



Charter Township of Chocolay

5010 US 41 SOUTH • MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855
PHONE (906) 249-1448 • FAX (906) 249-1113



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES MAY 20, 2021

A regular virtual meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:03 a.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2021.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Brad Johnson, Chocolay Township (Chair)
Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township
Margaret Brumm, City of Marquette
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 L. Bodenus, that due to the unavailability of JCI representatives to participate in the Energy Savings Project discussion the agenda be amended by removing the item listed under Old Business and adding it to the June 17, 2021 meeting agenda. Approved 4-0.

MINUTES

It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by M. Brumm, to approve the April 15, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL

- Balance Sheet: As of April 30, 2021, the fiscal is 58.3% complete. The budget remains in good shape with no concerns at this time.
- Revenue Sheet: Revenue received to date is at 88.4% of the projected budget. Trucked wastewater revenue continues to remain strong.
- Expenditures: Purchased power continues to run high. M. O'Neill stated that natural gas usage will go down throughout the summer months which will help to bring the line item within budget. H. Hayse asked if the co-gen units natural gas usage was broken out from the rest of the plant. M. O'Neill stated that he believes the SCADA system has the capability to break out the co-gen usage, and that he would discuss the issue with D.



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Johnston, Facility Supervisor, and get back to the board. He also stated that one of the two co-gen units always runs on natural gas.

M. Brumm asked if the facility was fully staffed, and if the wages were in line with the budget. M. O'Neill stated the facility is fully staffed and that the budget remains consistent. The board discussed the technicality of the wastewater field, and the education requirements to become a plant operator.

It was moved by M. Brumm, supported by L. Bodenus, to accept the Financial Report as written. Approved 4-0.

SOLIDS HANDLING PROJECT

M. O'Neill stated that the project has been put out to bid, and that both the Part I and Part II SRF loan applications have been submitted to EGLE. He stated that the bids for construction will be opened later in June, and that he would provide the bid results to the board at their July meeting.

OPERATIONS REPORT MAY

- NPDES Permit Compliance: No permit violations occurred since the last board meeting.
- Staff continue to operate under the City's COVID-19 plan.
- VanDamme completed hauling cake from the facility removing 1130 cy from the facility's storage bins. Liquid biosolids will be hauled out in the coming weeks.
- Staff continues to gather wastewater samples for NMU's COVID-19 testing program.
- Staff performed repairs to both sodium hypochlorite feed lines to correct significant leaks. Additions to the PLC programming for the hypochlorite tank metering pumps were also done to provide even chemical dosage to each of the chlorine contact tanks.
- Funding for the SCADA computer/software upgrade was approved. The equipment has been ordered, and staff are coordinating with Wonderware for programming.
- One of the six dissolved oxygen probes in the aeration basins has failed. All probes and their associated controllers will need to be replaced as they have lasted nine years, much longer than the two-year life expectancy of the units. M. O'Neill described how the probes and controllers function, noting that they ramp up airflow to the aeration basins, or decrease it, depending on the load to the facility. He also stated that the cost for a probe with a controller costs approximately \$6,200. M. Brumm stated that she was impressed with the equipment's longevity, and the savings recognized from the quality of the equipment. The board discussed funding for the purchase, and longer lead times when placing orders for materials and equipment.
- Industrial Wastewater Acceptance Activity:
 - 1,400 gallons of industrial wastewater from Fabick was accepted.
 - 82,500 gallons of leachate from Wisconsin Energy was accepted.
 - 8 cy of catch basin sand from Tunnel Vision was accepted.



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- 8,400 gallons of industrial wastewater from LS&I Railroad was accepted.
- Total monthly revenue \$4,857.00

M. Brumm asked about the WE Energies leachate disposal process, and if it is known month to month how many gallons will be disposed of. M. O'Neill stated that WE Energies leachate is a consistent revenue, but varies, and originates from their fly ash landfill. He also stated that the amount of leachate dumped into the sanitary sewer per day was regulated by the Wastewater Facility.

M. O'Neill stated that the BLP will be watering down the entire inside of the South Marquette Power Plant prior to its' demolishing, and that the water used for the process will be treated at the Wastewater Facility by dumping it into the sanitary sewer.

Preventive Maintenance:

- Staff continues to work on outstanding work orders.
- Parts are on order for the repair of one of the facility's digester recirculation pumps.

NEW BUSINESS

BLP Relay:

M. O'Neill stated that the issue with the co-gen relay switch has been resolved. He stated that it was discovered that the company that installed the switch did not upgrade the generic factory settings to the detailed programming specified, resulting in the units shutting down. The board discussed the issue at length.

BOARD COMMENT

- H. Hayse stated that he modified the co-gen economic analysis by removing the BLP demand charges initially included, and that by doing so it reduced the deficit a bit, but not by much.
- M. Brumm stated she had an opportunity to speak with a local septage hauler regarding the facility's new septage receiving station, and that the gentleman was excited to hear there would be an alternate site close by. She commended M. O'Neill for the work he is doing on the project.
- B. Johnson stated Chocolay Township has completed the installation of their third grinder station with the assistance of Crane Engineering. He stated that the five remaining stations will be installed in late June or early July. He also stated that material and equipment lead times are very challenging, and that the township is experiencing lengthy delays.



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- M. O'Neill, Board Liaison, stated that he is hopeful the June board meeting can be held in person, and that once he gets word to do so, he will pass it along to the board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Mark O'Neill

Reviewed by:
Mark O'Neill
Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:
Pamela Greenleaf