



Wastewater & Public Works Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2019

News from Public Works Board, Water Policy Board, Municipal Wastewater Committee meetings



ADDRESSING AN ODOR PROBLEM

In May, we assisted a fellow WWTP in receiving 600,000 gallons of bio solids which they could not handle due to the heavy spring rains. Typically we put land-applicable bio solids directly in a sludge drying bed rather than having them offloaded into a treatment cell. This practice usually works well for us, but in the case of these bio solids, we had odor issues. We tried pumping the water off the top of the bio solids to expedite drying and eliminate the odor. However, complaints from our neighbors continued until a WW employee suggested covering the bio solids with straw (a technique used at EGLE). Although straw was in short supply in MI, we were able to obtain some from one of our Alfalfa cutters and once placed over the offending bio solids in August, we had no more odor complaints.



Beaver Creek Farms applying straw to the offending bio solids.

FIRE

Firefighters from Ravenna and Moorland Townships were on site on July 8 to attend to a burning Alfalfa truck. There were no damages other than the truck and there were no injuries.



2019 GROWING SEASON

We have been watching crops gradually dry down and come closer to maturity. The farm has the harvest equipment ready to go. Harvesting has begun, but some of our fields are too saturated from all the rainfall and we are forced to wait for dryer weather to continue the harvesting of the fields.

INTERNATIONAL EVENT HELD AT WASTEWATER

The Canadian and U.S. flags were flying in tandem in June at the Wastewater as Muskegon Michigan Area Rocketry hosted the CANAM Cup, a rocketry competition with contestants from both nations. The three-day event (June 7-9) drew not only Canadians from Ontario but also Americans from far beyond the borders of Michigan such as Alabama, California, Illinois, Maryland, Ohio, Utah, and Virginia.



SOLAR SITE UPDATE

Consumers Energy submitted their plan to have 6000 MW of solar power in their energy portfolio. Regulators ruled that they could directly own/operate only 3000 of the proposed 6000 MW, with the remaining 3000 MW being acquired through Power Purchase Agreements. The regulators have further ruled that for the 3000 MW of solar power plants that Consumers is allowed to own/operate directly, they may not just build them whenever and wherever they want, that they have to take a less direct route using a formal RFP process. Early next month they'll be giving tours of our site to five companies who could construct a 150 MW solar farm on it. Since Consumers desires to put in a solar farm on the site that they're leasing from us, they have to respond to their own RFP and submit to themselves a proposal utilizing the Wastewater site for a 150 MW solar farm. The price tag will be high as the cost of putting in a 150 MW solar farm is around \$200M.

CHLORINE BUILDING IS NO MORE

The old chlorine building was demolished this past summer by Anderson Acres.



LAB RENNOVATION

Phase 1 of the Lab Renovation began on the first of the month, starting with the removal of cabinets and countertops followed by the demolition of the plumbing, flooring, etc. The materials being removed definitely show signs of age and make us think that maybe we should have done this a few years earlier. If everything stays on schedule, Phase 1 is scheduled to be completed by December 31.



A SPECIAL VISIT

Back on August 16, the Wastewater our original director, Dr. Yervant A. Demirjian dropped in for a special visit. He came to the treatment plant with his wife, daughter, and two grandchildren anxious to show his grandchildren the place where he had invested so much of his life. He was also curious to see the changes that had occurred since he had vacated the director's chair. At 84 years of age, he's still full of enthusiasm and vigor. He had no shortage of stories to tell us about the way things used to be, with all the challenges of starting up an innovative, experimental wastewater treatment plant that has successfully recovered the wonderful resource of water for 46 years. Our current director, David Johnson and County Administrator Mark Eisenbarth, himself a former Wastewater director, were here to meet our founder.



THREE GENERATIONS OF WW DIRECTORS

Previous Mark Eisenbarth
Founding Dr. Yervant A. Demirjian
Current David (DJ) Johnson
(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)

NEW ARRIVALS

Kipp Randall Costigan, born July 6 to Wastewater Farm Manager Ted Costigan and wife Mary. Kipp enters the family as the third of three boys.



Miss Carly Rose Andersen, born September 9 to Wastewater Pre-treatment Inspector Britney Andersen and husband Chad. Carly came into the world at 5lbs 9 oz and 18 inches long. The new family is doing well.

SUPER SEPTEMBER SELFIE CONTEST

A Super September Selfie Contest was held at the Wastewater. The contest recognized entries for "safe acts" at the Wastewater and entered employee participants in a drawing for a \$100 gift card. The winner was Mark Johnston one of the Wastewater's laboratory technicians - Congratulations Mark! Great job to all the employees for being safe on the job and thank you to all those who participated in the Super September Selfie Contest!



HIGH WATER LEVELS NEAR OUTFALL

