



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 21, 2026

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:00 a.m., May 21, 2026, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Chris Lucas, Chocolay Township (Chair)
Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette
George Patrick, City of Marquette
Jim Compton, City of Marquette

ABSENT Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township

OTHERS Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette
Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette
Neil Traye, City of Marquette

AGENDA It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by C. Lucas, to approve the agenda. Approved 4-0.

MINUTES It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by G. Patrick, to approve April 16, 2026, meeting minutes as written. Approved 3-0.

FINANCIAL

- FY25 Audit Report**

M. Grentz, Anderson, Tackman & Company PLC, presented the FY25 Audit Report. M. Grentz stated that page 3 is the opinion of the City of Marquette, and that you comply with all general accounting principles. Page 10 and 11 shows that we ended the year with a net total of 15 million dollars, with a 1.8 million total increase in revenue from FY24. Pension liability and post employee retiree health insurance costs have come down. Overall, M. Grentz stated he didn't see any issues or anything out of the ordinary in the audit report.



- **Financial Report**

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report. M. Schlicht stated everything is operating as normal. Expenditures are increasing but attributes this to economic reaction and rising costs of goods which can be addressed in the budget for fiscal year 2027. M. Schlicht stated that she is going to work with M. O'Neill and N. Traye to come up with budget figures to be brought to the board in June. By July she hopes to have board approval so in August the budget can be brought to the City Commission. M. Schlicht noted that the reserve fund for the plant is good, and if a major issue occurred there would be revenue to cover expense. Debt has increased due to the Biosolids Handling Project. M. O'Neill stated there are no capital improvement projects in the near future for the plant.

It was moved by S. Hobbins to approve the FY25 audit report, supported by C. Lucas. Approved 4-0.

Permit Compliance for April 2026:

There were no permit violations for the month of April.

Plant Notes

- We avoided permit violations during this year's spring thaw event. We ran the three trash pumps 24/7 for a total of 18 days. Staff stood up and delivered to make this happen.
- Staff completed preventative maintenance on our 8-inch trash pump. We are waiting for nicer weather and sufficient staffing to use our 6-inch trash pump to clean our Cl₂ Contact Tanks.
- I've been trying to get back to working on installing our upgraded WIN 911 alarm dialer software and related equipment. Life manages to find interesting ways to prevent progress.
- Staff dealt with a severely clogged discharge line from our Waste Receiving Station. The line was completely clogged with sand and grit from the septage we've received since the station began operation. Our solution will be to routinely flush these discharge lines with high pressure water.
- The level transducer for the #2 Digester has failed. A new transducer is on order. In the meantime, we have installed a digital pressure gauge. The operators take the reading from the gauge and use some math to estimate the liquid level in the Digester.
- Staff dug into the failed TAS Mixing Pump and were able to free it up and get it back into operation.
- I ordered replacement brushes for the mixing pump on the polymer dosing skid that serves our combination gravity/belt filter press.
- Staff is working on fixing issues with our Primary Clarifier pumps...one needs a new diaphragm, and another is struggling with what I think is sand/grit in the tank due to the increased flows during the thaw event.



INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR APRIL 2026

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	6,000	\$840.00
UPS	8,000	\$1,120.00
LS&I	41,000	\$5,740.00
Wisconsin Electric	126,000	\$5,040.00
Grand Totals	181,000	\$12,740.00

SEPTAGE ACTIVITY FOR APRIL 2026

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Carey/Sodergren	21,306	\$3,835.08
North Country	15,941	\$2,869.38
Stenberg	7,595	\$1,367.10
Grand Totals	44,842	\$8,071.56

NEW BUSINESS

- **Succession Plan**

M. O'Neill stated he is retiring at the end of next month and N. Traye has been recommended as the new director for the department.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Wet Weather**

M. O'Neill stated we made it though event and learned from it. The two pumps that the plant has are enough for the volume plant can hold, once reached another pump is necessary. At this time another pump is not being considered for purchase, but if events like this continue every Spring, might be in City's best interest to purchase third pump.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None



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BOARD COMMENT

- None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Reviewed by:

M. O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Leah LaCasse