



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 16, 2025

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:01 a.m., October 16, 2025, at the Marquette Township Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette

OTHERS Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette
Dan Johnston, City of Marquette
Karla Kramer, City of Marquette

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

MINUTES It was moved by J. Compton, supported by L. Bodenus, to approve the September 18, 2025, meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL

- **Financial Report**

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report. M. Schlicht stated the report is before the end of fiscal year audit adjustments. The revenues will catch up with the operating expenditures as we get the September activities billed out. There will also be the final billing for the flow and demand charges. This is a preliminary report of how the fiscal year end will look. The expenditures for the year is close to the target except for chemicals, which we have spoken about throughout the year. There is nothing out of the ordinary or anything we weren't aware of. We are looking at 3.1 million in revenues with 5.3 million in expenditures. The expenditures will drop once we capitalize the Biosolids Improvement Project. That will be rolled onto the balance sheet and be amortized over the life of the asset. M. Schlicht stated she is happy to take any questions anyone may have.



- **Per Unit Rate**

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, stated the Commission approved the fiscal year 2026 budget and is now requesting the Board approve the per unit rate of \$3.026 per KGAL for fiscal year 2026. This should cover the flow expenditures for the year which is based on the estimated flows of fiscal year 2026. It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by C. Lucas, to approve the per unit flow rate of \$3.026 per KGAL. Approved 4-0.

OPERATIONS REPORT

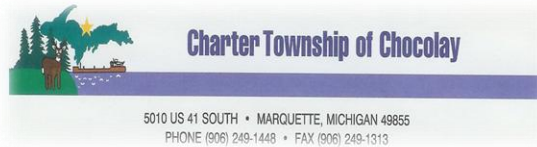
D. Johnston, City of Marquette, presented the Operations Report

Permit Compliance for the Month(s):

We violated our total phosphorus permit level for September. This appears to be a continuation of the issues we were dealing with the month prior, and it appears it may most likely be attributed to the additional loadings from our Waste Receiving Station. We once again enlisted Donohue to assist in diagnosing the problem. We have done our due diligence in ensuring our equipment is operating properly, along with making a few changes that were suggested by Donohue. As of last week, it appears things are turning in the right direction again.

Plant Notes:

- We are attempting to diagnose why the pump that returns the high-phosphorus filtrate water from when we run our belt filter press has been intermittently failing to run. We have narrowed the possible cause down to potential electrical interference with the Ethernet control signals that tell the pump when to start and stop.
- The sampler that collects the Primary Effluent samples has failed. I set up one of our portable samplers until we can get the original unit repaired.
- We had two sanitary sewer overflow events within one week of each other. One of the haulers had overloaded the drying bed while dumping his truck, and about 20 to 50 gallons of liquid made it to one of our storm drains. Fortunately, it was contained at that particular drain and never made it to the river. The second event was due to a plugged pipe between our dump station and the sump station.
- Staff corrected a “fan failure” on the VFD that controls the make-up air unit for our Pre-Treatment Room. This fault is a warning that we should pre-emptively replace the VFD’s cooling fan.
- The failed exhaust fan for the Screenings Room of our Waste Receiving Station has been repaired by the contractor.
- The manhole at the WRS’s unloading station was plugged with debris from the haulers. Staff installed a flushing port at the check valve inside the building. This port will allow us to flush this line more easily.



- Wolverine Door Service installed a new lift operator for the overhead door to our Wash Bay/Repair Shop.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	3,000	\$420.00
LS&I	8,500	\$1,190.00
RMS	8,000	\$1,120.00
Wisconsin Electric	27,000	\$1,080.00
Grand Totals	46,500	\$3,810.00

SEPTAGE ACTIVITY FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Carey/Sodergren	47,101	\$8,478.18
North Country	86,195	\$15,515.10
Stenberg	25,419	\$4,575.42
Grand Totals	158,715	\$28,568.70

NEW BUSINESS

- **Annual MAWTAB Commission Presentation**

D. Johnston stated Sean Hobbins has volunteered to present to the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling Project**

D. Johnston stated the site security system, and the camera server system still needs to be addressed. A technician from JCI was onsite Monday and he contacted the company that supplied the camera server to set up a return. The server ran for a few months and then totally failed. The warranty replacement is on its way. As for the site security system, the gate is now working, and access cards are being distributed. J. Compton asked who is issuing cards in the future and if they are plant specific or City wide. D. Johnston stated currently the gate card reader is card specific and will be set up to work in other City locations. The city ID's will work on the doors but not on the gate. D. Johnston will be issuing cards. Also, there are two access doors that run off of the same system and one is not working properly. D. Johnston stated JCI assisted with troubleshooting, but nothing has corrected the issue yet. JCI is researching it and will be in contact with us.



Charter Township of Chocolay

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PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

BOARD COMMENT

- L. Bodenus stated Marquette Township is currently doing sewer cleaning and inspections on the sewer interceptors. They did find some roots in there and were able to get those cleaned out. The Township just purchased a new 200-foot Milwaukee sewer camera so more interceptors will be inspected. The last time we went through the grease issues looked good. We used to get heavy grease under Washington Street but that seems to have been resolved after the cleanout. With the new camera, we will be able to keep up with the interceptors. It is a nice piece of equipment.
- C. Lucas stated Chocolay Township has started their sewer cleaning. The City of Marquette vac truck came out last week and pumped out approximately 900 feet of main from the carwash that had a bunch of sand in it. We are going to be working with them regarding cleaning their sand traps and oil drains better. TV Seal will be coming to do some pipe lining, and we are waiting to hear from them.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Reviewed by:
Dan Johnston
Wastewater Plant Supervisor

Prepared by:
Melissa Erkkila