



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES September 19, 2024

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:02 a.m., September 19, 2024, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT Jim Compton, City of Marquette
George Patrick, 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
Sally Davis, City of Marquette Mayor

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

MINUTES It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by L. Bodenus, to approve the July 25, 2024, meeting minutes as written. Approved 3-0.

FINANCIAL

- **Financial Report**

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report. M. Schlicht stated the report is very normal. This report shows 11 of the 12 months of the fiscal year. The areas highlighted are slightly over. The line items that show 100% is because it is already applied for the entire year. We will not go over on those accounts. There were questions at the last meeting regarding the capital outlay line item. As we roll through the audit process and recognizing fiscal year end, we will capitalize those expenditures so they will come off of the income statement and expenditures; then rolled on the balance sheet. That will correct the large variance we have in the capital outlay or transfer to reserves line item and bring it down to the normal \$300,000. That is the



standard budgeted transfer to reserve cash account for repair and maintenance expenditures. B. Johnson asked what the reserve account will look like. M. Schlicht stated it will bring it up to around \$500,000. M. Schlicht said the balance sheet shows a negative 2 million dollar net position. Once the journal entries are done during the audit, we will recognize all the assets coming up, which will move that into a positive amount. M. Schlicht stated M. O'Neill and his staff do a great job to make sure the budget is there to cover even some of the odd expenditures we get when things break. When she is aware of a problem, there is always a well thought out budget conscious solution.

OPERATIONS REPORT

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

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

- **PERMIT COMPLIANCE:** We had total phosphorus permit violations for the months of July and August. Although we do not know exactly what happened, we are attributing this to the Bio-P process being interrupted, combined with sodium aluminate dosing issues. On a good note, the Bio-P has recovered, and the chemical dosing problems have been resolved. Total phosphorus numbers are now back to normal. M. O'Neill stated the Bio-P will intermittently quit but always comes back. The process consists of using microorganisms to remove phosphorus biologically, so we don't have to use chemicals which is very expensive. We have been told that in order for it to work, we have to have a return mixer pump. Several years ago, maintenance was done on it and wired it backwards. However, Bio-P it kept working without the pump. In July we had another issue with Bio-P and it did not come back. So we have ordered a new mixer pump for \$20,000 and the money is in the budget. Bio-P has since began working again but it would be wise to have a working pump on hand.

PLANT NOTES:

- VanDamme began hauling liquid biosolids on August 12th and has continued since.
- Staff repaired a blockage in the piping for our sodium aluminate feed line and addressed an oil leak from the sodium aluminate metering pump. We also replaced the worn out parts on the pump to bring it back up to proper operating status.
- All the new fiber switches for our SCADA system are finally installed and operational. This project has been several years in the making, and we couldn't have done it without the help of the City's IT department.
- Kraft assisted us with repairing a coolant leak on the #2 CoGen unit.
- I diagnosed a failed camshaft position sensor on the #1 CoGen unit. Kraft was able to send one to us within a few days. The unit has been back in service since August 6th.
- The AC compressor for the HVAC unit that serves our Lab and Control Rooms has failed. Mark has got the ball rolling for replacement of the condenser package with one that is adequately sized to serve these rooms (the failed unit was undersized and could not keep up with demand, even on mildly warm days). M. O'Neill stated he reached out to the



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engineer because it is believed the compressor is undersized. We are waiting to hear if a larger unit will work with our air handling unit.

- We had a catastrophic failure of the pressure dampener on the suction side of our #4 Primary ADP. We've applied a temporary fix and requested a quote for replacement of all the remaining pressure dampener units, as they are all most likely similarly compromised.



- VanDamme completed hauling our biosolids cake to the Kempker farm. A total of 812 cubic yards were hauled.
- Final site grading and paving has been completed.
- Staff swapped out our #2 Digester Recirculation Pump with another pump that was not being used. This will allow us time to perform a proper assessment of the original pump.
- Kraft was on site to perform routine maintenance on both CoGen units.
- Staff replaced the refrigeration unit on our Primary Effluent Sampler.
- M. O'Neill stated he was disposed in a dental office lawsuit, revolving around amalgam separators. It has been a while since inspections have been done on those. He is looking at conducting visual inspections this coming budget year to update records and pictures. S. Hobbins stated the grease trap inspections are set up in Lucity. It might be convenient to set up a dental office inspection list also. Lucity will then automatically initiate work orders when needed.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR JULY 2024

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	2,900	\$406.00
UPS	4,000	\$560.00
LS&I	4,200	\$588.00
RMS	2,000	\$280.00
Wisconsin Electric	63,500	\$2,540.00
Grand Totals	76,600	\$4,374.00



INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR AUGUST 2024

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
LS&I	9,100	\$1,274.00
Wisconsin Electric	28,500	\$1,140.00
Grand Totals	37,600	\$2,414.00

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Budget Per Unit Rate:** M. O'Neill stated the Commission approved the wastewater budget at the last Commission meeting. Now it is time for the board to approve the per unit rate. We are suggesting the per unit rate based off of estimated flows, to be at 2.66 per Kgal. This is up a little from the current rate and we need a motion to approve. It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by L. Bodenus to approve the per unit rate. Approved 3-0.
- b. **Annual advisory Board Commission Presentation:** M. O'Neill stated the presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15. The PowerPoint is updated and looking for someone to present it to the Commission. B. Johnson asked S. Hobbins if he would be available if he was not. S. Hobbins agreed. L. Bodenus also volunteered.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling Project:** M. O'Neill stated everything is going well. The project is on time and within budget. The paving was done. There is a little mechanical and electrical work being done. Still waiting for the MCC panels to come in. Site access and security still needs to be installed. A sub-contractor had a bad month. Final grading for the paving was not elevated properly according to plans. They had to completely redo it and in time before the paving company was scheduled to arrive. The seeding and mulching only grew weeds and had to be redone. A retaining wall was built improperly with poor material, not level and needed a redo. They also broke a sidewalk going into lab. That was replaced poorly and is being redone. An issue did arise with a new pump with a VFD. We have an equalization tank that pulls water coming off of the processed biosolids that is high strength waste. We put it into a tank and slowly feed it into the plant. We currently have our own built system that is not that easy to control. A part of this project consists of a new design for better control. The pump failed immediately. The pump was fixed and failed again. It has been found that the signal coming from the VFD to the pump needs signal filters installed. The A/C voltage needs to be normalized before it gets to the motor. The distance is too far. It is expected to cost around \$9,000. The contingency fund for the project was \$660,000, we just went over \$200,000 and \$130,000 was the underground debris we ran into.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Sally Davis, City of Marquette Mayor, stated she has been trying to attend each advisory board in the City. There are about 20 boards. It has been very interesting and is learning



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something new every time she attends a meeting. S. Davis said she is here to say hello, learn some things and thank everyone for their time and talents. She has toured the plant three times and is always impressed when reading the minutes. The complexity of what is being managed and repaired is appreciated.

BOARD COMMENT

- S. Hobbins thanked Sally Davis for coming and stated that there are a lot of repairs that are being done but there is a robust preventative maintenance program that D. Johnston operates. The battle is keeping things up and running with the amount of flow coming in but also doing the preventative maintenance to make sure the equipment lasts as long as possible. It is an interesting board to be on and S. Hobbins is really proud of the work they do.
- L. Bodenus stated grease trap inspections are being done in the township and are looking pretty good. Some cleaning was done on the interceptor last week and the grease situation looked good so what they are doing is working. One of the restaurants has been going through so much water they anticipated pumping out their grease trap every four months but now it is every month or two. Staff are trying to keep up with those places and it is working. There are going to be a lot of new developments coming in and staff will be staying on top of it.
- B. Johnson stated they are still waiting for the Casino RV park to open.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila