



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES June 20, 2024

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:00 a.m., June 20, 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
Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette

ABSENT None

OTHERS Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette
Melissa Erkkila, City of Marquette
Dan Johnston, City of Marquette
Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette

AGENDA It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by G. Patrick, to approve the agenda as written. Approved 5-0.

MINUTES It was moved by J. Compton, supported by L. Bodenus, to approve the May 16, 2024, meeting minutes as written. Approved 5-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- **Financial Report:** M. Schlicht stated there is nothing unexpected in the report. The yearly audit report presentation and budget will hopefully be presented at the next meeting. The only budget item that will not be completed is the debt service payment for the biosolids construction project. Once the project is completed, that will be calculated with a possible budget amendment. Cash flows are fine and project reimbursements are being processed quickly. M. O'Neill stated the two new buildings will create an estimated projection of expenses, however there will be additional revenue. J. Compton asked what the projected



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revenue is being considered. M. O'Neill stated he will likely budget \$50,000 but is expecting around \$100,000. This is based off of what the Ishpeming Wastewater Plant revenue is currently taking in and it is expected that our plant will be able to take more products and amount of product that Ishpeming is unable to take.

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:

- 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. B. Johnson asked how long this will continue. D. Johnston stated NMU has a grant into next year.
- The Biosolids Handling Project continues. We continue to work closely with the contractors to ensure the impact to operation of the plant is minimized. So far there have been no major issues.
- The mixing pump on our total phosphorus meter was replaced. The meter is once again producing accurate results.
- The new polymer metering pump for our GBT/BFP arrived. We will not go through the messy work of installing it until it is necessary to do so.
- Students from MSU and MTU were on site to evaluate our energy usage. This is due to a working relationship with the state colleges to assist students in their studies. It was not commissioned and there is no obligation. They did find a couple of leaking air lines with their equipment which was beneficial. Their report is forthcoming.
- I replaced another failed MotorSaver unit. This one was for our Primary Clarifier 3 & 4 drive motor. When it failed, staff had to put the #1 Primary Clarifier back into service as an actual primary clarifier (it is normally used as an equalization tank for the BFP and bunker decant pump station).
- Staff replaced a failed temperature probe on one of the CoGen units.
- We completed a round of W.E.T. (Whole Effluent Toxicity) testing. There were some issues with shipping of the samples to the lab, but we were able to navigate them successfully.
- The new fire alarm system installation has been completed. It will be put into operation after training has been completed.
- Staff replaced a bad coupling on the BFP/GBT's water booster pump.
- I diagnosed a bad temperature probe for the Admin Area's air handling unit. The bad sensor was preventing the AC from coming on.



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INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR MAY 2024

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	1,600	\$250.00
UPS	4,500	\$630.00
LS&I	5,500	\$770.00
Wisconsin Electric	19,000	\$760.00
Grand Totals	30,600	\$2,410.00

MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

- Preventive Maintenance Work Orders: staff continues to perform routine maintenance tasks.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling:** M. O'Neill stated the project has been very busy.
 - They are doing final grading, putting topsoil down, will be seeding, installing fencing and a new gate soon.
 - The EQ pump has been started up and was working fine but then the VFD began acting up. They have determined the pump is working properly, the wiring is correct, the VFD is the issue. Miron will work at getting the technicians back to address the issue.
 - The lift station for the vactor pad was started and worked flawlessly. This was upsized because the water coming from the new solids handling building is flowing through there and will be a great benefit to the plant.
 - The new ferric system will be started next week, then we will begin adding ferric to our digesters. We expect the benefits to begin in a month or two. B. Johnson asked what type of benefits. M. O'Neill stated that staff will be cutting down on H₂S gas in the digester, maybe to the point where we no longer have to treat it before we burn it in the biogas. He also believes it is going to bind up the phosphorus in the solids instead of having it in the water coming off the press. When that happens we have to treat it as it goes through the plant. It is also supposed to help make dryer cake when we run the belt press which means less water to haul.
 - They are closer to putting aeration to the contact tanks so we will have the ability to add oxygen to the back of the plant if we have low ODO's.
 - There were two small change orders. One pertained to the vactor pad lift station. The concrete pad was not where the drawings said they were. The cheapest fix was to pour a new pad over the existing one. The second pertained to the EQ pump control panel. It is supposed to be inside in an explosive class 3 area, but



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the panel is not built for that. Our options were to move the panel outside for \$2,500 or get a new panel fitted for the area at the price of \$10,000. It was decided to put it outside. B. Johnson asked what the panel does. M. O'Neill stated it is a localized control to control the pump with the hatch open.

- **Fire Alarm Project:** M. O'Neill stated we passed the County's final inspection. Donohue's inspection found two devices missing. Once they are installed, we will release the final retainage. It is functional and working. Staff will be trained soon. A fire drill will be scheduled with the Fire Department and the Fire Marshall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

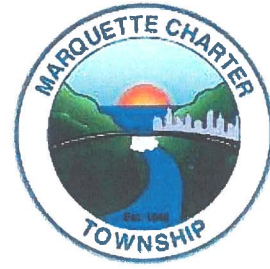
BOARD COMMENT

- G. Patrick stated he received a letter from Harold Hayes regarding the plants CoGen units. He stated he read the letter and asked if the plant will lose 2.7 million dollars as it suggests. M. O'Neill stated if the engines are not ran, we are still required to pay for them. JCI is meeting the obligation of their contract. The energy savings covers the costs of maintenance, natural gas, and gas scrubbing system. At this time, it does not cover the TELP payment. G. Patrick asked who they are leased from. M. O'Neill stated that it is not leased, it is purchased. TELP Lease Fund is a name for a special type of bonding that does not count against your overall debt capacity. G. Patrick stated he worked with NMU's Ripley Plant biomass upgrade and it did not work. The wood chips and maintenance was too expensive. G. Patrick stated he doesn't think JCI ever comes through with a guarantee. B. Johnson stated that this discussion is at the Manager's level. J. Compton stated that the JCI project is very complex and to dissect a small part of it makes it more complex. JCI did a huge contractual work item and these CoGen's are a small part of it. G. Patrick asked if this was part of the 25 million dollar upgrade a few years ago. M. O'Neill confirmed that was correct and stated the 25 million dollar fee for this contract was then divided amongst the departments according to where the money was spent, hence the TELP payment.
- J. Compton announced he is retiring October 1st and assumes his position on the board becomes open. S. Hobbins stated J. Compton was appointed as a city resident and is welcome to stay. J. Compton said he would like to continue.
- M. O'Neill asked if we could move next month's meeting a week later to July 25th. The board agreed and a PSA will be sent out.
- B. Johnson congratulated J. Compton on his retirement.



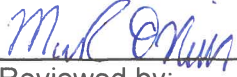
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CLAYTON: 1997-1998, 2000-2001, 2003-2004, 2006-2007, 2009-2010



ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.



Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila