



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

- ✚ The Public Works Board granted staff permission to hire Johnson & Anderson to perform easement acquisition for our Greenridge water and sewer project in Laketon Township.
- ✚ Permission was given to bid the Household Hazardous Waste disposal contractor services.
- ✚ The Water Policy and Public Works Boards approved the hiring of Prein & Newhof to investigate ways to operate the Northside water tank in the off season.
- ✚ Permission was given to combine the capping and well replacement work at Solid Waste and to bid same.
- ✚ The Water Policy and Public Works Boards approved Johnson & Anderson to perform design-build work for a water connection to our system for Great Lakes Ford.
- ✚ A change order was approved on the Business Park North project to remove all the fencing.
- ✚ The bids were awarded on the farm chemicals and fertilizers for 2008.
- ✚ Permission was given to Wastewater staff to pursue federal grants for the 66-inch PCCP replacement.
- ✚ The bid for the maintenance truck body was awarded.
- ✚ A change order was approved to move the Lift Station C overflow structure.
- ✚ The 2008 new alfalfa field bids were awarded, and permission was given to bid an extra field.
- ✚ An agreement with the local Pheasants Forever organization was passed and involves the creation of 425 acres of habitat west of the landfill and also on the former nursery land south of Apple.
- ✚ Permission was given to bid a new wet bin for the grain center batch dryer and to do work on the grain center scales.
- ✚ The bid was awarded for GPS guidance systems for the farm combines and tractors. These systems should pay for themselves in two seasons with the improved accuracy in planting, tillage, spraying, and fertilizer application.
- ✚ A five-year renewal trail permit was approved for the West Shore Snowmobile Club.
- ✚ The Municipal Wastewater Committee and the Public Works Board moved to agree with the MDEQ draft Administrative Consent Order (ACO) stipulation that the remaining 8.5 miles of 66-inch PCCP be replaced in the next few years.
- ✚ The wet well cap has been poured at the new Lift Station C, and some electrical conduit has been installed on this first level. The station will be back-filled when all the snow has melted (June?).
- ✚ The acoustic monitoring contractor was again unsuccessful in pulling the fiber cable from the 66-inch PCCP. They will improve their retrieval equipment and procedures and be back in March.
- ✚ Staff and our engineers have been working on the rebuilding of our Wastewater Cell #1. It is hoped that we can use it when we put our new main lift station on line this fall.
- ✚ Since our effluent violations for the last four years are also being covered in the ACO, staff is considering new ways to abate the fecal coliform (FC) violations at Laketon Station. Dr. Rose from MSU has found that FC can be cultured in the ditch sediments since we have used the ditch as somewhat of a sediment basin in the last 10 years or so. We are in the process of dropping the level to the original settings and cleaning the ditch. If this fails to solve the problem, we would consider pumping the water to the interception ditch for the irrigation season each year.
- ✚ The hauled waste volume totaled 1.77 MG for last month, a January record. February is running close to its 1.57 MG record so far.
- ✚ The radio cables at both the Quarterline Road and Marshall Street tanks were replaced this period, ending the communication problems in our water system.
- ✚ Operations Maintenance reports that many of the new station nuisance alarms have been fixed.
- ✚ Staff received the new impeller for Lift Station D, and installation is being scheduled.
- ✚ The annual medium voltage substation work will be done at the treatment plant at the end of March.
- ✚ The EPA was in to inspect the floor drains at Fleet Maintenance and Solid Waste. Both go to holding tanks and passed the inspection.
- ✚ Staff is holding the final interviews for two Irrigation Technicians this week and hopes to hire these new people next week.
- ✚ The gas line lateral has been installed to the Sun Chemical plant, and they are waiting special boiler burners to start using our landfill gas.
- ✚ Laboratory staff has been negotiating our Maximum Allowable Headworks Limits with MDEQ. Staff did a year-long study and recommended new limits to the state. The state has proposed MAHL's that are somewhat more restrictive, but both sides are closer after a recent meeting.
- ✚ Our Parks will likely grow by 91 acres at Meinert Park with a state grant and local match and no cost to the County. This will remain a wilderness area of protected dunes and wetlands.
- ✚ Grant applications are being submitted for ADA-compliant camp sites and restrooms at Pioneer Park.
- ✚ Staff made several trips to Lansing this month to negotiate the draft ACO. The main differences in position between us are the waterfowl influence on our Fecal Coliform violations, their attitude that our past responses to the 66-inch pipe failures have been inadequate since the pipe continues to break, and that we are trying to lower the proposed \$56,100 in fines. Staff and MDEQ will hopefully have an ACO that we can recommend to the Committee and Board in March.



Water Tower radio cable replacement



Above-ground concrete structure at new C Station



Landfill gas lead into Sun Chemical



Forms for generator footing at D Station



Greenridge water and sewer area



Pheasant habitat in Muskegon County

Personnel

Please continue to pray for **Brian Bates** on his latest round of cancer treatments and tests and for **Mark** and **Pam Johnston** as she goes to U of M next week for her 100-day exam after the bone marrow transplant. We welcome back **Forrest McCauley** after his heart surgeries – he seems to be ornery as ever. **Carl Parrish** had knee surgery on both knees last week, and **Wally Wolting** is still recovering from his knee surgery last month. **Steve Robinson** is also out recovering from oral surgery, and **Mike Barry** fell doing some fancy footwork in his driveway. We hope to have them both back next week. Thanks AGAIN to **Ron Glover, Steve Robinson, Mark Stockwell, Dave Bonthuis, Greg Cioe, Corey Burmeister, and Ryan Bean** for all their hard work plowing snow this last month. Congratulations to **Tom Strach, Brenda Glass, Eric Imbault, and Anita Martin** for achieving an annual Significant Industrial User non-compliance rate below 20% in 2007, our best year yet. Congratulations to **Ron Glover** with 20 years of service this month!