

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

- ✚ The Public Works Board recommended and Full Board approved the Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste enterprise fund budgets as part of the overall county FY2010 budget. Our Water and Solid Waste rates are remaining the same, but the Wastewater rates will take a 15% increase due to the closing of Sappi and the obligation of the two 60-inch force main bonds. There will likely be another significant wastewater rate hike for FY2011, but we need to see how we can cut costs at these low flows and try to attract more flow as well. The Municipal Wastewater Management Committee had also voted in favor of the rate hike.
- ✚ The Board approved the Water Identity Theft Program that was developed by staff and Corporate Counsel.
- ✚ Fall migratory bird and bat studies were approved for the fly ash turbine project. We missed the Stimulus monies because these were judged to be needed, and we want to be in position to receive future grants.
- ✚ Permission was given to develop a contract with Sonoma Solar regarding a demonstration solar array project on the wastewater system.
- ✚ Permission was given to bid a curtain wall in Cell #1. This will allow us to run 6 mixers instead of 14-18 units. The mixers that we will use in this lagoon have already been placed.
- ✚ Permission was given to Wastewater staff to bid two irrigation rigs and the roof repair of one of the farm equipment storage buildings.
- ✚ The Board waived the five-week hiring freeze for Wastewater positions affected by retirements this month.
- ✚ Permission was given to bid the replacement of a 600-horsepower pump at Lift Station D with a 60-horsepower model.
- ✚ The rebuilding and repair of 10 sets of basin inlet mechanical equipment in the Rapid Infiltration System was awarded and should begin soon.
- ✚ The revenue for our Parks division was up about \$17,000 from last year as our season winds down. Pioneer Park will close on October 4th.
- ✚ Staff and the City of Muskegon are working to move the bike path outside the fence at Heritage Landing so it does not interfere with events there.
- ✚ The Halmond Center remodeling and addition is going well. We should be able to start moving staff into the new part next month. Remodeling of the older part of the building will start then.
- ✚ Our Treasurer and Equalization departments have moved into their new quarters at the T-ROD building, and the Register of Deeds will follow shortly.
- ✚ The Hall of Justice first and second floor remodeling will be bid in January for a construction start in March.
- ✚ Our lab is completing a six-month headworks study after the loss of the mill flow to determine what loadings the plant can now handle. It will likely need to be updated once the curtain baffle is installed.
- ✚ Replacement of the 10-year-old Northside water meter electronics continues to accelerate.
- ✚ The Cell #4 hauled waste receiving area improvements are complete inside the cell, and staff began filling the lagoon last week. Operations Maintenance staff will be transferring aerators as soon as it is full.
- ✚ Lift Station C staff will begin a six-month trial period for 12-hour shifts next week.
- ✚ Staff has seen a considerable increase in 66-inch force main wire breaks in the last couple months. Our PCCP pipe experts have been consulted, and we have encouraged our pipe installation contractors to do what they can to complete the installation soon.
- ✚ Preliminary findings from the brown grease study show the waste has higher energy than originally thought.
- ✚ Farm and Fleet staff is readying the grain center and farm equipment for harvest. We should start on the soybeans in early October.
- ✚ Our row crops remain several weeks behind normal growth, so we do not need a frost for 2-3 weeks. A local farmer has been taking the hay in the Rapid Infiltration Basins this period.
- ✚ Fleet staff has upgraded our railroad grade access road south of Apple using millings from one of the pipe replacement contracts. Work will begin on the storage lagoon breakwater and rip rap soon.
- ✚ Irrigation is scheduled for shutdown October 5th.
- ✚ The painting at the grain center has been completed.
- ✚ With lower flow, the farm will be investigating different nozzling for the irrigation rigs.
- ✚ The last of the Lift Station C pumps is being rebuilt for grounding, and money has been held from the contract pending final tests and payment resolution.
- ✚ The Whitehall Road water main was chlorinated in conjunction with Michigan's Adventure shutting down for the season to hopefully save a treatment later.
- ✚ The Laketon Township water and sewer contracts are essentially complete. Water testing and restoration work should be complete by November. The first water connection contract will be advertised in October.
- ✚ The contractor installing the new landfill gas wells in Cell #1 has begun work.
- ✚ The hauled waste was a near-record 3.25 MG in August and should be a respectable 2.75 MG in September.
- ✚ The phone lines to the Dalton Township meters have been disconnected until there is more flow to warrant full-time monitoring.
- ✚ Solid Waste is still working on getting our sludge approved as alternate daily cover with MDEQ.
- ✚ Sun Chemical is back to using most of our landfill gas now.
- ✚ Accounting staff is working on clearing all the old fixed assets from the recent replacement projects to save money on insurance.
- ✚ The 60-inch pipeline is now 90% complete, and the contractors are now trying to have this complete by the end of October. A major part of the remaining work is now the boring under US-31 which is in process.

PERSONNEL

Welcome back **Corey Burmeister**, **Ron Glover**, **Gaylene Strickler**, **Deputy Jason Ogle** and **Steve Robinson** from surgery. **Tim Westman** had hip surgery recently, **Vivek Singh's** wife Ardis is undergoing medical tests, **Antione Williams** will be out for surgery later this month, and we pray for their good results and recovery. We offer our condolences to the **Paul Rolewicz** family in the loss of his brother. Many thanks to those who participated in the United Way Day of Caring at Heritage Landing: **Ellen Pallasch**, **Vivek Singh**, **Mark Eisenbarth**, **Tony Dunn**, **Mike Faino**, **Lee Burley**, **Linda Neal**, **Paul Hibbard**, **Jeff Johnson**, **Steve Holke**, and to **Craig Witteveen** who organized it. Again, congratulations to **Greg Cioe**, **Chris Denevan**, **Bob Ekkel**, and **Ray Maleski** who will be retiring at the end of September. We will be recognizing them tomorrow at our service anniversary party. Thank you to the Muskegon County Road Commission, Holton Township, our Fleet Maintenance division, and **Commissioner Buzzell** for arranging the use of some old concrete pipe stored at our South Irrigation Station to be placed in Syers Road near their high school. The township could not otherwise afford the pipe, and it was a safety and access problem for the school and local residents with the road out.



Setting Mixers in Cell #1



Pouring concrete for the hauled waste receiving area at Cell #4



Mike Faino working at Heritage Landing for United Way Day of Caring



More Day of Caring volunteers - Tony Dunn (the one who appears to be working) and Mark Eisenbarth (eating the ice cream)



Sewage lift station near Horton and Glenwood in Laketon Township



Another Laketon Township lift station near Green Creek



Loading RCP for Holton Township



Painting in progress at the Grain Center