



**News from Public Works Board, Water Policy Board, Municipal Wastewater Committee, and Staff Meetings**

- ✚ The Public Works Board approved staff's application to the State for work within the road right-of-ways for 2009 for our Water and Wastewater divisions and for Drain Commission work.
- ✚ The Water Policy and Public Works Boards approved interim balancing change orders for both Laketon Township water and sewer projects.
- ✚ The Public Works Board approved the Army Corp of Engineers proposal to conduct groundwater studies in conjunction with the ongoing cleanup of the Cordova site.
- ✚ The Board approved our project engineers performing the road work planning and engineering on the Laketon Township projects.
- ✚ The Board approved a 5<sup>th</sup> year of groundwater monitoring and reporting for our Solid Waste consultant for 2009.
- ✚ The Board approved the design and construction engineering for the Marquette Avenue Watermain Replacement project. This work will be done between Quarterline and Sheridan Roads while the road is torn up for the installation of our 60-inch sewer force main.
- ✚ The Board approved the design and construction engineering for the Laketon Station rebuild and pipeline project on the Wastewater System.
- ✚ Cleaning of the Whitehall Plant Northeast Plume purge wells was awarded by the Board.
- ✚ Permission was given by the Board to hire a PCCP consultant to study any pipe locations where acoustic monitoring has shown to be a possible problem. The consultant would also design post-tensioning restraint that could be installed while the pipe is in service.
- ✚ Staff was given permission to proceed with the installation of temporary meters in the City of Muskegon after our new Lift Station C is put into service. These meters will be used to compare with the volumes the City is billed by subtraction.
- ✚ Rip rap rock was not placed on the lagoons this fall, the landfill cover project was stopped, the grain center was not completely cleaned, and there is still sludge to pump from Cell #4. Much work has been done on the RI System in the snow, and our parks staff is plowing a mixture of leaves and snow as winter has made itself felt in December. Snow has stalled many of our projects!
- ✚ Even as we had some of the lowest flow ever into the Wastewater Plant this fall (around 18 MGD in recent months), the hauled waste continued to set records every month (most recently 3,713,400 gallons in November).
- ✚ All of the 26 sampling ports have been installed in the RI System, and we plan to start the winter sampling schedule Monday.
- ✚ Staff continues to work on energy projects and will seek permission to accept proposals from firms that can plan and design brown grease separation and processing facilities. A wind turbine group is putting their own recorder on our 911 tower and could determine within six months if these units would be feasible at the Plant. They like the fly ash landfill site. In related news, Consumers has filed with the Public Service Commission for yet another rate hike.
- ✚ A pilot light was installed on the Solid Waste flare unit. Some stainless pipe is still needed, but should be in soon. We should be able to shut the flare off (finally) in January.
- ✚ With recent state legislation, it appears the state dentists have a good lobby, and we will be limited in our enforcement of the State's mandated mercury minimization program.
- ✚ Staff has been doing community gypsy moth scouting for an MDEQ application due today.
- ✚ We have been putting the finishing touches on the Business Park North work and are currently working on signs for the development.
- ✚ Believe it or not, we are now required to get a permit to put sand back on the beach at Meinert Park from where it blows each year.
- ✚ First Aid Training has been rescheduled for the third week of January.
- ✚ Our annual MDEQ inspection at the Wastewater Plant will be this Monday.
- ✚ Our new Lift Station C has had many equipment and programming tests this month and is scheduled for start-up in early January.
- ✚ The culvert lining at Swanson and White Roads should be installed in January.
- ✚ The 43,700 feet of 60-inch ductile iron pipe was ordered this week from American Pipe for both pipe replacement segments. Both contractors should begin work in March and be done in the fall.
- ✚ The generator is working at Lift Station D, and the bids are out for a bypass pump for this station.
- ✚ A \$428,300 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant was received by our parks to acquire the extra property adjacent to our Meinert County Park.



*Laketon Station will be rebuilt to pump water to the RI or east storage lagoon*



*Boiler at Sun Chemical where our landfill gas is used*



*The new Lift Station C discharge piping was installed this period*



*The control room computers and monitors will be installed just before they are used the first week in January*



*Our Parks crew pouring a pad for a generator at Fleet Maintenance*



*Contractor installing PVC tubing in RI drain tubing to permit direct sampling*



*We must be near a record snowfall for December!*



*Contractor welding the pilot light in the landfill flare unit*

**PERSONNEL**

**Bob Harrington's** recovery has been good, and he will be back to work tomorrow. Please pray for **Antione Williams** as he continues with testing regarding several serious health issues – he is off work until further notice. **Mike Moran** passed away last week after over a year of extreme medical problems. Mike was an avid and prolific wildlife photographer at the Wastewater System for the last 13 years. Twenty-seven of his best photos (some that made state nature publications) can be found in our Administration Building vestibule and conference room. Please pray for **Greg and Kerri Leverage** who are expecting their second child in January, for **Mike Lorentz** who will be having surgery on his elbow and for **Tony Dunn** who had a bleeding ulcer. Thanks to **Jeff Winters** and **Jeff Hiddema** from our Parks division for pouring a generator pad at Fleet Maintenance this period. Congratulations to **Shane Sietsema** who will get an opportunity to work as an

Irrigation Rig Technician as soon as his Collection System Operator's job is filled. Congratulations to suggestion award winners **Dave Bonthuis**, **Randy Westveld**, and **Forrest McCauley**. Thanks to **Grizz** also for being "Santa" for us yesterday.