



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

- ✚ The Public Works and Water Policy Boards approved several motions involved with transferring Muskegon Township's \$7M water bond issue into the Regional Water System and adding \$3M in bonds for improvements to the System.
- ✚ Several motions were also approved by both groups to do the design work and bid the construction of the water main lining and replacement from Laketon Avenue to Evanston Avenue on Quarterline Road.
- ✚ The Public Works Board approved the annual free day of solid waste disposal for our communities for their spring clean-up activities.
- ✚ Permission was received to return about \$50,000 in excess bond monies to Whitehall Township and close out their water bond account.
- ✚ The wastewater irrigation pipe repair bid and the bid on another field of alfalfa were awarded.
- ✚ Permission was given to bid the lining and pipe replacement work on the Ruddiman Area sewer; to hold a Public Hearing for the 66-inch PCCP replacement SRF project April 15<sup>th</sup>; to bid a new fuel system at the Wastewater Farm; to bid the paving of White Road to the Wastewater Administration Building and the parking lots around the building; to bid a maintenance truck air compressor and wing plow for the Wastewater System; and to bid platform work in Full-Mix Cell #1 at the Wastewater System so that the rebuilt equipment can be installed this fall.
- ✚ Wastewater staff was authorized to have Consumers provide a second electrical feed to the new C Station.
- ✚ The bids for a no-till drill for the Wastewater Farm were rejected as the equipment could not be delivered until next year.
- ✚ The design engineering for the second segment of the 66-inch PCCP replacement was approved by the Municipal Wastewater Committee and Public Works Board so that the project could qualify for first quarter 2009 SRF funding.
- ✚ An informational item was passed out to the Board regarding the possibility of another cellular antenna on our Laketon Avenue water tank.
- ✚ A special Public Works Board meeting will be held April 3<sup>rd</sup> to award the water pipe lining work north of Apple Avenue on Quarterline Road.
- ✚ Negotiations continue with MDEQ Enforcement regarding our Administrative Consent Order and the fines associated with it. Wastewater staff has proposed reduced fines with 50% of the fine going to help design the proposed flow-through marsh. MDEQ will hopefully respond by the end of the month.
- ✚ Filling the Caretakers position for Meinert Park will hopefully pass our County Boards in the next week.
- ✚ Staff is working on grant applications for the land adjacent to Meinert Park and for the restroom project at Pioneer Park.
- ✚ Our Household Hazardous Waste collection events will begin again in May from 1:00-2:30 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays each month at 1300 Keating Avenue.
- ✚ Sun Chemical is on schedule to begin using our landfill gas in July.
- ✚ Water leaks in vacant homes have been a big issue this winter in our water system. Our new monthly monitoring program is now able to catch these sooner.
- ✚ Wastewater irrigation start-up is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>. With the screening work on Pump Station 3, we may just use the South Irrigation Station initially.
- ✚ Sludge removal from Cell #4 is expected to begin when the ice is melted in a few weeks.
- ✚ Wastewater staff has been working to lower the water level in the Laketon Station Drainage Ditch to lower the detention time and minimize the bacteria that can be incubated. This drain will also be cleaned this spring. Accomplishing all this without discharging solids is our goal. A VFD is being considered for one of the pump motors to hold the water level constant to help minimize solids disturbance.
- ✚ Staff is working on DEQ operating permits for the Whitehall Wastewater site and our Solid Waste facility.
- ✚ All area dentists now have approved mercury reduction plans.
- ✚ TRAINING: Steve Fink and Vivek Singh attended HAZWOPER training, Mark Eisenbarth attended classes on wastewater treatment, Ray Hamil attended a state IPP meeting, and our electricians attended code class.
- ✚ Our Operations Maintenance staff has been working on the big RI valves that are leaking and fixing the hydro trash rake. We now have the tools to remove them and get them rebuilt locally. Our Sullivan trash rake is being rebuilt at a local shop as well.
- ✚ Wastewater received a new operations truck and Sheriff's vehicle, and both are being set up for service.
- ✚ Our Whitehall Road water extension was flushed and chlorinated this period. This will likely be necessary one more time before the water park opens in May.
- ✚ Our specifications for the landfill cap and well replacement will be out for advertisement this weekend.
- ✚ The block walls are being laid at the new Lift Station C. The pump suction lines have been hooked up in the wet well. Much wiring is being installed, and the yard piping should start soon. Work on the overflow structure was to begin this week.
- ✚ A draft Soil Erosion Ordinance has been written and is under Department review.
- ✚ Wastewater staff has some large items that can be sold. Staff has been asked to generate a list that can be taken to the Board in April.
- ✚ The Public Works Board meeting for April has been moved from April 10<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>. This means our Public Works Department meeting will be at 10:30 AM April 16<sup>th</sup>.



*Block wall going up at Lift Station C*



*Lift Station C pump header being installed*



*New Wastewater Operations vehicle*



*Cell #1 ready for platform work prior to installation of rebuilt mixing equipment*



*New Irrigation Rig Technicians Patrick Pastor (left) and Randy Westveld*



*Construction on C Station Overflow at Ryerson Creek*

**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 makes good progress in recovering from her bone marrow transplant. **Wally Wolting** returned to work this month from his knee surgery and thanks everyone for their prayers. **Carl Parrish** is still recovering from knee surgery and will hopefully be back in April. **Ron Glover's** wife is home from knee surgery and undergoing some intense therapy for same. **Greg Leverage's** wife is also home from surgery and is doing well. **Ken Scarth's** father-in-law fell and broke his back last week. Please pray for recovery for all of them. Congratulations to **Jeff and Lynn Hiddema** on the birth of their daughter, Hannah, January 25<sup>th</sup>. She weighed in at a petite 5 pounds 8 ounces. Welcome to **Patrick Pastor** and **Randy Westveld**, our new irrigation technicians.

Our quarterly service anniversary party will be a hamburg and brat cook-out and picnic Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Farm Headquarters. We have two anniversary pins to give out, at least one suggestion award, and Ellen has many raffle prizes.



**Have a blessed Easter!**

