

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

- ✚ The Public Works Board approved Change Order #1 for the Laketon Township Contract #1.
- ✚ The Water Policy and Public Works Boards approved a final balancing change order for our Quarterline Water Main relining project.
- ✚ The Public Works Board approved our air quality expert again for Solid Waste.
- ✚ The Water Policy and Public Works Boards approved an out-of-town consultant to do an independent analysis of all of the water systems serviced by the City of Muskegon.
- ✚ The Board approved the Spring Youth Turkey Hunt plan and rules for the Wastewater System.
- ✚ The Board approved proceeding with the Wastewater Cell #4 hauled waste improvements in FY2009.
- ✚ The Board agreed with staff recommendations to MDEQ in how the Muskegon River and Black Creek Outfalls are monitored. The Wastewater System will sample individual Rapid Infiltration Basins during the cold weather to avoid waterfowl contamination. The water that now flows to a tributary of Black Creek will be pumped to the RI Basins or storage lagoons for further treatment.
- ✚ The Board agreed to allow Western Michigan University (WMU) to do grant-associated work on our storage lagoon algae. The Board also agreed conceptually with a WMU project to create fuel from our brown grease. Permission was given to obtain a price to design such a facility at the System.
- ✚ The Board allowed Scott Erdman six more months to obtain a Brownfield Redevelopment loan, perform the environmental studies, and close on the Whitehall site property.
- ✚ The Municipal Wastewater Committee recommended and County Board agreed to extend the Wastewater System economic development contract with Muskegon Area First through 2010.
- ✚ The Board gave permission to Wastewater staff to advertise for bids a harrow-type piece of tillage equipment and for four fleet trucks.
- ✚ The Board raised the price we charge for out-of-county vactor truck waste to 10 cents a gallon.
- ✚ Wind energy certainly looks closer as we should be able to see if the data from our Central Dispatch tower is any good soon. We have a couple firms anxious to look at the data if it was collected in the right manner. Hopefully we will have something to bring to the Public Works Board in December.
- ✚ The Wastewater System got some free advertising for our plant high-strength waste capability this week from the Grand Rapids Business Journal and WZZM Channel 13 News. Thank you to Muskegon Area First for arranging this publicity.
- ✚ First Aid and CPR training for our Confined Space Rescue Team is scheduled December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ Almost all of the regular season deer bow hunting permits have been issued for the Wastewater System. Over 50 permits have been issued for bow hunting during the two-week rifle season.
- ✚ The last of the yard piping is being installed this week at Lift Station C. Our electronics contractor is working on his programming as well, and hopefully station testing can start early in December.
- ✚ Even as the wastewater flow is decreasing, our hauled waste volume continues to set records. October set a new monthly total of 3.4 MG, and November will be the sixth month in a row that we have had the highest volume for an individual month.
- ✚ Our landfill cap sand cushion is complete, and the contractor started on topsoil today.
- ✚ With Sun Chemical on-line, our landfill gas usage is much higher. We still need to install a pilot light so that we can send yet more energy to our two industry partners.
- ✚ The Laketon Township Contract #1 water and sewer installation is 40% complete. The Laketon Township Contract #2 water and sewer installation is about 60% done. Both will be complete in 2009.
- ✚ Harvest is done with soybeans averaging 52 bushels per acre and corn 136 bushels per acre - both records. Irrigation was shut down for the season last week, and the stations, rigs, and lines drained.
- ✚ The hauling of dry sludge is done for the year, and our sludge contractor has filled one drying bed and started on a second one. Work will begin soon to place rip rap rock on the storage lagoon side slopes.
- ✚ Several municipalities have signed up to participate in the Gypsy Moth program for next year. Staff is working with MSU to determine how we might cooperate in this work.
- ✚ Wastewater Operations Maintenance staff has been working on the leaking valves in the RI System in preparation for the new MDEQ permitted sampling program mentioned above. They also installed a new floating boom in Full-Mix Cell #2 to be used until the lagoon can be taken out of service.
- ✚ We now have a 1,250 KW back-up generator at Lift Station D and will be bidding out a by-pass connection for this critical station soon.
- ✚ The old Lift Station C is being cleaned in preparation for abandonment.
- ✚ Staff has been working with Fruitland Township on their sewer planning.

**PERSONNEL**

**Bob Harrington's** back surgery will be tomorrow, so please pray for him. **THANKS AGAIN** to all who pledged to United Way this year and to **Steve Barnard** who ran our program. A final update of all Public Works divisions shows that we pledged \$4,599.20 or 103% of our goal. Congratulations to **Caleb Scarth** who won the Navy League Youth Medal (their second highest award) during training at their Great Lakes facility in Chicago. Caleb now plans to go to submarine school in New London, Connecticut. Thanks to **Anita Peters** who transferred all the water accounts from Muskegon Township to our Regional Water System, started doing Muskegon Township's sewer billing in conjunction with the water billing, put the delinquent accounts on the property tax rolls, and still got our 4,000 water bills out on time. Similarly, a great effort was made this fall by **Randy Westveld** and **Patrick Pastor** in tearing down two irrigation rigs, making all the repairs necessary to keep the other 51 rigs running while short a position, completing winterization on the center pivot machines, and assisting in the harvest effort. Thanks to **Dave Bonthuis** who came in at 5 AM on the Veterans' Day holiday to fix one of our combines so the farm could finish harvest last week. Thanks also to **Robert Deur** for a competent job in running our grain center during harvest. Finally, thank you **Steve Robinson, Ryan Bean, and Ken Scarth** for your efforts this year in achieving record yields in both corn and soybeans!



*Supervisor Mike Barry standing by the 1,500 KW generator in back of our new C Station – it will run two of the 600-HP motors simultaneously*



*Installing a floating boom in Cell #2 to keep trash from overflowing the lagoon*



*Contractor pushing sludge to be pumped out to the drying beds*



*Corn Harvest at the Wastewater System*



*Construction crew pouring the base to Laketon Township's Green Creek sewage pump station*



*Laketon Township Contract #2 water main installation at Pennsylvania Avenue and Memorial Drive*