



Charter Township of Chocolay

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MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 21, 2021

A regular virtual meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2021.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Brad Johnson, Chocolay Township (Chair)
Margaret Brumm, City of Marquette
Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township
Harold Hayse, City of Marquette

ABSENT: Gary Simpson, City of Marquette

OTHERS: Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette
Dan Johnston, City of Marquette
Pam Greenleaf, City of Marquette

AGENDA

It was moved by M. Brumm, supported by H. Hayse, to approve the agenda as presented. Approved 4-0.

MINUTES

It was moved by M. Brumm, supported by H. Hayse, to approve the December 17, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT DECEMBER

- Balance Sheet: The fiscal year is 25% complete.
- Revenue Sheet: The board discussed the continual revenue received from WE Energies leachate disposal. M. O'Neill stated WE Energies is a reliable and consistent source of revenue.
- Expenditures: M. O'Neill stated that the wages line item has been trending low due to employee vacancies but that with the hiring of new employees an increase will be seen moving forward.
- Electrical Usage: The board discussed electrical expenditures related to "demand" charges. M. O'Neill stated that each time the facility's electrical system shuts down a significant amount of electricity is needed from the grid to keep the facility up and running. He also stated that demand charges can be triggered by anything outside the facility that causes a power outage and that there is no way around the fee. B. Johnson



and L. Bodenus, Township Representatives, stated that their lift stations create demand charges when power is interrupted.

- Professional and Contractual: M. O'Neill stated that the professional and contractual expenditure line item is trending high but that it will be offset by the Solids Handling Project SRF Loan to bring it back in line.

It was moved by M. Brumm, supported by L. Bodenus, to approve the financial report as submitted. Approved 4-0.

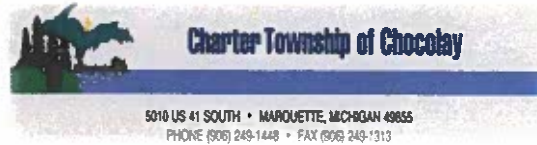
SOLIDS HANDLING PROJECT

M. O'Neill provided the board with a project update. He stated that a change to the site layout may be necessary as soil borings indicate degraded soils in the proposed construction area. He also stated pilings are being considered to keep the desired location which would result in a project cost increase of approximately \$600,000. He stated that he had met with EGLE regarding project changes and a potential loan increase.

H. Hayse asked M. O'Neill to provide the board with a listing of permitted Marquette County septage haulers and what they haul. The board discussed the increase in methane production by means of a new septage receiving station, and anticipated revenue generated from septage acceptance.

OPERATIONS REPORT JANUARY 2021

- NPDES Permit Compliance: No permit violations occurred since the last board meeting.
- COVID-19: Staff continue to gather weekly influent samples from various stages of the treatment process to be analyzed by Michigan Tech for the presence of COVID-19. MSU and NMU's testing programs were defunded, however NMU's program will start up again on January 25, 2021.
- M. O'Neill stated the City is again participating in a work share program to offset budget shortfalls due to COVID-19, and that staffing will be reduced to four-day work weeks until March 14, 2021.
- The facility's two new hires are now on board and adapting well. D. Johnston stated both individuals have prior wastewater experience which is invaluable to the plant's operation. M. O'Neill provided detail of each employee's education and work history in the field.
- D. Johnston stated that the Gas Conditioning System will shut down when switching back to biogas and that he has been performing diagnostics and fact finding on the system aimed at eliminating the issue.
- M. O'Neill and D. Johnston have been working on the SCADA System Software Upgrade. The software provider has provided an inventory of what licenses are currently being used to determine if changes are necessary. M. O'Neill stated that the Water Filtration Plant software will also be updated, and that D. Johnston has the skill set to do any conversions that may be required.



○ Industrial Wastewater Acceptance Activity:

- 3,500 gallons of industrial wastewater from Fabick was accepted.
- 84,000 gallons of leachate from Wisconsin Energy was accepted.
- 2,500 gallons of industrial wastewater from LS&I Railroad was accepted.
- Total monthly revenue \$3,313.00

Preventive Maintenance: D. Johnston provided the following list of items currently being addressed.

- New facility employees will be worked into the routine maintenance schedule as soon as possible.
- Staff finished the rebuild of the #1 Digester Recirculation Pump. This rebuild will simplify the transfer of sludge from the Primary Digester to the Secondary Digester.
- Staff completed the repair of a seal on one of the Boiler Booster Pumps which had been leaking since the beginning of the summer.

M. Brumm stated that she appreciates the detail given with the monthly maintenance update and thanked D. Johnston for the information.

BOARD COMMENT

- B. Johnson asked if there was progress being made on the grease trap inspection program. M. O'Neill stated that inspections have been suspended due to staffing, but that he and the Public Works Director have discussed the program and are in agreement that it should go back to the Public Works Department. Board members agreed with M. O'Neill's desire to make the change.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by M. Brumm, supported by H. Hayse, to adjourn at 10:42 a.m.
Approved 4-0.

Reviewed by:
Mark O'Neill
Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:
Pamela Greenleaf