



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 15, 2025

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:01 a.m., May 15, 2025, at the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township
Greg Elliott, Chocolay Township
Jim Compton, City of Marquette
Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette

ABSENT Brad Johnson, Chocolay Township (Chair)
Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette
George Patrick, 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 G. Elliott, supported by J. Compton, to approve the agenda. Approved 4-0.

MINUTES It was moved by G. Elliott, supported by J. Compton, to approve the April 17, 2025, meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL

- **Financial Report**

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report. M. Schlicht stated there is not a lot of changes from the last month. The biosolids project has federal money tied into the project so the City had to perform a single audit. It is going well and should be closed out the end of June. Also, it is time for the annual audit presentation for the Board. M. Schlicht stated she will schedule that for the next meeting if the Board wants that. L. Bodenus stated that would be a good idea.



OPERATIONS REPORT

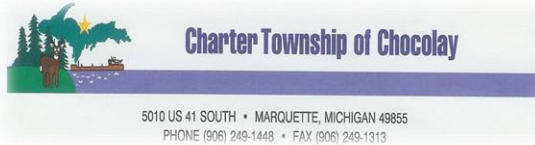
D. Johnston, City of Marquette, presented the Operations Report

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

- There were no permit violations for the month of April.

PLANT NOTES:

- We have begun to take loads of septage/FOG. We are asking the haulers to give us notice before they arrive until we are confident that the system is working the way we want it to work, as there are a few bugs that have yet to be squashed.
- Except for one day where things looked pretty dicey, spring thaw was relatively mild this year. We did not have to enlist any preventative measures to compensate for the higher Carp River level. M. O'Neill stated in previous years that when the Carp level rose, we would violate our DO due to the cascading effect. As part of the biosolids project we put in air back there and diffusers. Now the problem is gone.
- All of our site security cameras are now operational. One of the power supplies on the camera server had failed; JCI sent us two replacements, both of which I installed. The original ones have been sent back to JCI for their warranty claim.
- We are waiting for the correct security key cards to be delivered. Once set up, our site access system will be fully functional.
- Alfa Laval was on site to perform final repairs. They also performed a 5 hour proving session during which they fine-tuned the machine and gathered samples at routine intervals, all of which were tested by Jarrod for total solids content. The results have been forwarded up the chain of command.
- We tried running the new BFP the day before Alfa Laval planned to perform their tests, but we ran into an issue where the sludge feed pump would not turn on. The problem turned out to be a programming issue; some test bits were left in place that should have been removed after the last tests were performed. Once I finally found them, the system worked well.
- The plant experienced a digester foaming incident similar to the ones we experienced several years ago. For an unknown reason, Digester #1's level spiked in the middle of the night, causing foam to get into our gas collection lines. Marc, the operator who responded to the call, was able to prevent the situation from escalating to the point where the foam entered the gas conditioning system that serves the CoGen units. We spent the following day purging and cleaning all of the gas collection piping. We have been closely monitoring the situation and so far there have been no further issues.
- I replaced the overload controller for the TAS Mixing Pump. This process is very involved, due to the replacement units not having exactly the same PLC input/output mapping as the original units, which are no longer available.
- Staff replaced one of the air pressure regulator for the #4 Primary ADP.
- Staff completed annual maintenance procedures on the mixers in our Bio-P system.
- Staff replaced the actuator that controls the throttling valves on our large dual-fuel boiler.



- M. O'Neill stated we have been taking in septage and we are not seeing any impacts in our lab data.
- M. O'Neill stated one of our employees has reverted back to Public Works. We have a position open but not many applicants.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR APRIL 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	4,000	\$560.00
UPS	10,000	\$1,400.00
LS&I	40,700	\$5,698.00
WRS	33,644	\$6,055.92
Grand Totals	88,344	\$13,713.92

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

a. Solids Handling Project

M. O'Neill stated the project included having our site security to relate to the City. The same ID cards and software to track everyone coming and going. That was done but because of the gate and the traffic we will have, they used a distance proximity sensor that is different than the City. That means the city ID's we currently have will not work with the gate. They sent us the incorrect cards and we are waiting for new ones. Once these are received, we will issue them to our staff, Public Works Supervisors, sewer crew, Fire Department, Police Department, and the UPSET team. This will allow them to use their ID on our gate and all of the city doors.

M. O'Neill stated MJ VanDamme is on site today to finish the lawn touch up. They will be back in a few weeks to install the french drains.

As for the press, the gentleman that was here representing the company to commission it and get it dialed in, stated this has happened once before.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

BOARD COMMENT



Charter Township of Chocolay

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- G. Elliott extended a thank you to the City of Marquette and Mark O'Neill for the support of the MDARD grant. Chocolay Township received \$100,000 toward their sewer lining projects.
- L. Bodenus stated they went through all of their grease traps and everything looked good. There is one restaurant with grinder pumps that failed again. They have updated their pumping schedule but they are still having issues. It doesn't seem to be getting into the sewer system.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Reviewed by:
Mark O'Neill
Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:
Melissa Erkkila