



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

- ✚ The Public Works and Water Boards authorized staff to bid the five contracts for water services associated with the current Laketon Township construction.
- ✚ A change order was approved for the landfill capping project to pay for extra liner material.
- ✚ The Board approved a fourth time extension to January 22, 2010, for the Purchase Agreement to sell the Whitehall Plant property.
- ✚ A change order was approved for concrete wall replacement, force main testing, and a larger sampler enclosure on the Egelston Township 60-inch force main contract.
- ✚ The uniform contract approval for Wastewater and Solid Waste was revised to use unit prices instead of a lump sum weekly bid.
- ✚ Approval was given by the Board to reduce the low pH coating on the Hauled Waste Receiving Station contract for Cell #4 to bring the work back within budget.
- ✚ Board Permission was given to extend our engineer's contract on the Laketon Station Diversion to include the design and construction inspection work on an extra 6,600 feet in piping.
- ✚ The County is offering a choice of two retirement incentives for eligible employees if they retire by September 30, 2009 (this fiscal year). They can receive up to three years credit toward retirement health care eligibility if they are not otherwise up to full eligibility, or they may elect to receive 200 extra hours of vacation time as a pay-out upon retirement. Contact Human Resources if you have further questions.
- ✚ The Water System Radio Propagation Study showed that the antenna height at our Quarterline Pump Station is inadequate, and a new tower may be necessary.
- ✚ The Laketon Township water and sewer projects are wrapping up and should be done this fall.
- ✚ Our Parks revenues are up a little from last year due to a modest rate hike. Parks usage is down slightly so far.
- ✚ Sludge removal from Cell #4 will be done this week. The contractor is hauling the thicker material out to the beds by off-road truck.
- ✚ Brown grease and algae investigators were out this month to take samples.
- ✚ The new motors at Lift Station C are being pulled one at a time to receive better internal grounding as otherwise VFD voltage irregularities have been damaging the motor bearings.
- ✚ Prices are being taken on an interconnect agreement with Consumers for our possible wind turbine project.
- ✚ A helicopter removed several mixer motors and gearboxes from Cell #2 so that they can be placed in Cell #1 as part of the construction schedule for the 60-inch force main.
- ✚ Plans are being made to chlorinate the aeration basin at Laketon Station next week per our plan with MDEQ.
- ✚ Facilities is finishing up construction at the former Youth Services Building, and we should be able to move in the Treasurer, Equalization, and Register of Deeds in the next few months. This is the first step in the logistics for the Hall of Justice renovation project. Our County Clerk will eventually be moved to the first floor, and the extra room will then be used to expand the District Court offices and courtrooms. The design is about half done and construction will hopefully begin this winter.
- ✚ Construction at the Halmond Center is about a month behind schedule due to changes in the building energy design, but currently looks like it could be done in March.
- ✚ Public Works staff is looking into ways in which our divisions can interact with Facilities to benefit all.
- ✚ The landfill capping project is nearly complete, and the finished site looks good.
- ✚ The Hauled Waste volume for June was another record for that month at 3.47 MG. The July volume so far is down slightly, but still should be above 3.2 MG.
- ✚ The second cutting of alfalfa has been taken and the last of the herbicides applied.
- ✚ The 60-inch force main contractors are both over 50% complete, and restoration work is going well. We are still hoping for a fall completion date. The Cell #1 piping from the new 60-inch line has been completed.
- ✚ Work on the Cell #4 Hauled Waste Receiving Station will begin next week.
- ✚ The design drawings and specifications for the Laketon Station Diversion and Wind Turbine projects have been submitted to MDEQ. Staff and our engineers are busy answering questions from the State regarding our Project Plan.
- ✚ Our Public Works cell phone plan has been changed so that we share minutes, thus saving over \$1,000 per year.



*Operations Maintenance removed several mixer motors and gearboxes from Cell #2*



*New force main pipe being laid at Cell #1*



*Halmond Building Addition*



*Jackson-Merkey Contractors laying 60-inch pipe on Marquette Avenue*



*K&R on Hall Road placing 60-inch pipe 22 feet deep*



*Sewer installation on Judy Lane in Laketon Township*



*Treasurer and Register of Deeds service windows at former Youth Services Building*



*35-year Wastewater employees Greg Cioe and Ray Maleski*



*Anita Friend receiving Lab Professional of the Year Award from MWEA president*

The preliminary Wastewater budget has been submitted with no change in rate for FY2010. This still needs much discussion with the Management Committee before it goes to the Board in September. The idea is to budget as if the mill were coming back on line. They may pull it off yet. We also need to be mindful that if the rate is raised, we will discourage new customers. I believe that the System can continue to find ways to reduce expenditures and raise other revenues, and this will be our challenge for FY2010.

**PERSONNEL**

We welcome back **Bob Harrington** and **Mike Lorentz** who have returned from their surgeries. Please pray for **Forrest McCauley**, **Ron Glover**, and **Anna Foster** who have had or are having surgery this month and for **Brenda Glass** and her family as her father is at Hospice. We offer our condolences to the family of **Bob Kunnen** in the loss of his brother. Congratulations to **Gaylene Strickler** and **Paul Rolewicz** for 20 and 30 years of service this month. We welcome **Karen Benson** as our new economic development specialist for Muskegon Area First. Karen will be promoting the Wastewater System, Business Park North, and our local communities as we seek to replace the commercial and industrial investment and jobs we have lost in the poor economy. We will likely be welcoming the county Public Facilities division into the Public Works Department at some point this year as part of an effort to have similar work efforts within the same department. **Craig Witteveen** is the division manager and will work for **John Warner**. Congratulations to **Mark Eisenbarth** on passing his "A" state Wastewater license.