



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 16, 2025

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:01 a.m., January 16, 2025, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Brad Johnson, Chocolay Township (Chair)
Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township
Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette
Jim Compton, City of Marquette

ABSENT George Patrick, City of Marquette

OTHERS Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette
Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette
Melissa Erkkila, City of Marquette

AGENDA It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by L. Bodenus, to approve the agenda as written. Approved 4-0.

MINUTES It was moved by J. Compton, supported by S. Hobbins, to approve the December 19, 2024, meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL

- Financial Report**

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report. M. Schlicht stated there is an error in the financial report's first column. It says original budget and should be amended budget. During the first quarter, staff does the purchase order roll over so all the purchase orders that were open at the end of the last fiscal year are rolled into fiscal year 2025. This is to make sure they are there for future projects that are still open at the beginning of the fiscal year. This is primarily the biosolids project and why the end of the first column shows we are budgeting and operating at a 2.6-million-dollar loss. It is just that purchase order rolling forward, but it will be a capitol expense, and it will be brought back to zero. There are notes stating the revenue is overstated until we get through all the fiscal year-end adjustments. We are missing some of the accounting journal entries such as depreciation. That line is zero until we wrap up fiscal year 2024.



Charter Township of Chocolay

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OPERATIONS REPORT

M. O'Neill, City of Marquette, presented the Operations Report

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

- **PERMIT COMPLIANCE:** We violated our total phosphorus limit for the month of December. The reasons are a continuation of the issues we experienced in November. These issues were not resolved until the second week of the month, but this proved to be too late in the game to bring our average below the permit level of 1.0 mg/L. We are now at an average of 0.26 mg/L.

PLANT NOTES:

- Staff continues weekly COVID-19 tracing sampling for NMU from the WWTP's influent, our four major lift stations, and from the sewer leaving the Marquette Branch Prison.
- We have been having issues with the voltage and current controls on the #2 CoGen unit. We were able to keep it running somewhat reliably by running it at a reduced power output. Kraft is aware of the situation and is working on getting a technician with knowledge of the genset side of the units.
- Today we have scheduled the replacement of the carbon media used to remove sulfides from the biogas for use in the CoGen units.
- Staff replaced a failed bearing on one of the cylinders of our original belt filter press. After discovering the extent of the damage this bearing inflicted on itself, we went through the rest of the bearings and flushed them with fresh grease.
- The transformer that feeds the Laboratory has developed a bad buzzing noise (it's always made a buzzing noise, but it has gotten very bad). Brian from S&T Electrical checked it out and has ordered a replacement that should be here within three weeks.
- The water heater that serves the Admin Area has failed. Jacob from Duquaine has been assisting us with the repairs. The gas valve was faulty, but once that problem was repaired some other problems were revealed. More parts are on order.
- Staff cleaned the smaller of our two dual-fuel boilers. This task was way overdue. The large dual-fuel boiler is next.
- A plant operator posted into a position in Public Works. There is now an open internal posting.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR DECEMBER 2024

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	6,500	\$910.00
UPS	5,000	\$700.00
LS&I	13,500	\$1,890.00
RMS	8,400	\$1,176.00
Wisconsin Electric	47,500	\$1,900.00
Grand Totals	80,900	\$6,576.00



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NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling Project:** M. O'Neill stated next week we will start up the high strength waste receiving station. All the vendors will be here testing the equipment out. We will be running water through the screen and testing it. The following week will be the belt press. Everything is here except the conveyor. That is supposed to be here next week, and it will be installed two weeks from now. There will be a lot of startups, making sure it works, and training. Security and site access still needs to be completed. We are hoping to start up in the middle of February. Once the snow melts, some contractors will come back to plant grass and any other miscellaneous items. B. Johnson requested the board receive a tour during the March meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

BOARD COMMENT

- None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila