



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES August 24, 2023

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:01 a.m., August 24, 2023, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Brad Johnson, Chocolay Township (Chair)
Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township
George Patrick, City of Marquette
Jim Compton, City of Marquette

ABSENT Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette

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

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

MINUTES It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by B. Johnson to approve the July 20, 2023, meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

M. O'Neill, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report.

- **Financial Report:** M. O'Neill stated the financial report is standard. No questions were expressed by the Board.

OPERATIONS REPORT

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

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

- **PERMIT COMPLIANCE:** We violated our total phosphorus permit limit for the month of July. We experienced a loss of biolife in our Bio-P Reactor Basins, which in turn greatly



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affected our phosphorus removal abilities. It is assumed something came through the plant to cause this. We are slowly regaining our ability to biologically remove total-P.

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.
- Staff continue to work with the contractors assigned to the Biosolids Handling Project. Excavation for the new septage receiving building has begun. Installation of the rigid inclusions that will make up the support for the foundation of the new belt filter press/biosolids storage building is nearly completed. The pouring of the footings for the new belt filter press building began this week. The coordination and scheduling of events between our staff and the contractors continues to be relatively smooth and manageable.
- Staff from Kraft Power were on site to perform regular service to our #1 unit and plan to be here to perform an in-frame overhaul on the #2 unit the week of August 21st.
- Staff completed the inspection and repairs of the #2 Primary Clarifier.
- Staff completed draining/cleaning/inspection of the #2 Secondary Clarifier.
- Staff completed draining/cleaning/inspection and repairs to the #1 Aeration Basin. We are in the process of doing the same to the #2 Aeration Basin.
- I.T. staff assisted the supervisor in obtaining a cellular base station to take the place of the copper phone lines that were being used by our WIN911 alarm dialing system. The copper lines (Plain Old Telephone Service, or POTS lines) are becoming obsolete and the phone companies do not make maintaining them a priority. The performance of our POTS circuit was so bad that the system was barely functioning. Since the biosolids improvement project necessitated the removal of the old copper lines, this was the simplest alternative. The new cellular station works great; the dulcet tones of the WIN911 software's computerized voice has never sounded so good.
- The I.T. department was successful in obtaining a license for the software that runs our SCADA network's data server. I plan to try to get the system up and running as soon as time permits.
- Staff completed annual maintenance on all the mixers in our Bio-P tanks.
- VanDamme hauled 760 cubic yards of our biosolids cake to the Kempker farm last week.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR JULY 2023

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	2,800	\$392.00
UPS	4,200	\$588.00
LS&I	8,400	\$1,176.00
Wisconsin Electric	35,000	\$1,400.00
Grand Totals	50,400	\$3,556.00

- G. Patrick asked if the industrial wastewater is trucked here. M. O'Neill stated that all but Wisconsin Electric is trucked to the site. WE hauls to a spot on their site and drop directly into the sanitary sewer. This is preferable because it then becomes blended on the way to the plant. There is a meter at that location to provide us with the volume. B. Johnson was interested in finding out if that meter is calibrated and how often.



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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 Lucy.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling:** M. O'Neill stated the contractors found a large amount of concrete in the excavation site. Twelve drying beds were placed there in the 50's and the river was rerouted. From the 1950's to the late 1970's, a large amount of biosolids was deposited in that channel. This was also previously found during the excavation in the 2008 project and the new sludge storage tank installation. The Geotech report did now state this because they unknowingly probed around the concrete pillars. All of the material had to be removed and clean sand was brought in. This was a two-week process and is being paid with the contingency fund in the estimated amount of \$130,000. The work was done immediately because the rigid inclusion contractor coming from St. Louis were arriving soon. This contractor is drilling an estimated 50 feet and inserting concrete to make pillars for the buildings. An estimated 275 pillars are being installed. The solids handling building pillars are completed and Miron has begun working on the footings. The goal is to get the buildings up before the snow flies. This will allow the electrical and piping work to be conducted during the winter months. New natural gas lines are in. A prefab building was ordered by Miron for the cake storage building. Unfortunately, it was not according to spec and the building requires new footings in the pad that require more rebar. That is on order and Miron's responsibility.
- **Fire Alarm Project:** No updates currently.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

BOARD COMMENT

- L. Bodenus stated they are still conducting manhole inspections. One bad manhole was found in the Cedarville area where the creeks begin. It was dug up and sealed. The City is having a company come to the area to line manholes late September. The Township may have a couple sealed. OHM conducted a sewer capacity analysis for the Township. There may be potential significant developments coming in the future so the increase in flow will be watched.
- B. Johnson stated they started their annual sewer cleaning. The Reservation lift station now has power and electricity. They are waiting on Crane to conduct start up and then they will begin tying in houses.



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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Mark O'Neill

Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila