



Public Works Monthly Newsletter

Issue #110 August 18th, 2009

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

- The Public Works and Water Boards authorized staff to get an antenna design done for our Quarterline Road Water Pump Station and a water main model to provide water to the Bayer property.
- The landfill Cell #1 gas well construction work was awarded at this month's meeting.
- The 2009 fall Archery Deer Hunt, 2009 fall Waterfowl Hunt, 2010 spring Youth Turkey Hunt, and trapping programs were approved by the Board. The Wastewater System will again allow 300 bow hunters for a \$25 fee. MDNR will manage the waterfowl hunt. The Youth Turkey Hunt will be expanded to eight zones and will again be scheduled on a weekend before irrigation in April.
- A Change Order was approved on our Segment #1 66-inch pipe replacement contract to allow the contractor to pressure test the new line in longer sections. This allows a significant reduction in the amount of restrained joint pipe and amounts to a credit of \$136,500.
- The Bond Counsel work for the Laketon Station Diversion and Fly Ash Turbine projects was approved, and permission was given by the Public Works Board to advertise these two projects. The Diversion project is Ordered by MDEQ, and the extra points for this have put us in line for Stimulus monies, in this case a 40% principal forgiveness loan. The turbine project was not in the fundable range on the preliminary list. We will bid it and get ready to bond it so that if the Stimulus funds become available, we will be ready. If Stimulus funds do not become available, then we will not do the project. Staff is also still struggling to satisfy MDEQ on the turbine environmental issues.
- Wastewater staff received permission to bid miscellaneous used equipment.
- The landfill cap vegetation is doing well and has really improved the appearance of the site.
- One of our houses on Apple Avenue that was not worth moving was used for a SWAT team practice. Several of our parks had power outages during the straight wind storm earlier this month, and Patterson Park has a lot of tree damage.
- Our County Park revenue is up about \$28,000 over last year with usage down slightly.
- Our Public Works downtown engineers have been busy with county building projects – the planning, moving people, and scheduling are always challenging while trying to keep up services and make major building changes. Work progresses at the T-ROD (Treasurer-Register of Deeds) building and at the Halmond Center Addition. By October, the County Departments should be moved into T-ROD, and the first of the out-lying CMH staff should be moved into the new Halmond Center wing.
- Many of the older meter electronics in our water system are failing and being replaced.
- Work is proceeding on our Cell #4 Waste Hauler Upgrade. The contractor has installed a permanent sludge pipeline under the high traffic area in front of the cells.
- Electrical power has been run for the WMU algae study, and they should be on site soon to begin that work. We should also have a preliminary report from our brown grease study consultant soon.
- We have had seven wire breaks this month so far in the Egelston Township portion of the old 66-inch PCCP force main.
- Fleet Maintenance improved the two-track road back to Field 37 with gravel for our haying operation.
- Our first round of responses regarding a possible wastewater groundwater permit was sent to MDEQ.
- The crops at the wastewater system are behind in their growth due to the cold summer. The third cutting of hay has been taken, and the fourth cutting is scheduled in two weeks. Some local farmers are baling the grass in the RI Basins.
- Water testing on our Northside System has been going well. The valve locations are being plotted using GPS.
- Work on the Marquette Avenue water main (associated with the 60-inch wastewater force main) began last week, and the Laketon Township water and sewer projects are winding down.
- Our hauled waste for July was a record 3.2 million gallons. The August projection will be about 3 MG and will be the first time in 14 months that we have not set a record.
- Safety staff met our new Egelston Township fire chief and will attend a swine flu meeting this week.
- The 66-inch force main replacement is over 70% complete. Segment #1 work is approaching Quarterline Road, and Segment #2 is past Wolf Lake Road, both headed west. The Segment #2 work in Cell #1 is complete.
- The bypass pump connection work has been completed at Lift Station D.



Office space progress inside the rebuilt "T-ROD" Building



Drywall installation inside the new Halmond Center addition

PERSONNEL

Welcome back **Forrest McCauley** and **Anna Foster** from surgery. We have good reports from **Ron Glover** and **Gaylene Strickler** following their recent surgeries. We hope to have Ron back in early September and Gaylene in 4-6 weeks. **Corey Burmeister** and **Antione Williams** will have surgeries this month, and we pray for their speedy recovery. We offer our condolences to the **Brenda Glass** family in the loss of her father. For those few who would remember **Louie Slocum**, our first C Station Supervisor, he passed away this month. Louie came to us from the City of Muskegon Wastewater Plant and retired in 1982. Congratulations to **Rich Miller**, **Ray Hamil**, and **Karen Fisher** with 10, 30, and 35 years of service this month. Thank you to **Luke Hardy** for working for us this summer as our Engineering Aide. He is going back to school at Western Michigan University at the end of this month. Congratulations to our entire Facilities division for their good review on the record keeping, building maintenance, grounds keeping, and housekeeping for three Community Mental Health buildings. State officials come in periodically and audit these facilities and issue a "CARF" report. Congratulations to **Greg Cioe**, **Chris Denevan**, **Bob Ekkel**, and **Ray Maleski** who will be retiring at the

end of September. We are losing 140 years of experience from four guys that worked in 12 different job classifications in 4 different divisions since 1974 and 1975.



The new inlets to Cell #1, the new cell outside wall, and side slope concrete have been completed



Fusing together the permanent sludge line under the Cell #3/#4 access area



Combining the large windrows of alfalfa hay so that the chopper can handle more at one time



Gravel road improvements to Field 37



County emergency team Tactical Rescue Vehicle tears into old Apple Avenue house during practice



The landfill cap mulch seeding has grown well



Paving Pennsylvania Avenue on Laketon Township Project