



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES June 15, 2023

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 9:59 a.m., June 15, 2023, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT None

OTHERS Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette
Melissa Erkkila, City of Marquette
Michael Grentz, Anderson, Tackman & Co.

AGENDA It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by S. Hobbins to approve the agenda.
Approved 5-0.

MINUTES It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by L. Bodenus to approve the May 18, 2023, meeting minutes as written. Approved 5-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- M. Schlicht stated everything through May is as expected. Expenditures are on track. An increase in utilities as expected from the storm and the operations the plant needed to maintain. Another increase in professional/contractual due to engineering services being paid to Donohue for the CWSRF work. M. Schlicht stated she hoped to present the FY2024 budget to the board at the next meeting.
- M. Grentz presented the FY22 Audit performed by Anderson, Tackman & Company. Operationally the plant is breaking even as expected. The audit did not find anything out of the normal.



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OPERATIONS REPORT

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

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

- **PERMIT COMPLIANCE:** Multiple permit violations occurred due to the record-high influent flows the plant experienced in early May: Maximum 7-day Average Loading limits for CBOD (Carbonaceous Biological Oxygen Demand) and Total Solids were exceeded, as well as daily Dissolved Oxygen and Total Phosphorus limits for one day each.

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.
- Routine maintenance was completed on both CoGen units. We are currently working with Kraft to diagnose and repair an intermittent current level control issue with one of the units.
- Supervisor continues to attempt to correct the issues with our WIN911 dialer's phone line.
- Staff emptied, cleaned, inspected and put back into service both Chlorine Contact Tanks.
- Staff replaced the diaphragm on one of our Primary Sludge Air Diaphragm Pumps.
- Two of the power supplies for the control system of one of our main motor control centers failed. Supervisor installed our spare power supply and ordered two replacement power supplies.
- Staff completed cleaning and inspection of the #2 Primary Clarifier. The tank's hopper had filled with sand that had been brought in as a result of the high flows from the spring melt. We plan to empty, clean and inspect the three remaining Primary Clarifiers in the near future.
- Staff dealt with polymer metering pumping issues that appear to have been caused by a barrel of polymer that had gone bad.
- The City's IT Department has begun configuring the new network switches for the WWTP and SCADA Network.
- Supervisor replaced the motor protection device for our Primary Clarifiers 1 & 2 Drive.
- Supervisor corrected programming issues that had been preventing proper operation of our Thickened Activated Sludge Air Diaphragm Pump (TAS ADP).
- VanDamme completed cleaning out of our biosolids cake storage bins. Biosolids were hauled to the Kempker farm where they were distributed on their fields. A total of 1100 cubic yards were hauled.
- The setup of the fire department's on-site Knox Box has been completed. It allows them secure and complete access to our facility.
- A replacement VFD/Control Panel cooling fan is on order for our #1 Aeration Blower.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR MAY 2023

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	2,700	\$378.00
UPS	5,500	\$770.00
LS&I	63,800	\$8,932.00



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Wisconsin Electric

149,500

\$5,980.00

Grand Totals

221,500

\$16,060.00

MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

- Preventive Maintenance Work Orders: staff continues to perform routine maintenance tasks. I continue to create work orders that have not been created since we began using Lucy.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling:** M. O'Neill stated Miron's superintendent is now on-site full-time. B&B Electrical is here as well. A company from Missouri will be coming to perform concrete form foundation work in mid-July. Miron is also working on a plan and permit for necessary dewatering work. J. Compton asked where the discharge will be located and suggested it be onto a wetland rather than the river. M. O'Neill stated the Engineer is working on the plan and he will update the Board at the next meeting. Van Damme will be on site to remove trees and fencing soon.
- **Fire Alarm Project:** S&T Electric have the conduit in place. They are still waiting on the two main panels which are on back order.
- **Budget:** M. O'Neill stated the budget should be very similar to the current budget. The only expense being looked at is a riding lawn mower. B. Johnson asked about the unit rate. M. Schlicht stated that is based upon flow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mickey Brumm, 404 E. Magnetic St., presented the board with a PFOS remediation project being conducted at Northern Michigan University. M. Brumm stated Dr. Putman has been growing hemp in PFOS in their laboratory and found that the hemp does remove PFOS from soil into the stem and leaves. They are now preparing to grow hemp in PFOS outside at the NMU farm located at the Jacobetti Center. A team came in and set up nine above ground planters and soil. Three types of hemp, one for each planter in each series will be grown. The first series will include growing hemp outside in regular soil. The second series will include leachate from the landfill used to water the plants. All drain off will be collected to measure how much was absorbed by the soil, absorbed by the plant, and drained off. The third series will include cake solid from the wastewater plant with PFOS in the cake and in the water. Currently, NMU is working on submitting for an Industrial Hemp Growing License, which is required by the State of Michigan. The goal is to plant the seeds, currently germinating, once the license is received and begin collecting samples. NMU staff will be responsible for analyzing the hemp plants to determine where in the plant the PFOS is being absorbed. However, PFOS testing must go to a state certified laboratory which NMU is not. They have the equipment but have not been through the process to be certified. Each test is \$375.00 per sample. M. Brumm



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stated she has reached out to the City of Marquette and Marquette County to work together on funding, accepting of donations and an accounting program so the Wastewater Treatment Plant can send the samples to the state laboratory and pay the testing fees. The goal of the project is to provide an alternative to the activated carbon for the landfill. Activated carbon is very expensive to install and maintain, which increases tipping fees. This places a burden on taxpayers to maintain PFOS removal. The landfill has been given a five-year window to put something into place and we are already into our second year. The timing of this program requires real data to be generated immediately. S. Hobbins asked what the cost of NMU's lab certification would be. It may be financially beneficial in the long term to certify the lab now and run the testing through their lab. M. Brumm stated there is paperwork and timing involved but she would look into it. S. Hobbins also asked if the state gave any indication of if they would accept this alternative in the near future. M. Brumm stated the state is excited about the project and looks forward to hearing about the results at the fall conference. They are looking for alternative ways to remove PFOS without bankrupting smaller landfills. However, the approved process is still only activated carbon.

BOARD COMMENT

- J. Compton stated he had someone look at Chocolay's manholes along US41 and they looked good. There are three in the City along US41 that is in the ditch. He reached out to MDOT and Public Works. Public Works will raise the castings and then seal the castings to the concrete in the manhole. They will then put topsoil around them and reroute the ditch. It will definitely help with infiltration.
- L. Bodenus stated they have been checking manholes for water infiltration issues as well. They did find one in the Cedarville area. They dug it up, sealed it on the outside and rerouted it. L. Bodenus stated he presented the MAWTAB report to the City Commission last week. It went well and there were a lot of comments from the Commission regarding the fine job M. O'Neill and his staff do down here.
- S. Hobbins stated L. Bodenus did a nice job on the presentation.
- B. Johnson stated he appreciated L. Bodenus stepping in and presenting to the Commission on his behalf. He also stated Chocolay Township did finish their televising and found areas that need work, including cracked and damaged piping. These will be addressed immediately.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.



Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila