



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 20, 2025

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:04 a.m., February 20, 2025, at the Chocolay Township Fire Hall.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Brad Johnson, Chocolay Township (Chair)
Jim Compton, City of Marquette
Jon Kangas, Marquette Township
Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette

ABSENT George Patrick, City of Marquette
Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township
Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette

OTHERS Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette
Melissa Erkkila, City of Marquette
Dan Johnston, City of Marquette

AGENDA It was moved by J. Compton, supported by J. Kangas, to approve the agenda as written. Approved 4-0.

MINUTES It was moved by J. Compton, supported by M. Schlicht, to approve the January 16, 2025, meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL

- Financial Report**

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report. M. Schlicht stated everything is trending smoothly. Anything that is off of this report as of January 31 has to do with the management of the CWSRF funding. There was a review of the CWSRF once the executive order came through regarding the halting of federal funding. As we were going through the audit, it was realized that the federal portion of that project was distributed in the beginning. They spent down all the state and federal grant portion of that project and when the loans were distributed, the federal loan forgiveness was distributed first. Any future draws that are needed should be state funding.

We are nearing the end of the audit. Those reports are being prepared. The Townships should be receiving their true up invoices for FY24 soon. M. Schlicht stated if she were to



summarize what is being billed, it looks like operationally we are good, but the monthly billing does not include the reserve contribution. The total billing will be close to that reserve contribution amount, and it is a flow cost.

OPERATIONS REPORT

D. Johnston, City of Marquette, presented the Operations Report

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

- PERMIT COMPLIANCE: There were no permit violations for the month of January.

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.
- Staff replaced the media in the sulfide removal vessel for the gas conditioning system that serves the CoGen units. Kraft was on site as well to perform routine maintenance and fine-tuning to the power output on both units.
- Prime Industrial replaced the water heater that serves the Admin Area and rear of the plant. It is used not only for domestic hot water but also to temper the water for the emergency eyewash stations.
- Staff replaced one of the failed mixing pumps in the Bio-P area of the plant.
- Staff installed the new recirculation pump in the Bio-P area of the plant.
- JCI installed an updated HVAC controller to serve the plant. This unit will be compatible with the equipment in the new buildings.
- Our IT department has been instrumental in establishing communications between the new buildings and the plant's existing fiber network. The work is ongoing but near completion.
- August Winter, our project mechanical contractor, spared a couple of their guys to help our staff install the new GBT Feed Pump.
- JCI was on site to commission the new camera system. They are working with our IT department to get our new security system integrated with the City's security server.
- I worked with a technician from Elemech, Incorporated to install the software that will allow us to monitor the Waste Receiving Station's flow and its users.
- Marc Hillman was hired as a new operator. He came from Ishpeming WWTP. He comes with 18 years of experience, and we are happy to have him.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR JANUARY 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	8,000	\$1,120.00
UPS	16,500	\$2,310.00
LS&I	16,500	\$2,310.00



Wisconsin Electric	17,500	\$700.00
Grand Totals	58,500	\$6,440.00

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling Project:** M. O'Neill stated we are working through start up and identifying any hiccups, which are mostly communication issues.
 - **Receiving Station:** North Country Disposal came down with their truck of wastewater. The plant network was talking to the new building and all went well. That afternoon, the switches inside the plant began to shut down. D. Johnston and a programmer from Donohue spent a considerable amount of time troubleshooting it. They finally got things to work by disconnecting the new buildings from our current building. IT helped us find a new switch that was installed was an Allen Bradley instead of a Cisco. It ended up being an Allen Bradley skin with a Cisco switch, so IT was able to access it and get everything talking again.
 - **Belt Filter Press:** We started up the belt filter press and we couldn't test it using our SCADA system. So that was shut down and they will have to come back.
 - **Site Security:** Metasis is our new site security, which is compatible with the City system, needs to get out on the city network. For the new equipment to talk to our plant, we are using our plant network. IT does not allow that for security reasons. IT has come up with a plan and has ordered parts to rectify this. D. Johnston stated that we will be using spare fiber strands within our existing network to jump to the City network.
 - **Cameras:** Two cameras were installed, one on top of the press and one on the conveyer. Neither one would work. D. Johnston began trouble shooting it and found the Allen Bradley/Cisco switch does not have the capability to provide power to the cameras. That switch will now need to be replaced. Donohue's programmer will be onsite Monday to hopefully get the rest of the glitches out. Once that is done, we can start up the press and begin testing it. Then the maker of the press will return to help optimize the operation of it.
 - **Storm Sewer:** There is a meeting this Tuesday to discuss the storm sewer issue with GEI and MJ VanDamme. GEI did the design and came down to do the inverts, which were off. MJ VanDamme installed as designed but they were supposed to field verify the inverts first and did not. J. Compton stated you always start at the downstream end first and work up. If you don't, you make sure to check where you are going to hook in. M. O'Neill stated that MJ VanDamme did neither. They started at the upstream end first.
 - **Screen:** Staff are instructed to not go into the new buildings until they are ours to allow the contractors to do their work. The Miron intern went into the receiving station Monday and found water in the basement and the floor drains were full of



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water. The screen was running along with the wash water that sprays it. Looking back at the trending, something turned that screen on at 2:30 pm Friday and it was on all weekend. It filled up the wet wells and the pumps were tripped. We are currently trying to troubleshoot that, and we should know more on Monday when the programmer arrives. D. Johnston has troubleshot this and believes it is a communication issue, but we do not have access to the manufacturer's PLC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

BOARD COMMENT

- B. Johnson stated Chocolay Township is still looking for a manager. Once that hire occurs, he will let the board know who the alternate is.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila