



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES December 16, 2021

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, December 16, 2021 at the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility.

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
Melissa Erkkila, City of Marquette

AGENDA It was recommended by H. Hayes, moved by M. Brumm, supported by L. Bodenus to amend the agenda by adding discussion of Telp to Old Business.
Approved 5-0.

MINUTES It was moved by M. Brumm, supported by L. Bodenus to approve the October 21, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Approved 5-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER

Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Financial Report. A new format is being presented; any feedback is welcomed. The lead sheet shows budget actual numbers, the three pages following are a line by line detail that is included in the lead sheet summary.

- Balance Sheet: M. Schlicht stated we are two months into the fiscal year and numbers are as expected.
- Revenue Sheet: Currently a little high due to the debt service payment paid in October.
- Expenditures: Expenditures are as expected.



- B. Johnson asked about yearend numbers for natural gas and electricity. M. Schlicht stated the final numbers are currently being calculated. She will provide those numbers at the next meeting.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH

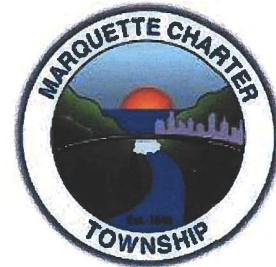
- PERMIT COMPLIANCE: The plant violated its total phosphorus limit for the month. An explanation is included in the plant notes.

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 completed cleaning, maintenance, and repairs to the decant pumping station that serves our liquid biosolids holding tanks and drying bed. The piping had become clogged with sand and rocks to the point where one of the pumps was chocked full, rendering it completely useless. Staff also performed some modifications to the pump piping to prevent these issues in the future.
- Staff completed cleaning both of our Chlorine Contact Tanks.
- Staff gave a tour to a local high school class.
- Kraft employees were on site in early November to rebuild the engine in CoGen Unit #1. Repairs were successful and the unit is back in service.
- Staff had done our due diligence to combat elevated total phosphorus levels in our final effluent. This situation was partially due to the air supply to the WAS Tank being at an extremely low level, which caused an abnormal die-off of microorganisms. When these microorganisms die, they release the phosphorus they had previously taken up in the Bio-P portion of the plant. This phosphorus-laden mixture was eventually recycled to the plant flow via our thickening process. We also had some issues with our sodium aluminate feed system: a mixer in our Bio-P tanks had failed, all combined with what we suspect is an excessive level of solids in our filtrate well that eventually finds its way to the plant flow.
- Kraft was on site last week to service both units.
- Weather did not cooperate to complete the removal of solids and liquids. One cell of each are currently full.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR SEPTEMBER:

➤ Fabick/Cat	1,400 gallons, for \$250.00
➤ W.E. leachate:	54,000 gallons, for \$1,620.00
➤ L S & I	4,200 gallons, for \$546.00
➤ Total monthly revenue:	\$2,416.00



MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

- Preventive Maintenance Work Orders: Staff continues to work on the backlog of work orders.

OLD BUSINESS

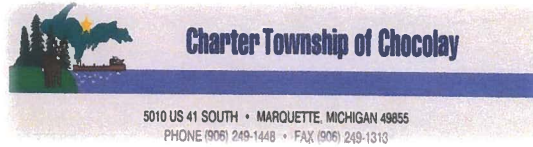
- TELP Review: M. Schlicht reiterated the project made an improvement to the plant which has been capitalized. Instead of recognizing it as a depreciation, a payment is being made directly to TELP. It is considered an operational expense. The maintenance expenses are considered an upkeep maintenance charge. The annual payment is based on a percentage from the amortization schedule and the fluctuation is due to the draws during the project.
- Solids Handling Update: M. O'Neill stated he recently met with Donohue regarding the solids handling project. SRF funding is expected to be available in 2023. It is suggested to reapply for funding the second quarter of 2023. A new cost estimate will be completed before submitting the application. The previous cost estimate was 6.6 million and bids came in at 9.3 million.

NEW BUSINESS

- Fire Panel: M. O'Neill stated the plant fire alarm system currently has manual fire alarms. A new fire detection system was part of the Solids Handling project, due to the delay of that project it is recommended that a new fire system be addressed immediately. Donohue estimates the project to cost \$140,000. The conduit will be reused, all detectors and the fire panel will be replaced. M. O'Neill is requesting approval to send this project out for bids. It was moved by M. Brumm and supported by L. Bodenus to authorize M. O'Neill to begin the bid process for a new fire system. Approved 5-0.

BOARD COMMENT

- M. Brumm gave an update regarding the PFAS Citizen Advisory Response Board for the State of Michigan. There are multiple testing sites downstate and people want to accelerate the testing but there is no infrastructure in the state. There is an argument that the amount of testing needs to be increased and the return time on the results needs to be much quicker. PFAS is going to be contributing to state resources with a focus on Flint and Benton Harbor.
- L. Bodenus stated Marquette Township has been doing manhole inspections and everything looks good. They have begun the preliminary phase of a lift station project. Looking at upgrades, standardizing pumps and updating the SCADA system. The intent is to have similar infrastructure as the City of Marquette and Chocolay Township to create a combined support system.



- B. Johnson stated Chocolay Township recently completed an internal capacity study. They learned they are not using the plant at their full capacity. This will allow their sanitary sewer system room to grow in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Reviewed by:
Mark O'Neill
Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:
Melissa Erkkila