



Charter Township of Chocolay

5010 US 41 SOUTH • MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855
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MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 21, 2022

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:03 a.m., Thursday, April 21, 2022 at the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility.

It was moved by M. Brumm, supported by H. Hayes to nominate L. Bodenus to be Chair Pro Tem for the meeting. Approved 4-0.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township
Margaret Brumm, City of Marquette
Harold Hayse, City of Marquette
Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette

ABSENT Brad Johnson, Chocolay Township (Chair)

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

AGENDA It was moved by M. Brumm, supported by H. Hayes to amend the Agenda to add CoGen Operation under New Business. Approved 4-0.

MINUTES It was moved by M. Brumm, supported by H. Hayes to approve the February 17, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY

Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report.

- Balance Sheet: Numbers are as expected.
- Revenue Sheet: Revenue is as expected.
- Expenditures: Expenditures are as expected.
- Budget process will begin the next couple of months. Looking at possibly changing the flow estimates calculation. M. O'Neill stated it is currently calculated on a five-year average due to the flow rates variance from year to year. M. Schlicht stated her goal is to



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use a net zero impact which would mean billing for services and expenditures throughout the year.

- o M. Schlicht stated the audit reports were submitted to the State in March. She will schedule for the auditor to attend the next meeting to present the report.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH:

- o PERMIT COMPLIANCE: No violations occurred during the month of February.
- o PERMIT COMPLIANCE: No violations occurred during the month of March.

PLANT NOTES:

- o 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.
- o Arrangements have been made for land application of our dried biosolids. We are waiting for soil sample results from the application site and weather conditions to improve.
- o Kraft was on site to perform routine maintenance on both CoGen units. During this process, the voltage regulator for the genset on the #1 unit failed. It was offline for almost two weeks while waiting for a replacement part.
- o Staff performed repairs to the draw-off fitting on our bulk sodium hypochlorite storage tank.
- o JCI is scheduled for a site visit to complete the setup of the new VFD (variable frequency drive) on the main air handling unit for the Admin Area of the plant.
- o I replaced a faulty motor protection relay for the Grit Propeller. This equipment is essential for the removal of heavy inorganic materials in the wastewater stream. The new unit replaced an obsolete device and the programming was tricky to complete.
- o Staff corrected clogged piping and faulty check valves for the sump system in the RAS Pumping Room. The groundwater infiltrating the piping to the sump over time causes a sediment build-up and eventually restricts pumping to the point where the sump overflows into the basement...but at least this water is clean.
- o I performed multiple corrections/improvements to the data collection/monitoring tags for the Cogen Units on our SCADA system. These errors have apparently been present since the system's inception several years ago, making the data points essentially useless until now.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	3,600	\$468.00
UPS	16,600	\$2,158.00
LS&I	26,800	\$3,484.00
RMS	8,400	\$1,092.00
Wisconsin Electric	36,500	\$1,095.00



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Grand Totals

91,900

\$8,297.00

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR MARCH 2022

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	2,900	\$377.00
UPS	11,000	\$1,430.00
LS&I	17,500	\$2,275.00
Wisconsin Electric	63,500	\$1,905.00
Grand Totals	94,900	\$5,987.00

MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

- Preventive Maintenance Work Orders: We have finally caught up with the backlog of work orders. I have been working on developing a more user-friendly approach to help streamline the whole work order completion process. I have also begun to create the work orders that were never created since we began using the Lucity program. This process will take many months to complete.

OLD BUSINESS

- Solids Handling Update: M. O'Neill stated we are still awaiting funding notification from the State. The fire alarm project is almost ready to bid out.

NEW BUSINESS

- Spring Flows: M. O'Neill stated three years ago the river rose during spring runoff, higher than the elevation of the secondary clarifiers which caused a short circuit. This created several permit violations. The State issued a letter to communities stating that a wet weather plan must be in place for these circumstances. The plan to rent a pump capable of pumping the wastewater coming into the plant, close a valve and pump around it was implemented. Two years ago, the plant rented this pump for two months at the cost of \$11,000 but narrowly did not need to utilize it. Due to the lack of snow last year, a pump was not rented. This year the plant almost needed that pump again. Moving forward, a pump will need to be on site. The options are to rent the pump for \$11,000 each year or purchase a portable pump for \$110,000. The pump will only be needed for a week or two a year during spring run-off but with maintaining service and storing it inside, the expected life of the pump is around 50 years. This may be included in the Capital Improvement Plan or may be fast tracked into next year's budget. M. Brumm supported the idea of having a pump on site to be proactive. H. Hayes supported the idea of having a portable pump.
- Capital Improvement Plan Update: M. O'Neill stated he is working on the Capital Improvement Plan. The Bio Solids Handling Project is included along with a plow truck. Three trucks are at the plant and the oldest truck will be 20 years old. The dissolved oxygen equipment also requires replacement with five probes and two controllers needed. It is an



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estimated \$20,000 so it will not be in the CIP, which is \$25,000 and up, but it will need to be done very soon.

- CoGen Units: H. Hayes prepared a memo regarding natural gas purchased to run the second CoGen unit. Due to the Wastewater Plant only producing enough digester gas to keep one engine running, he is wondering if it is economically sensible to purchase gas. H. Hayes is requesting an independent engineering/economic firm to review this data and determine if running the second engine on purchased natural gas is paying for itself through the production of electricity and heat that is used for heating the digester. M. O'Neill stated the heat is utilized in the winter instead of a boiler system and the JCI contract requires both engines to be ran all year. H. Hayes motioned for an engineering firm to evaluate the situation. L. Bodenus suggested this item be placed on the next meeting agenda to allow more time for M. O'Neill to research the options and budget ramifications. H. Hayes rescinded his motion. M. Brumm motioned to add this item to next month's agenda to allow time to acquire estimates on an engineering/economic review with options from commercial entities and student engineering/finance majors, supported by H. Hayes. Approved 4-0.

BOARD COMMENT

- M. Brumm requested an update regarding the lack of agendas and meeting minutes on the City website. The Clerk's office is currently working on updating the site.
- M. Brumm gave an update regarding PFAS. Attorney General Nessel has joined a multi-state letter urging continued resources from the Federal Government to combat PFAS pollution. The Environmental Protection Agencies are working on a PFAS roadmap to help states that are not as advanced in identifying sources of PFAS and testing that needs to be done. Michigan is on record supporting this and the Biden Administration has supplied money in support. Michigan is identified in the letter as already implementing PFAS roadmap priorities including setting limits in drinking and ground water.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Reviewed by:
Mark O'Neill
Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:
Melissa Erkkila