



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 16, 2024

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:00 a.m., May 16, 2024, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette

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

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

MINUTES It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by G. Patrick, to approve the April 18, 2024, meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- **Financial Report:** M. O'Neill stated the electricity expense is high and natural gas expense is low due to the CoGen unit being down. Both are up and running now.

OPERATIONS REPORT

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



Charter Township of Chocolay

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PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

- **PERMIT COMPLIANCE:** We had a violation of our 7-day geometric mean fecal coliform count during the month of April. This has been attributed to a combination of weak sodium hypochlorite remaining in our bulk chemical storage tank and a leak in the chemical delivery system. This lack of potency is not uncommon during the period between ordering and receiving a bulk delivery. The timing of these problems could not have been worse. J. Compton asked the repercussions of the violation. M. O'Neill stated EGLE just wants to know what happened and how you are going to fix it, which we do. It only becomes a concern when it repeatedly occurs.

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.
- Construction on the Biosolids Handling Project continues. Most of the underground work is complete and the gravel bed of the driveway has been started. Work will begin soon on integrating some of the new equipment with the control systems. Staff facilitated the installation of a six foot long eight-inch static mixer that is made of PVC pipe into our TAS feed pipe. There are other installations/minor projects in the works for this project that require our direct cooperation and planning with the contractors.
- Kraft Power was on site to perform routine maintenance on both units.
- I have completed the physical installation of the new SCADA network fiber switches. The plan is to coordinate with the IT Department to ensure that bringing them online is as seamless as possible.
- Staff installed a replacement mixer in the #4 spot of our Reactor Basins.
- Staff dealt with repairing a failure of the automatic feed valve for the #2 Digester. This failure caused a lot of other issues with our air diaphragm pumps that mimicked an air delivery-related problem. It took many hours to find the problem and make the necessary repairs, and several attempts at correctly setting the valve up so it could run automatically again.
- After waiting months for it to arrive, we discovered that the polymer metering pump for our gravity belt thickener/belt filter press we'd ordered was incorrect. The correct pump is on its way and the incorrect one has been returned for a refund.
- The ultrasonic level transducer for the bulk sodium bisulfite tank had failed. A replacement unit has been installed.
- VanDamme has begun hauling our cake to the Kempker farm in Trenary.
- The new Charter phone line for our WIN911 alarm dialout system has been installed and is in operation.
- A representative from JCI met with Mark and I to discuss potential cost-saving changes that can be made to the way the plant's HVAC system is controlled. I performed repairs to some equipment that had failed in order to assist in this process. The changes she has made are preliminary and adjustments are expected as the weather starts to heat up.
- Staff dealt with two unplanned power outages over the last month.



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INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR APRIL 2024

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	1,500	\$250.00
UPS	5,500	\$770.00
LS&I	32,000	\$4,480.00
RMS	3,500	\$490.00
Wisconsin Electric	44,500	\$1,780.00
Marquette Vault, LLC	2,900	\$319.00
Grand Totals	89,900	\$8,089.00

MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

- Preventive Maintenance Work Orders: staff continues to perform routine maintenance tasks. We are currently keeping up with the load of PMs. I am still working to create work orders that have not been created since we began using Lucity.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling:** M. O'Neill stated the project is going well. Some of the equipment that is installed and connected to the existing MCC panels, will be testing to verify it is working with SCADA. Then staff will begin training. The buildings are all in and the underground work is done. G. Patrick asked if it was on schedule. M. O'Neill stated the original plan was completion in November, but the new MCC panels were delayed. Currently looking at December. Fencing will go in next week. Blacktop will be laid in September.
- **Fire Alarm Project:** M. O'Neill stated they are waiting for the panel cover and expecting completion by the end of the month. It has been powered up and tested.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

BOARD COMMENT

- L. Bodenus stated it may be beneficial for the three entities to work together and find someone on staff that would be interested in learning how to do programming that is



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currently being done by Dan Johnston or outsourced. M. O'Neill and B. Johnson concurred. A grease trap issue occurred last week. The business will need to update their cleaning schedule due to unforeseen excessive use. Manhole inspections are being done to confirm everything is flowing as it should.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Mark O'Neill

Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila