



**MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:02 a.m., August 21, 2025, at the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT Chris Lucas, Chocolay Township (Chair)
Jim Compton, City of Marquette

OTHERS Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette
Dan Johnston, City of Marquette
Karla Kramer, City of Marquette
Melissa Erkkila, City of Marquette

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

MINUTES It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by J. Neumann, to approve the July 17, 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 July 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

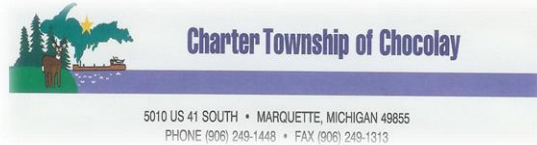


PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

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

PLANT NOTES:

- The Waste Receiving Station continues to function smoothly. We've picked up two more haulers, for a total of five so far. G. Patrick asked who the new haulers are. D. Johnston stated A-1 Toilets and Hamel. Both are small outfits that like the availability of dumping when working in the area.
- Staff replaced the bearings and mechanical seal in the water booster pump for our GBT. We encountered many problems during this process, but we came together and managed to complete the repairs. The GBT cannot be run without this pump, so we definitely felt the pressure to succeed. G. Patrick asked how big and expensive the pump is. D. Johnston stated it would cost approximately \$3,000 to replace and it is a standard pump with availability. The seals arrived in a week.
- I replaced the actuator for the metering valve that controls the temperature of our digesters.
- Staff discovered the #2 bunker sump pump was plugged. Thanks to the improvements we suggested during the installation of these pumps as part of the solids handling project, we were able to flush it out and get it back into service with relative ease.
- Staff discovered and repaired two cracks in the high pressure FEW lines in the plant. We were able to perform the repairs without having to shut the system down entirely.
- Staff replaced a broken shear pin for the #3 & #4 primary clarifier drive. There was nothing wrong with the drive itself, the pin had become weak due to corrosion.
- The small dual fuel boiler would not come on when commanded. I traced the problem to a faulty output from the PLC. I was able to re-land the wires to the boiler on a different output of the PLC, and I re-programmed the PLC to correctly route the call-to-run signal to the boiler.
- Staff discovered the #2 filtrate pump would not run and was having frequent "pump fail" alarms. I found the E777 overload unit was faulty. I replaced the unit, but these replacement units require programming changes to make them compatible with our control system. These changes take several hours to complete, and if the changes are not made, the equipment will not operate. I have a box full of these units that have failed over the years, and depending on where we get them they cost between \$700 and \$900+ each...it would be nice to find an alternative. G. Patrick asked if D. Johnston had any alternative recommendations. D. Johnston stated the communication network with our MCC panels is called Device Net. There are more updated ways of doing it but the upgrade would cost over \$100,000. We are trying to limp it along until this can be done. The technology is from the last upgrade in 2008.



INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR JULY 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	2,000	\$280.00
LS&I	8,700	\$1,218.00
Wisconsin Electric	37,000	\$1,480.00
Grand Totals	47,700	\$2,978.00

SEPTAGE ACTIVITY FOR JULY 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Carey/Sodergren	26,859	\$4,834.62
North Country	56,374	\$10,147.32
Stenberg	18,394	\$3,310.92
Grand Totals	101,627	\$18,292.86

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling Project**

M. O'Neill stated the belt press manufacturer is sending a polymer company to address the belt press not meeting the guaranteed 16%. We are also waiting on JCI to address the gate, site security camera and server. Otherwise, everything is working good.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

BOARD COMMENT

- None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Reviewed by:
 Mark O'Neill
 Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:
 Melissa Erkkila
