



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

- ✚ The Public Works Board approved our application for an annual right-of-way permit with MDEQ for our Water, Wastewater, and Drain Commissioner divisions that need to do work in MDOT right-of-ways.
- ✚ Staff received permission to advertise for bid the Household Hazardous Waste disposal, Wastewater billing meter calibration, and a Wastewater replacement truck.
- ✚ The Public Works and Full Boards approved a reclassification of our Apprentice Electrician to Electrician.
- ✚ The Board approved selling our old 4-wheel-drive 1984 325-horsepower Steiger to Swanson Pickle Company.
- ✚ On the Hall of Justice Project, all of our County Departments have moved out except the Register of Deeds (they should be out in February). Staff is reviewing draft plans for the HOJ renovation and getting approvals from the affected departments.
- ✚ Our Wastewater Laboratory Maximum Allowable Headworks Loading study is being considered by MDEQ. It is likely going to reduce some industrial limits, but not to the point of causing permit violations.
- ✚ The wastewater treatment plant is achieving a high dissolved oxygen level in the water going to storage with a fraction of the aeration and mixing equipment operating.
- ✚ A new program is being developed to operate the main sewage lift station without the surge tank now that the new 60-inch pipeline is in operation.
- ✚ Twenty basins are available for winter sampling in the Rapid Infiltration System.
- ✚ Our Water staff is working on switching meters for our new customers from the North Muskegon area.
- ✚ Snow plowing has begun at all of our divisions. Harvest was completed just before Thanksgiving. Despite a poor year for weather, our average corn yield was a new record at 138 bushels per acre. Many thanks to our farm staff for their part in this achievement!
- ✚ Another vacant house on Apple Avenue that was in poor condition was demolished by Solid Waste staff and hauled to our landfill.
- ✚ Our Solid Waste division is working on accepting credit cards for payment.
- ✚ The first contract for the Greenridge residential water hook-ups is going well, using directional boring for the installations. The eight emergency services are done, and the contractor may do more work this winter if the weather cooperates. Regular flushing in this area has been necessary to keep the chlorine levels up.
- ✚ The scales at our landfill was down this period for a couple days while repair and maintenance work was performed on it.
- ✚ An area has been cleared and the concrete base poured at the Quarterline Water Pump Station for the higher antenna.
- ✚ The work to replace a portion of the Center Street water main at the Holland Drain in Muskegon Township began last week.
- ✚ A state audit of our Soil Erosion program went well. The only substantial comment remains that we need more on-site inspection of the permitted locations.
- ✚ Our Hauled Waste volume for November was our second-highest at 2.75 MG. December is likely to be our second highest for that month as well at about 2.3 or 2.4 MG.
- ✚ CPR and AED training is being scheduled for January for our Voluntary Confined Space Team and other interested employees.
- ✚ Honeywell has moved in with our Facilities division and has started on their county-wide energy savings projects.
- ✚ Filling the old 66-inch PCCP force main with flowable concrete fill will begin in January.
- ✚ Our contractor for the Egelston Township portion of the 60-inch force main work will work on abandoning the outer wall at Cell #1 in January and will finish the piping work to Cell #2 later next summer.
- ✚ Because of an abundance of eligible SRF projects, our station project will receive a 32% principal forgiveness instead of the originally-estimated 40%.

**PERSONNEL**

Congratulations to **Wally Wolting** on 10 years of service this month. We grieve with the families of **Dave Bonthuis** in the passing of his dad, **Diane Doenges** in the passing of her brother, and **Vince Collins** in the passing of his grandmother. **Wally Wolting** and **Dawn DeVowe** are back to work after surgery and doing well. Congratulations again to **Gaylene Strickler** who received her retirement clock at our Christmas Service Anniversary Party. Thank you to **Dawn DeVowe** who worked on light duty after her operation at Facilities for several weeks and helped input work orders into their system. Thank you to our Collection System Operators for keeping our main station clean the last several months when so many contractors and engineers have been working in the station. Thank you to **Antione Williams**, **Rodney Holland**, and **Ed Washington** for helping at the scene of a head-on collision on Maple Island Road. Congratulations again to **Randy Cole** who passed his state electricians license with a 100% score last month!



*Installing the last few Wastewater System 60-inch restrained joint pipes with the bypass line in the background*



*Directional boring machine used to install the Greenridge residential water services*



*Directional boring an 8-inch water main under Center Street and over the Holland Drain culvert*



*Pouring the concrete base for the new 80-foot antenna at the Quarterline Road Pump Station*



*Demolition of Apple Avenue house*



*Average truck loads were used for billing while work on the scales was completed*