



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

- ✚ The Wastewater Committee and Public Works Board approved a staff recommendation on fire services from Egelston Township and drain services from Moorland Township.
- ✚ The Public Works Board passed the new Wastewater Master Agreement which had been approved by the 15 member communities. The City of Muskegon passed it with some stipulations which staff is working on. Representatives from the Committee (Chairman Scott Huebler, Vice-Chair Jerry Bartoczyk, and Counsel Mike Ortega) attended the County Board meeting and were praised for their efforts.
- ✚ The Water Policy and Public Works Boards passed a balancing change order to complete the Laketon Water and Sewer contract.
- ✚ The Wastewater bids for Ferric Chloride and Calcium Chloride were awarded.
- ✚ The Wastewater System has had no effluent violations now at our outfalls for a year. The Wastewater Lab began the winter sampling in our Rapid Infiltration System this week. This means sampling individual basin underdrains and not the ditches which are full of waterfowl (and fecal coliform from them) this time of year. The special sampling that the state allowed in recent years is one of the reasons the System has not violated its permit.
- ✚ Our Parks division is purchasing new tables and grills for some of the campgrounds and plowing snow to keep access open to our parks.
- ✚ A pre-construction meeting was held for the electric and electronic upgrade of the Rapid Infiltration System. Some of the work could start this winter, depending upon the shop drawing submittals and the weather.
- ✚ A heater relay is out on the SODAR unit, but it should be replaced soon. Snow plowing will be necessary on the fly ash hill to maintain this unit.
- ✚ The number of mixers and aerators that are operating in Cells #1 and #4 have been substantially reduced with the cold weather to save on electrical costs.
- ✚ With the completion of the piping work in Cell #2, the second 66-Inch replacement contract is essentially complete. The drainage station rebuild and replacement project is also done except for punch list items.
- ✚ Hopefully the generator at L Station will be in service soon. This leaves the System with just the Keating Lift Station in which to complete backup power.
- ✚ The Hall of Justice Project current work includes dry walling, painting, and elevator work.
- ✚ Staff is working on getting an EDA grant for utilities for the Fortu project.
- ✚ The interview process is ongoing to select our first Sustainability Coordinator and should be complete in the next few months.
- ✚ Sludge from the Wastewater site has finally been approved for daily cover at our landfill. This will allow more flexibility in the use and disposal of this material.
- ✚ Proposals for air reporting and groundwater monitoring engineering services are being reviewed to select a firm to perform this work for our Solid Waste System.
- ✚ With the hauled waste from Big Rapids, we had a respectable month at 3.4 MG in November, much above the 2.7 MG last year.
- ✚ Several pieces of farm equipment were sold at auction this month. The prices received were good and the process went well. This option should be considered in the future when faced with selling specialty equipment.
- ✚ Wastewater irrigation technicians have been busy removing the old drop pipes from our irrigation rigs that were used for cold weather irrigation and stripping and storing old tower piping and parts on racks at the farm.
- ✚ The anemometers to be placed on two local towers should be up soon. These will be used to calibrate our SODAR unit.
- ✚ First Aid and CPR training will be scheduled soon for our voluntary confined space rescue team.
- ✚ Our local rocket club is working to have a national event at the Wastewater System sometime in the future.
- ✚ The water and sewer contracts that we have administrated for Laketon Township are pretty much complete.
- ✚ Water staff continues to work on finishing the System valve and hydrant maps with just a few data points needed yet.
- ✚ Honeywell may be done with the transite panel removal and window replacement at Brookhaven this month and are nearly complete with all their other county energy work.
- ✚ The Fruitport Water Tank will be back on line soon as soon as the water passes all the required quality testing.



Window Replacement and Transite Panel Removal Energy Project at Brookhaven



Framing work on a HOJ second floor judge's bench

PERSONNEL

Our condolences go out to **Harry Sloop**'s family in the passing of his mom recently. **Bob Harrington** has returned from back surgery. **Dave Bonthuis** damaged one of his knees, but will hopefully be back later this week. Congratulations to **Jeff Johnson** who has 15 years of service in December. Congratulations to **Steve** and **Sarah Barnard** on their youngest daughter Maggie making student of the month for Mona Shores High School. Maggie and Steve were also part of the school's Singing Christmas Tree (Steve worked on the props and did not sing). Congratulations to **Jake Butkus** as he and his wife are expecting a boy and to **Carly Hines**, and her hubby, who are expecting a girl.

This is my last newsletter as I will be retiring this week. I would like to thank everyone that I have worked with or for over the last 35 years. Your encouragement has made a real difference in my life and my ability to do a variety of jobs at the Wastewater System and for County Public Works. God bless!