

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

- The concrete pad for the new hauled waste offloading area has been poured. After it cured Grand River Construction applied a coating that should protect it from wastes with pH as low as 3.0. (Some food processing wastes can get down that low.)
- The first cutting of alfalfa began the middle of this month and should be wrapped up soon. Yields appear to be lower than usual due to the cooler than normal temperatures this spring.
- The 2017 planting is complete! We wrapped up soybean and corn planting in May, with nearly 830 acres planted and sprayed for weed control. It only took a week to put in 1085 acres of corn this year!
- We have finished construction on our dry fertilizer storage. The construction consisted of erecting a fabric structure over the fertilizer bay. Previously the bay was covered with a canvas tarp. Whenever the tarp was wet or frozen or if the wind was up, uncovering the bay was a three-man job! The hoop barn has already added to our operation's efficiency, allowing us to spend more time applying and less time loading.



New fabric hoop building over the Farm's fertilizer bay.



New offloading pad.



New ramp to the new offloading area.

- Grand River Construction picked up the pace on the Cell 2 Improvements project in April and finished modifications to the cell's retaining wall. The curbs and gutters of the new hauled waste ramp were poured and guard rails put in place, two power poles that needed to be replaced went up, and work began on replacing the weir at the cell's outlet.
- Birders came from far and wide to see a fantastic rarity here at the Wastewater. A male Ruff in breeding plumage was here for over a week in late April. The only other Ruff reported here was back in 1982 by Jim Ponshair and that one stayed only three days!



Photo courtesy of Charles DeWitt





Braving the occasional nest of mice, four girl scout volunteers apply themselves to cleaning out nest boxes on the Wastewater site.

- Hauled Waste flows for the first half of 2017 were: January 4.9, February 4.7, March 5.2, April 5.8 (a new record!), May 5.6, and June 5.8 MGD.

Last month was a flurry of activity for Grand River Construction on

- the Cell Two Improvements project. In fact, they accomplished so much that there was very little remaining that they could do until the new mixers arrived on June 29.



Just arrived for Cell Two: A paddle for the new mixers. For perspective on the size, it's sitting on a 6-foot wooden palette.

Personnel News

Please welcome the Wastewater's new hires:

- Angeline Latsch, Karen Cook, Sara Damm as our new Lab Techs
Ted Costigan as our new Farm Manager
Carole Holland as our new Custodian
Kurt Eschman as our new Operations Maintenance Mechanic



Sara Damm



Angie Latsch and Karen Cook



Ted Costigan

- In March, twenty volunteers from the Grand Rapids Audubon Club, Muskegon Nature Club, and a girl scout troop participated in the annual nest box clean-out day at the Wastewater. This year volunteers braved wind, cold, and a little rain to give our feathered friends the best possible start to the nesting season. Volunteers have met the last Saturday in March every year since the mid-1970's to clean and repair/replace dilapidated nest boxes. Currently, over 300 nest boxes provide nesting habitat for species such as the eastern bluebird, tree swallow, and house wren.
- Franklin Holwerda Company has been working diligently on our Pump Station D improvements project to replace pumps, discharge piping, and flow meters.



Pump Station D Improvements

Left: One of the newly installed 85 HP Flygt pumps.

Right: One of the new discharge pipes with flow meter.

- On June 7 the Moorland Township Planning Commission had a public meeting regarding the issuance of a special use permit to Tradewind Energy to put in a solar farm on our property south of Apple Avenue. The next evening, June 8, the Township Board met and voted unanimously to issue the special use permit to Tradewind. We're thankful that Moorland shares our enthusiasm for a green energy park!

