



**MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 19, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:00 a.m., June 19, 2025, at the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township
Chris Lucas, Chocolay Township
Joe Neumann, Chocolay Township
Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette
George Patrick, City of Marquette

ABSENT Jim Compton, City of Marquette

OTHERS Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette
Melissa Erkkila, City of Marquette
Dan Johnston, City of Marquette
Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette
Anne McIlhagga, City of Marquette
Mike Grentz, Anderson, Tackman & Company PLC

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

MINUTES It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by L. Bodenus, to approve the May 15, 2025, meeting minutes as written. Approved 5-0.

FINANCIAL

• **FY24 Audit Report**

M. Grentz, Anderson, Tackman & Company PLC, presented the FY24 Audit Report. M. Grentz stated page 3 is the opinion with an unmodified opinion which means you complied with all acceptable accounting principles. Page 10 and 11 shows at the end of the year you added 6.4 million dollars to the bottom line, but 5.7 million dollars was grant proceeds used to buy capitol assets. That is an asset that is depreciated over the life of the asset. That raises the number significantly. If we look at an operating standpoint, the facility lost about \$623,000. This is not bad considering the depreciation side and how



much was paid by grants which offsets everything. Page 10, long term liabilities, the post-employment benefits are at \$112,000 which is not bad. The net pension liability is 1.5 million. Both numbers are going down which is good. M. Greutz stated he doesn't see anything strange or any problems. J. Neumann asked about the SRF bond that is being paid and if there is an end date. M. Greutz stated this can be viewed on page 24. There are two bonds for about 9.2 million and they will end in 2059.

- **Financial Report**

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report. M. Schlicht stated the benefit of having a quick review of the Annual Report is because we do take our time with monthly updates so there are no surprises. Included in there is the statement of revenue and expenditures. This is as of May 31st. Again, another quiet month. We are starting to see things wrap up with the Biosolids Project. Now that it is coming online, we are also starting to see some revenue generated.

- **FY26 Budget**

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, requested everyone to look at the Budget Report included in the agenda packet with calculations as of 3/31/2025. These are provided for you to take back to your Boards for review. This is our proposal for the next fiscal year. A few changes include a plow truck purchase; the expenditures are over estimated but a conservative amount as well as an underestimated revenue amount. M. O'Neill stated the plow truck is replacing a 20-year-old truck. Every ten years we buy a plow truck, run it hard for ten years, then it is transferred down to our third vehicle. It gets a lot of use in the summertime, hauling generators, and a backup plow truck. During the winter it is used as a plow truck for the Water Plant, and they pay rent to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is a scheduled $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck outfitted with a plow and a crane to pull pumps. Marquette Township has the same lift and it can pull about 1,000 lbs. M. O'Neill stated he increased the chemicals due to a new chemical, ferric chloride, which is needed with the new project. We are going through more than we expected. There were also two incidents where the BioP shut down and we needed to provide a backup chemical to make permit until the issue was fixed. That chemical is \$16,000 a load. The chemical line item is a worst-case scenario. The power, natural gas, and generator maintenance are dependent on how much the generators are running. If the generators are not running, this is worst case scenario for power. If the generators are running all year long, this is the worst case scenario for natural gas and maintenance. The maintenance includes standard maintenance and a complete rebuild of both units. M. Schlicht stated these calculations are used to calculate the per unit rate. The expenditures are being covered by the revenues contributed from the partners. The last page of the budget report is an estimate of the per unit rate. We are looking at an increase with a per unit rate of \$3.026 per KGAL. As any of these expenditure budgets change, that will also change the per unit rate marginally unless it is one of the noted costs on the bottom right of the page. These are demand charges which are going to be broken out based on the ownership percentage. M. Schlicht asked the townships to please bring this information to your Boards and ask any questions so we can approve it at the next meeting and to the Commission before their August meeting. S. Hobbins stated



that the previous Chocolay Township Manager had stressed upon the City of Marquette to present the next fiscal year budget with enough time for the townships to bring it to their Boards before the approval. This is why you are seeing it presented this way. It is a nice courtesy to make sure the boards have a chance to look at it before approval and it gives them information for their own budgets. M. O'Neill stated if you have any questions, please feel free to contact him or Mary.

OPERATIONS REPORT

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

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

- **PERMIT COMPLIANCE:** There were no permit violations for the month of May.

PLANT NOTES:

- We continue to accept loads of septage/FOG. The system is working as designed, so far.
- VanDamme completed hauling all of our biosolids cake to the Kempker farms in Trenary. A total of 1365 cubic yards were hauled.
- VanDamme has also begun to haul liquid biosolids from our #1 Storage Tank. This process should take the rest of the summer to complete.
- Contractors are scheduled to be on site to install a modified hopper for the end of the new belt filter press to catch the cake that comes off the rollers.
- We are waiting to hear from the manufacturer of the new belt filter press regarding the next step in achieving their promised cake dry solids results. The first attempt failed, and they are required to reach their target or else. They are committed to reach 16%.
- We are waiting for an estimate for repair of coolant piping for both CoGen units. We are currently able to run one of the units.
- The correct access cards for the new site security system have arrived. We are waiting to be granted access to the city's security server so we can proceed to fully set up our system.
- I replaced the overload unit that protects the Wash and Press portion of our influent step screen. The failure of this unit prevented the step screen from running, which in turn caused the flow into the plant to start to back up as the step screen became clogged with debris.
- We are waiting for another overload unit to arrive, with the intent of using it to replace the failed unit that protects the boiler pump for the #1 Admin Area boiler.
- I continue to find and make minor corrections and improvements to the new SCADA system program application.



INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR MAY 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	3,500	\$490.00
UPS	5,500	\$770.00
LS&I	14,800	\$2,072.00
Wisconsin Electric	89,000	\$3,560.00
Grand Totals	112,800	\$6,892.00

SEPTAGE ACTIVITY FOR MAY 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Carey/Sodergren	49,279	\$8,870.22
North Country	72,996	\$13,139.28
Stenberg	8,717	\$1,569.06
Grand Totals	130,992	\$23,578.56

NEW BUSINESS

- **Chapter Chair Election**

C. Lucas stated he would be happy to do it with assistance. C. Lucas moved to elect himself, Chris Lucas, as the new Chapter Chair for MAWTAB, supported by L. Bodenus. Approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling Project**

M. O'Neill stated we have a few minor items. The belt press is in the manufacturers' court, grass growing, and we took care of a few punch out issues. We should be closing the project out soon. We still have \$539,000 left in the contingency fund so that should be rolled back into our reserve funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None



Charter Township of Chocolay

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BOARD COMMENT

- G. Patrick asked about the cost of fixing the cooling pipes on the CoGen units. M. O'Neill stated we are still waiting for the quote from Prime. Excess heat in the summer months requires a radiator of sorts. Four pieces of piping going to that were insulated and moisture got into the insulation and rotted the pipes.
- S. Hobbins welcomed Chris and Joe from Chocolay Township.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.



Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila