



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

- # The Public Works Board approved a small change order on our water pump station contract.
- # The Water Policy and Public Works Boards approved the sale of old water meters for \$25 each.
- # The Board gave staff permission to bid the Irrigation Pump Station #3 screens, the cleaning/video of the Ruddiman Area sewer, the sand blasting and painting of all the grain center bins, and spare 24-inch force main sections and repair pieces.
- # The Public Works Board passed recommendations to the Full Board on the Solid Waste, Regional Water System, and Wastewater budgets.
- # The director discussed the reasons for and against replacing the 66-inch force main out to Brooks Road with the Board and several Board members spoke in favor of the project. We have qualified for a 2.5% SRF low interest loan for the \$18M work if done next year.
- # The director briefed the Board on the “defensive measures” discussions with MDEQ. Our engineers have completed the planning work on two retention basin alternatives – a single 15-acre basin near Lift Station C or four smaller basins near Lift Stations A, C, D, and Q. Initial reactions from the City of Muskegon and Wastewater Committee have been negative.
- # Wastewater staff and Prein & Newhof received an award from the Michigan section of the American Society of Civil Engineers on our Phase I Collection System Upgrade projects. We presented the plaque to Public Works Board Chairman Lou McMurray, and he asked that we display it at the Wastewater System. The award was based on reducing overflows, reducing energy costs, 15 communities and the county cooperating in this effort, and being in compliance with MDEQ.
- # The Wastewater Committee recommended the sale of the Whitehall Plant property to Scott Erdman and the issue will go to the Public Works and Full Boards tomorrow.
- # Our park attendance and revenues are down a few percent from last year. Initial reports at the state parks indicate a similar pattern. Staff will have a complete report soon.
- # Staff is working on grants for a new restroom at Pioneer Park.
- # The new monthly billing for our water system is working well, especially in helping residents find leaks much sooner.
- # Michigan’s Adventure used about 54 million gallons of water from our system this summer.
- # Our Wastewater Industrial Pre-Treatment Program was audited by MDEQ this month was given its best rating ever.
- # We sent out Mercury Minimization letters to all of the dentist offices in the county, requiring them to treat or haul away their mercury waste. Federal regulations administered by MDEQ require us to pursue this reduction in that kind of waste discharged to our System.
- # Good progress was made in removing sludge drying bed solids to our landfill. Our Heavy Equipment Operator is working to stockpile the material in the last bed. Leveling of some of the beds will be done soon.
- # Staff removed the aerators from Cell #4 and began pumping out the water in preparation for sludge removal.
- # Much of the final landscaping is scheduled for next week at the MacArthur Road break site.
- # We have issued 112 out of 300 bow hunting permits so far.
- # The floating grease in Cell #3 was again pumped to Cell #4. This effort has been encouraging since once pumped, this material has tended so far to stay broken-up and seems to further stabilize. We may pump it to Cell #2 in the future to determine what this extra full-mix treatment can provide.
- # Pump #3 from Lift Station D was removed using the new rail and crane system and is at a local shop for rebuilding. The rebuild of Lift Station C Pump #1 should be complete this week.
- # All of the 66-inch line taps were completed successfully by Jackson-Merkey last week. Our fiber installation contractor should begin installation work in October.
- # Staff is gathering the parts to fix two irrigation system force main failures.
- # About 1,300 acres of corn (>37M pounds) were chopped as the local corn crop was so poor.
- # Recycled asphalt was placed on a section of Swanson Road near the Farm Headquarters to see how well it would hold up under heavy traffic.
- # The Wastewater farm crew mowed the Rapid Infiltration Basin area (and it looks great!). Currently they are doing tillage work in the corn stubble ahead of planting a cover crop. Soybean harvest may begin this week, depending upon the weather.
- # The buildings at our Business Park North are being torn down as part of the infrastructure work there.
- # All of our current water and Phase I wastewater system work is complete except for minor punch list work.
- # Design for the landfill gas wells that need replacement continues with the work to be bid in October. We had a fire at the landfill from some hot demo materials.
- # Wastewater and Solid Waste are waiting for the voice-mail issues to be fixed downtown before we have the new phone system installed. We installed some network cable at the farm for it as well.



Project Rep Mark presents Chairman McMurray with an award we received from ASCE for the Phase I Wastewater Projects



A 4-inch hot tap on our 66-inch force main for fiber optic monitoring



Installing our new hauled waste well house



Chopping corn for silage in field 27



Tying steel at ground level at Lift Station C



Recycled asphalt was put down as a roadbed at Wastewater



Demo materials on fire at Solid Waste



Warehouse demolition on our Business Park North site



New Lift Station C pumps



Phase I contracts #1 & #2 are complete!

- # Our hauled waste volume for September will be about 2.1 MG.
- # Wastewater IS staff received the new computer server last week.
- # The Phase I Collection System Upgrade contracts are essentially done, and the Lift Station C construction is 40% complete due to the \$1.4M in pumps that have arrived recently. A 7-foot pour last week now has the concrete structure portion of the station up to ground level.
- # Strainers for Pump Station #3 will be out for bids in a month and be before the Public Works Board for award in November. The main mechanical work on this project must be done before the station is needed next spring.

Personnel

Congratulations to **John Warner** and **Forrest McCauley** on 10 years of service this month. Please continue to pray for **Brian Bates** as he completes his last round of chemo today. Please continue to pray for **Mark** and **Pam Johnston** as they travel to the University of Michigan to plan for her bone marrow transplant. She must pass an MRI scan first before they will induce stem cell production. Welcome back to **Mark Stockwell**, though the bone in his finger has not yet healed.

Rodney Holland’s knee surgery has been scheduled for October. We welcome back **Dawn DeVowe** from her surgery last month. Thanks to **Ryan Bean** and **Steve Robinson** for forming and pouring the concrete base for our new hauled waste wash house. Congratulations to our Pre-Treatment Technicians **Brenda Glass**, **Tom Strach**, **Eric Imbault**, and **Anita Martin** on the best MDEQ IPP audit yet. Our **Service Anniversary Party** will be this Thursday, September 27th at noon at the Farm Headquarters. We have several service anniversaries, suggestion awards, and raffle prizes to give out.