



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES December 18, 2025

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:02 a.m., December 18, 2025, at the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT None

OTHERS Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette
Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette
Dan Johnston, City of Marquette

AGENDA It was moved by S. Hobbins, supported by J. Compton, to approve the agenda. Approved 5-0.

MINUTES It was moved by J. Compton, supported by C. Lucas, to approve the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes as written. Approved 5-0.

FINANCIAL

- **Financial Report**

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report. M. Schlicht stated we are working through the audit and the final stage of the CWSRF Biosolids Project. We are just answering questions at this point. We are two months in the fiscal year and nothing major to report.

OPERATIONS REPORT

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



- **Permit Compliance for November 2025:**

We had no permit violations for the month of November.

- **Plant Notes**

- We had been experiencing odd power-related issues that affected several pieces of our three-phase equipment at the plant, but these issues would only occur on weekends. None of our facility’s power monitoring equipment detected problems. The problems have not occurred for the last two weekends, so their cause remains a mystery.
- The heat trace that is intended to prevent the gas line to the waste burner from freezing had failed. I found an open connection at a failed splice connection to the heat trace. B&B Electric came down and repaired the open circuit and upgraded it to prevent this from happening again. The repair was completed under warranty.
- Installation of insulation on the new coolant water piping on both CoGen units has been completed.
- I have enlisted the aid of S&T Electric to install a shielded Ethernet cable for our EQ Pump. I am hopeful that this will correct the issues we’ve been having with intermittent field bus faults and failure of the pump to start and/or stay running. We are also going to have them look at an MCC panel that is registering over 100% current imbalance on it. Hopefully it is a failed monitoring donut.
- Our RV Dump Station has an issue that is restricting flow to the bunker sump’s pumps and causing it to back up. The City’s sewer crew rodded and televised the line; they found a piece of PVC pipe fitting in the line. They will return ASAP and attempt to clear the obstruction with a root cutter.
- The feed valve to our #2 Digester has been having issues preventing it from fully opening. I attribute the issue to a build-up of scale inside the valve itself, but the valve cannot be replaced unless the digester is emptied. I had been trying several adjustments in order to get it to operate properly with no luck. I finally set the torque-limiting switches so it can fully open and close when commanded to do so.
- Staff replaced two of the four backup batteries for the magnetic bearing on the #3 Aeration Blower. G. Patrick asked what a magnetic bearing was. D. Johnston stated the blowers do not have steel ball bearings to support the shaft. They are a vertical design that has a magnetic field that the device floats on. When there is a power failure, a backup system is in place to give it time to cool down.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	7,000	\$980.00



UPS	5,500	\$770.00
LS&I	9,000	\$1,260.00
Wisconsin Electric	19,000	\$760.00
Grand Totals	40,500	\$3,770.00

SEPTAGE ACTIVITY FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Carey/Sodergren	23,466	\$4,223.88
North Country	46,605	\$8,388.90
Stenberg	23,287	\$4,191.66
Grand Totals	93,358	\$16,804.44

- Our septage yearly total is \$178,000 and we began receiving the end of April.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2026 Meeting Schedule**

It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by S. Hobbins, to approve the 2026 Meeting Schedule. Approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Solids Handling Project**

M. O'Neill stated the EGLE project coordinator has been asking questions regarding the contractor scheduled values. Part of the project was an alternate that was separate from the approved SRF project. We put aeration in at the back of the plant and some modifications to the vector pad. The bid came in at \$185,000. However, when broken down on the scheduled values it is \$184,000. They are not matching completely. She requested and has been provided with the information and we are waiting for a response. Otherwise, her review has gone well thanks to Mary and Melissa.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

BOARD COMMENT

- None



Charter Township of Chocolay

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.



Reviewed by:

M. O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila