



Charter Township of Chocolay

5010 US 41 SOUTH • MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855
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MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES July 20, 2023

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:01 a.m., July 20, 2023, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT George Patrick, City of Marquette
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

AGENDA It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by S. Hobbins to approve the agenda. Approved 3-0.

MINUTES It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by S. Hobbins to approve the June 15, 2023, meeting minutes as written. Approved 3-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- **Financial Report:** M. Schlicht stated everything is as expected. We are currently sitting at 2 million in revenue and 2.8 in expenditures. Revenue is through May and expenditures is through late June. M. Schlicht stated she has been working with M. O'Neill on the new bond project.
- **FY24 Budget Presentation:** M. Schlicht presented the FY24 budget. It is status quo, with no big changes. We are looking at approving revenue and expenditures at 4.785 million dollars. This will be presented to the Commission for their approval at the end of next month. M. O'Neill stated the only big change is for hauling biosolids which increased 30% this year. We do not have a contract in place for FY24; the staff is still looking at other options. M. O'Neill stated the high fuel usage in the FY23 budget is due to the diesel fuel



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used in the pumps during the wet weather event. B. Johnson asked about the unit rate. M. Schlicht stated that they estimated expenditures at 2.6 million with an estimated flow of 1.7 billion which calculates to a flow rate of 2.421. FY23 is at 2.204 and FY22 was at 2.067. B. Johnson asked if the flow rate needs to be approved by the Board or Commission. M. O'Neill stated the Commission does not approve the flow rate, only the budget. However, the Board also needs to approve the budget before it is presented to the Commission. It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by L. Bodenus to approve the FY24 budget. Approved 3-0

OPERATIONS REPORT

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

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

- PERMIT COMPLIANCE: No permit violations occurred during the month of June.

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.
- The Solids Handling Improvement Project has been gradually ramping up in its intensity over the last few weeks. So far there have not been any serious issues from an operational standpoint. We are doing our best to work with the contractors, and they are doing the same.
- Staff cleaned the sand that had accumulated in the hopper of the #2 Primary Clarifier, with an assist from the DPW's sewer crew and their vacuor truck. We are in the process of evaluating the status of the equipment in the tank and making any repairs necessary before its re-activation.
- The IT Department is nearly finished with setting up the new fiber switches for our SCADA network. The switches will replace old equipment within our facility, as well as outside at our lift stations.
- We are in the process of setting up our liquid biosolids loading station. We are currently waiting for the installation of an adaptor for the discharge pipe so VanDamme can connect to it with their tractor/pump.
- We experienced an overflow/spill event with our sodium bisulfite bulk storage tank. Each bulk load order must be made about two weeks in advance, and the timing must be perfect to ensure we don't run out before the shipment arrives, and that when it *does* arrive that we have enough room in the tank. The tanks are 4200 gallons each with a typical load being 4000 gallons, and it is very expensive to send any back if we don't have the space in the tanks. It turns out the indicated level was off by about 500 gallons, so the tank overflowed. All chemical spilled was contained within the containment area, as per design. Specialists were called in to safely pump the spilled material into 55-gallon drums to be stored until it can be used in a normal fashion. As a result, we have developed a new procedure that will help ensure this does not happen again.
- Something came through the plant July 3rd that killed some of our bugs used to remove phosphorus. The activity in the regular population is down but treatment is still good except for phosphorus. Staff began using chemical as a backup, which takes a while to take



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effect. This may cause a permit violation this month. This is the third time this has happened in fifteen years.

- CoGen unit #2 is scheduled to have a top end rebuild next week. The unit recently backfired and may have done more damage. There is money in the budget to perform the repairs needed.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR JUNE 2023

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Wisconsin Electric	52,500	\$2,100.00
Grand Totals	52,500	\$2,100.00

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 Lucity.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Rules of Procedure:** B. Johnson stated he requested this to be drafted to put some rules into place for the meetings similar to Commission procedures. S. Hobbins stated he fully supports this procedure. L. Bodenus stated it looks standard and he likes it. It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by S. Hobbins to adopt the Rules of Procedure. Approved 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling:** M. O'Neill stated things have been very busy. They have grubbed out the area where the two buildings are going. They are ready to begin digging for the septage receiving station. Parking is at a premium with the employees and workers. Miron has been great to work with. M. O'Neill stated the AT&T line coming into the plant will be removed because it is in the way and a cellular modem is in place for all the emergency call outs. The dewatering plan is in place and waiting for final approval. They will then begin digging there. The vector pad is out of operation while it is being modified. If an emergency arises, there is a spot in the cake storage area that can be used.
- **Fire Alarm Project:** S&T Electric have the conduit in place and the sprinkler boxes. They still need to run wiring and install the electrical panels.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD COMMENT

- B. Johnson stated he appreciated M. Erkkila putting together the Rules of Procedure for the Board.

ADJOURNMENT



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

Mark O'Neill

Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila