



**MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 17, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:00 a.m., July 17, 2025, at the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Chris Lucas, 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
Dan Johnston, City of Marquette
Karla Kramer, City of Marquette
Margaret Brumm, Resident

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

MINUTES It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by G. Patrick, to approve the May 15, 2025, meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL

- **Financial Report**

M. O'Neill, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report. M. O'Neill stated M. Schlicht submitted the June Financial Report. Everything looks to be status quo thus far. M. O'Neill asked if there were any questions and stated Mary is available if needed.

OPERATIONS REPORT

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

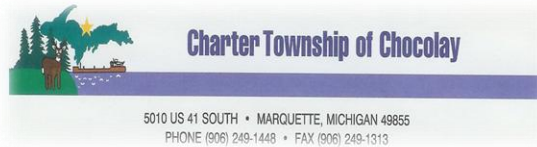


PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

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

PLANT NOTES:

- Alfa Laval sent a rep to correct wiring issues I had found in the unit's control panel, and to perform some test runs of the BFP in an effort to reach their proposed total solids target of 16%. After three days of testing, they had one result that reached 15.7%. A summary of the results have been forwarded up the chain of command. J. Compton asked what the company is saying to explain themselves. D. Johnston said a lot of it has to do with the type of plant we have with the BioP section. M. O'Neill stated Donohue believes we can reach the goal of 16% and wanted it as a guarantee. They were able to take the polymer and replicate in the lab and reach 16% but they haven't been able to do that. M. O'Neill stated it the BioP makes it harder to dewater. The staff hoped by adding ferric we would see an increase but that has not happened. The current belt filer press generally provides 12% - 13% and 14% on a good day. We can see the difference on the new press after their visit. It is dryer and stacks better but still not 16%. They may try a different polymer, which is free testing for us. We are going to request a 60 day extension on the project to allow them to do that. D. Johnston stated our staff ran the press this week and took samples. Those results came back at 16.2% with no changes. The properties of the sludge can change quickly so we will be constantly testing results. While Alfa Laval was here, one of our staff shadowed him and we learned more about a belt press than we had ever known before. That was very helpful.
- The level transducer for the plant's Filtrate Well failed. Staff installed a new one.
- Swipe/access cards for the WRS' dump station have been set up and distributed to the septage haulers. This greatly simplifies tracking of the loads.
- One of the two sump pumps in the plant's RAS Room has failed. A new pump has been ordered.
- Repair parts have arrived for the washwater booster pump that serves our GBT. The pump is still operational, but it is starting to sound noisy. Having parts on hand will prevent excessive downtime when the repairs are needed.
- We are waiting on word from JCI regarding the failed camera server and one failed camera, as well as the completion of the setup for the entrance gate.
- Staff repaired a failed fitting between the bulk sodium hypochlorite tank and one of the metering pumps. They also manually pumped the hundreds of gallons of product that had leaked into the containment area back into the bulk tank.
- The plant's Metasys system that controls our HVAC equipment stopped communicating. Seth from JCI spent several hours tracking down an interface module that was causing issues with the network loop.



INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR JUNE 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	4,000	\$560.00
LS&I	8,500	\$1,190.00
Wisconsin Electric	8,000	\$320.00
Grand Totals	20,500	\$2,070.00

SEPTAGE ACTIVITY FOR JUNE 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Carey/Sodergren	43,795	\$7,883.10
North Country	80,256	\$14,446.08
Stenberg	25,011	\$4,501.98
Grand Totals	149,062	\$26,831.16

NEW BUSINESS

- **FY26 Budget**

M. O’Neill stated at the last meeting we submitted the proposed FY26 budget so everyone could ask questions and discuss it with their Board. M. Schlicht would like an approval of the budget from the Board before it is proposed to the Commission. It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by G. Patrick, to approve the FY26 Budget. Approved 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling Project**

M. O’Neill stated we are down to issues with the belt press and the security system. We have a camera that failed, issues with the gate and now the server that records everything from our camera has died. All of these things are under warranty. JCI ran some diagnostics and ordered a new server. They will try a few other things on the camera and will order one if needed. The grass is slowly growing finally. The septage receiving station is working great.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Margaret Brumm at 404 E. Magnetic Street. M. Brumm stated she is here to provide observations and submit requests. She is part of the City’s cigarette butt recycle



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program. While visiting the Municipal Service Center yesterday, the parking lot on the left side was thick with cigarette butts. This is generally where staff park. There is also a vehicle charging in the parking lot and a loose cord was strewn across the sidewalk which is a hazard. The cigarette butts are an ongoing issue. M. Brumm said she will be talking to the City that they emphasize to employees that cigarette butts do not belong on the ground. She basically filled half of a coffee can. M. Brumm also requested that we look for a type of netting on our storm sewers designed to take solids out of the storm sewers before it enters the Lake. While working with Superior Watershed on the beach last week, the beach was clean but the water line had about half of a coffee can of cigarette butts coming in from the Lake. This is a hazard to our drinking water because it could cause nicotine poisoning. M. Brumm stated that she read a recent report about our grease trap inspections and a restaurant that is still an issue. It is great that we are keeping tabs on this. She stated that being on this Board is a thankless job. She encourages the Board to do more Public Service Announcements regarding the grease trap inspections and the ability of the plant to take in septic tank sewage. This will notify the community of the work being done here. As an example, M. Brumm is on the BLP Board and they are putting up a second interconnection on M553. A postman stopped her and asked her what was going on. It would help if there was more positive Public Service Announcements to inform the public. For an example, she is sure that many people don't know that septage can be handled here. This is important because the number one cause of contaminated water in inland lakes is malfunctioning septic tanks. There is no law in Michigan that once a septic tank is installed it needs to be inspected. This plant contributes a huge amount of municipal funding and has had a huge productive expansion. When \$26,000 of income on a monthly bases for septage is coming in, this is substantial. M. Brumm asked if the plant is testing for PFAS. M. O'Neill stated once a year in biosolids and three times a year at the plant. M. Brumm thanked the Board for their service.

BOARD COMMENT

- None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila