

MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 19, 2023

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:00 a.m., October 19, 2023, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township
Jim Compton, City of Marquette
Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette

ABSENT Brad Johnson, Chocolay Township (Chair)
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
Jon Kangas, Marquette Township

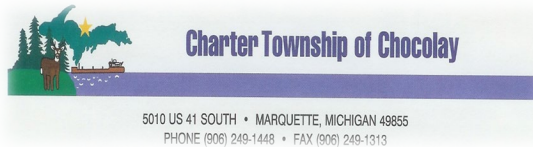
AGENDA It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by J. Compton to approve the agenda. Approved 3-0.

MINUTES It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by J. Compton to approve the September 21, 2023, meeting minutes as written. Approved 3-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- **Financial Report:** M. Schlicht stated the financial report is the first snapshot of the year end. There are still many audit adjustments to be made. Expenditures are a little overstated and the revenue is understated. The operating loss amount is mostly due to the Solids Handling Project and to not be too alarmed. M. Schlicht stated she investigated how the expenditures and the per unit flow charge worked throughout the year. She began by taking the flow charges and off set them by the actual flows, which showed the flows were a little lower than estimated and the expenditures were a little higher. At this point it looks like the per unit rate should have been 2.442 instead of the charged 2.204. This means the true up at the end of the year will be an estimated \$380,000 that needs to be billed out. This is not surprising considering the \$300,000 equipment reserve is a standard bill out at the end of the year, so the numbers are not far off.



- **FY24 Per Unit Rate:** M. O'Neill stated the per unit rate must be approved by the board now that the City Commission approved the new fiscal year budget. M. O'Neill and M. Schlicht have provided a suggested rate of 2.421 based on the budget and estimated flows. The rate is open for discussion, but it must cover the estimated budget. It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by J. Compton to approve the new FY24 per unit rate of 2.421. Approved 3-0.

OPERATIONS REPORT

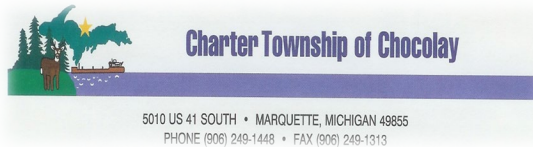
D. Johnston, City of Marquette, presented the Operations Report.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

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

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.
- Construction for the biosolids handling/septage receiving upgrade continues. Every day is an interesting mix of progress and chaos.
- Kraft Power has been assisting us with correcting an issue with the circuit breaker that connects the #1 CoGen unit to the power grid.
- Kraft also corrected a high exhaust temperature condition by cleaning the exhaust system's heat exchanger. This device is used to collect heat from the engine's exhaust; this heat is transferred to the plant's boiler water system and used primarily to maintain the temperature in our digesters.
- Staff completed the installation of a new screw compressor unit for our gas conditioning skid. Some slight modifications were needed due to an exact duplicate not being available because the original unit was obsolete.
- Prime Specialty Contracting completed the installation of a custom-fabricated pipe fitting adaptor in our #2 Liquid Biosolids Storage Tank. This adaptor will enable VanDamme Trucking to pump liquid biosolids to the existing tanker loading station. VanDamme is in the process of fabricating an adaptor so the new unloading station will be compatible with their tankers.
- Staff completed an evaluation of the dewatering wells/pumps here at the facility. A plan is in effect for the swapping of one of the bad pumps with one that is currently not being used.
- Staff repaired a leak in the sodium aluminate pump feed line.
- Supervisor diagnosed and repaired a wiring/short circuit issue with the lab area's AC condenser unit.
- Supervisor replaced the induction fan motor on our large dual-fuel boiler.
- Replacement of the six dissolved oxygen sensors in our aeration basins has begun. This project will include the installation of two new sensor controllers to replace four existing/obsolete units.



INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	1,200	\$250.00
UPS	4,200	\$588.00
LS&I	8,400	\$1,176.00
RMS	8,400	\$1,176.00
Wisconsin Electric	8,000	\$320.00
Grand Totals	30,200	\$3,510.00

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 Lucy.

J. Compton asked if it was possible to cut a trench into the floor and line the deteriorated lines. M. O'Neill stated it is an iron pipe that was used to service the chemical bulk storage area. After several spills it has deteriorated. A cutter was then sent in and now the pipe is broken and allowing water to infiltrate. This then gets into the sump system causing the sump to constantly run. If the dewatering is not on, the sump cannot keep up and the basement will begin to flood. After looking at lining it, the cost was too great. Public Works tried to run a camera in there, but it is so collapsed they could not help.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- Solids Handling:** M. O'Neill stated Miron is working on getting the buildings enclosed. Electric and HVAC work will be done this winter. The MCC panels are estimated to come in August. Miron has been good to work with and keeping everyone informed. J. Kangas asked if there have been any problems with maintaining operations during the project. M. O'Neill stated that this project is all new so there are less operations intrusions, unlike 2008. The only issue is the small footprint we have to work with and getting the biosolids hauling trucks in and out, but Miron has been accommodating and there are good truck drivers. Substantial completion is expected to be in December 2024. Ishpeming has stated they will stop accepting septage once we begin accepting so hopefully we see good revenue.
- Fire Alarm Project:** M. O'Neill stated S&T are still waiting on the panels.

PUBLIC COMMENT



Charter Township of Chocolay

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- None

BOARD COMMENT

- None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Mark O'Neill

Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila