, the Annual Business Meeting was lead by Paul Sgriccia, followed by the final presentation by Julie Hall educating us on the importance of air quality within the industr. We ended the day with a BBQ lunch provided by BEL Environmental Engineering and Networking!

Thank You to All Our Sponsors



## >>> THANK YOU TO OUR HOST, GRANGER! <<<

### Granger: From Construction Roots to Comprehensive Waste and Recycling Partner

Granger entered the waste industry in 1966 in Lansing, Michigan, when a garbage truck purchased to haul trash for a small construction company led to a new business opportunity. Later, Granger began hauling waste and recycling for commercial and residential customers and became a landfill owner.

The company began energy production in 1985, eventually developing projects with energy partners throughout Michigan and other states. In 2017, Granger sold its Energy Division to Energy Developments Limited (EDL) to focus on hauling, but energy continues to be generated at Granger's landfills through a partnership with EDL.

In the last several years, Granger has expanded its service territory and now has locations in Alma, Cedar Springs, Fowlerville and Jackson, in addition to its headquarters in Lansing. With approximately 360 associates across all locations, Granger continues to focus on providing exceptional service to customers and building relationships through corporate giving and community relations.



# MI SWANA UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

## >>> QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Our membership is growing and the Board of Directors has proposed starting quarterly meeting in 2025. The Board is looking to have a variety of in-person and virtual meeting options to provide a better connection for our membership. If your company is interested in hosting a meeting please reach out to:

Summer Hitchens (Summer.Hitchens@edlenergy.com)

## >>> ENGINEERING SOCIETY OF DETROIT'S ANNUAL SOLID WASTE CONFERENCE GRANT

The Board of Directors have proposed to use the existing scholarship funds to provide one (1) Young Professional a grant to attend the ESD Annual Solid Waste Conference in East Lansing, Michigan for 2025. If you or anyone you know would be interested please reach out to :

Summer Hitchens (Summer.Hitchens@edlenergy.com)

Be on the look out for an application in early 2025!

## >>> REGION 9 REPRESENTATIVE WANTED!!

Our Chapter is looking for someone to represent us at the Regional level as our Region 9 Representative. You would be responsible for advocating on behalf of the Chapter to express our views and opinions to the Region 9 Board of Directors.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please reach out to :

Summer Hitchens (Summer.Hitchens@edlenergy.com)

## >>> WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP SWANA GROW? <<<

Our Chapter is looking for volunteers to help plan events, review bylaws, join the legislative discussion and more! If you are interested please reach out to one of the Liaisons listed below, we would love to have your help!

Summer Hitchens (Summer.Hitchens@edlenergy.com) - Scholarship & Bylaws

Jennifer Bowyer (Jennifer.Bowyer@tetrattech.com) - Programs & Arrangements

Tyler Ganus (TGanus@landfillmanagement.com) - Young Professionals

Kim Smelker (kimberly.smelker@wsp.com) - Legislative

Paul Sgriccia (paul@ptsconsultingllc.com) & Matt Biolette mbiolette@fveng.com) - Membership



# GOING DIGITAL - FIELD SAFETY



## **BRAD AUSTIN, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY AT GREAT LAKES FUSION**

Safety hazards exist daily for workers in our industry. Monthly classroom safety meetings are a terrific way to convene your staff, but the real action is in the field! Recently, our company implemented a safety app for our field crews. This app provides several benefits including easy access to toolbox topics, the ability to track attendance, and meeting documentation in a digital format. The app provides an option to customize safety checklists that fit your needs.

Our forepersons now can provide a quick and effective safety meeting daily in the field. Operations vary, but some ideas for field safety meetings may include:

- Tipping area and working face hauler/landfill equipment traffic
- Operating on slope
- Installing vertical gas wells
- Trenching
- Protection of landfill liner systems

Boots on the ground safety meetings have several benefits. A more informal field setting may open the lines of communication. Additional benefits include:

- Addressing concerns in real time
- Team building
- Exchanging ideas to improve operations or safety
- Improved connection to field staff members

The field provides an opportunity to see the work and potential safety hazards firsthand. This is what our workers deal with each day. Take advantage of your operating area and use it as a tool to build your safety program.

Stay Alert - Stay Alive



**BRAD AUSTIN**

**MI SWANA BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**



# YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT



## ERICA PERIS

Erica is a new Young Professional within the MI SWANA Chapter. She has B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Penn State University and is currently pursuing her MBA from the Penn State World Campus.

Erica currently works at Rochem Americas as a Water Treatment Applications & Project Engineer.

Connect with her on LinkedIn!

Email: [ericap@rochemamericas.com](mailto:ericap@rochemamericas.com)

### Q&A WITH ERICA

**Q: Why did you join SWANA?**

**A:** I joined the team at Rochem Americas this spring and am new to the solid waste industry. I joined SWANA to connect with other professionals in the industry and take advantage of the many learning opportunities it provides.

**Q: What are you looking forward to as a SWANA member?**

**A:** I have so much to learn! I'm excited to attend more conferences and seminars, and I am especially looking forward to connecting with more young professionals.

**Q: What is your favorite weekend activity?**

**A:** I enjoy spending time in my vegetable garden and exploring new coffee shops.

**Q: What is your favorite place to eat in Michigan?**

**A:** This always changes but my husband and I just had an amazing meal at Pacific Rim in Ann Arbor or anywhere I can get a good chicken shawarma wrap.

**Q: What is your favorite place to visit in Michigan?**

**A:** Camping along the coast of Lake Michigan is always amazing, especially in the U.P.

# ANNUAL GOLF OUTING SUCCESS



## >>> RIVERVIEW HIGHLANDS GOLF COURSE

2024 Annual Golf Outing

On September 26, 2024 the Chapter gathered to hit the links at the Riverview Highlands Golf Course, located in Riverview, Michigan. There were putting games, raffle prizes, a delicious lunch and a tour of the DTE Vantage RNG facility!

We hope to see everyone next year for another round!



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