



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 20, 2022

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:04 a.m., October 20, 2022, at the Marquette Township Hall.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Brad Johnson, Chocolay Township (Chair)
Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township
Margaret Brumm, City of Marquette
Harold Hayse, City of Marquette
Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette

ABSENT None

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

AGENDA It was moved by M. Brumm, supported by L. Bodenus to approve the Agenda. Approved 5-0.

MINUTES It was moved by M. Brumm, supported by H. Hayes to approve the September 15, 2022, meeting minutes as written. Approved 5-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report. Please see Treasurer's Notes for a detailed explanation.

We ended our fiscal year. A few things will be wrapped up as we go through audit. Most notable are changes in wage and fringe line items, utilities that need to be posted and the post-employment benefits. All these changes will effect the final true up bill.

- Balance Sheet: Numbers are as expected.
- Revenue Sheet: Revenue are as expected. September revenues need to be entered.
- Expenditures: Expenditures are as expected



FIRE ALARM REPLACEMENT

M. O'Neill stated that Donohue is reviewing submittals and then ordering equipment. S&T Electric will be down this week to look at the plant and get a visual of what they are dealing with. This project should begin shortly.

OPERATIONS REPORT

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

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH:

- PERMIT COMPLIANCE: No violations occurred during 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.
- Hauling of liquid biosolids by VanDamme Trucking was halted due to safety-related issues that are in the process of being addressed. Modifications of our existing loading station for their tankers are in process.
- Diagnosis of a pesky oil leak on our largest high-pressure air compressor has led to the ordering of a new oil cooler. Delivery is expected sometime in November.
- Our staff is working hard to implement MIOSHA-recommended safety improvements around the plant. Progress is steady and impressive.
- I met with City IT staff to discuss the ordering of new fiber network switches and their related equipment for our SCADA network. A lease program is being pursued.
- I had to send our Fluke 789 meter to the manufacturer for inspection/repairs. This meter is vital in the diagnosing and setup of various input devices, such as those that provide a tank level, temperature, or pressure signal.
- Parts are on order for our Influent Sampler. Samples must be maintained within a specific temperature and these parts will ensure that this unit performs properly.
- Our staff was able to properly dispose of unused paint and old fluorescent light bulbs that have accumulated over the years.
- Mark is working with VanDamme Trucking to coordinate the final cake haulout of the year. Completion of this process will leave us in good shape for the coming winter.
- We are currently down a mechanic due to a personal injury. Awaiting to see if he returns to work or retires.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Tunnel Vision	20 yd ³	\$2,700.00
Wisconsin Electric	90,500	\$2,715.00
Total		\$5,415.00



Charter Township of Chocolay

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MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

Preventive Maintenance Work Orders: staff continues to perform routine maintenance tasks. Whenever time permits, I continue to create the work orders that have not been created since we began using

OLD BUSINESS

- Solids Handling Update: M. O'Neill stated we did make the final grant list. We have also been selected to be a part of the "Buy America, Build America" (BABA) program but since our project plan was drafted in 2019, we may receive a waiver. This is good news considering two major components in the project are built in Europe and Donohue included extra labor hours in their fee estimate to work through the unknowns of BABA. The new contract to guide us through reengineering, rebid, construction and completion of the project for Donohue was sent to the Board Members and will be put in front of the Commission September 24. The original design engineering contract with Donohue was paid out of the replacement fund and will be reimbursed through the SRF loan upon completion, including 50% loan forgiveness.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment.

BOARD COMMENT

- M. Brumm stated Dr. Putman sent her a link of a publication containing information about a group of researchers that are doing field trials on the same research she is doing. This group is planting hemp for phytoremediation which shows the work is going beyond the laboratory stage.
- H. Hayes stated he would like the board to hire an independent company to do a cost benefit analysis of the CoGen system and find out if Johnson Controls owes any money based on that analysis. He would also like an explanation of the TELP process. H. Hayes suggested a potential motion and then decided to open it up for discussion first. B. Johnson stated he would have to abstain from voting for this motion because in Chocolay Township, this discussion is at the manager level. L. Bodenus stated he would prefer to wait for guidance from his management. M. Brumm stated she would not support the motion to hire an independent financial consultant on the grounds that the City has negotiated with Johnson Controls as a unit and the wastewater project is one part of that unit. If every part of the City has an independent consultant there will be a disconnect between the actual contract and what was done. M. Brumm believes it should be



centralized and the City should take the lead on any sort of financial analysis. She fully supports H. Hayes speaking with City Manager Kovacs about this because it occurred before she was hired by the City. H. Hayes stated he has a meeting with City Manager Kovacs next week and plans to sit down with her and go over his personal analysis of the CoGen economics before he sends the information to the Commissioners and the individuals running for a Commission seat as a concerned citizen and not as a member of the board. H. Hayes says the contract was sold as paying for itself and the economic analysis does not support that. J. Kangas stated he is not opposed to the idea from Marquette Township prospective, but he would like to see where the conversation with City Manager Kovacs goes. She has a very strong financial mind and may see it from a different perspective but assumes she has a good understanding of the Johnson Controls contract as well. M. O'Neill stated the Johnson Controls contract speaks of an energy savings guarantee. The amount of electricity that is saved is based on how much the CoGen produces and how often it is running a month. He believes that guarantee is being met. M. Brumm stated she has read the contract and this contract was not written with an annual audit clause. The City must then decide how much time and effort it will take to prove that there was a breach of contract if there was one.

- B. Johnson stated station #9 is in place at the Casino reservation. The station will serve 34 homes, the casino, and the proposed hotel. It is anticipated it will be up and running early November. That will make five stations before it hits the plant.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.



Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila