



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



New Solid Waste Loader



PURE Technologies is back to try fiber cable retrieval again



Sludge pumping from Cell #4 was finally shut down for the winter



Leaking Rapid Infiltration Basin

- ✚ The Public Works Board re-elected **Commissioner McMurray** to Chairman, **Commissioner Engle** to Vice-Chairman, and **Commissioner Hulka** to Board Secretary. **Commissioner Wade** will replace **Commissioner Derezinski** on this Board.
- ✚ The Board selected a cathodic protection contractor to perform work on the Fruitport Water Tower.
- ✚ A change order was approved for the County Business Park North to include more utilities such as fiber.
- ✚ Permission was given to bid a GPS guidance system for the Wastewater Farm tractors and combines.
- ✚ Permission was given to bid irrigation pipe repair work.
- ✚ The closing date for sale of the Whitehall Site was extended six months to June 22, to allow the buyer (through Whitehall Township) to obtain a Brownfield Redevelopment designation for the land. Monies from this redevelopment would pay for further environmental work.
- ✚ The purchase of an additional parcel of property on Apple Avenue was approved.
- ✚ The Wastewater Committee discussed the extension of the Whitehall Plant closing date, the status of our 66-inch pipe replacement Project Planning with respect to MDEQ's Consent Order, and the development of the Bayer property for agriculture-related industry.
- ✚ Our Public Works Board Chair and Vice-Chair, a couple representatives from our Wastewater Committee, the Chamber, the City of Muskegon, our state legislators, the mill, and the local Hoekstra aide met last Friday for a presentation from staff on the status of our 66-inch force main planning. All were briefed on the history of the pipe failures and the status with the pending Order from MDEQ. We assume that the Order will stipulate the replacement of the remaining 8.5 miles of PCCP force main. There was consensus from the group to try for a Federal appropriation for this in next year's budget and to ask MDEQ to assist us in this effort.
- ✚ The County helped sponsor the 12th annual Unity Breakfast at Muskegon Community College. **Dr. Terrance Roberts**, one of the "Little Rock Nine" spoke eloquently on his experiences against segregation in the late 50's. The Muskegon Heights School system also presented a program Sunday evening, highlighting eight different segments of Dr. King's life. Eight different schools from pre-school through high school presented this history in video, narration, drama, singing, and dancing.
- ✚ Staff is interviewing for Meinert Park caretakers.
- ✚ Our Water Staff is testing new software that will automatically log more information remotely from our meters.
- ✚ Staff is also working on radio communication problems between our water towers.
- ✚ Fruitport Township and Norton Shores have been paid back the excess bond monies that remained in their account.
- ✚ Sun Chemical has begun work on the extension of our gas main and hope to start using landfill gas in July.
- ✚ Solid Waste received the first of two new loaders last week.
- ✚ A new hydro flow meter has been installed.
- ✚ Operations Maintenance staff have been working to isolate one of the leaking RI valves. Work on this first one will determine how we go about fixing the rest that leak.
- ✚ Egelston Township picked up the old wastewater vacor truck, and a number of their staff were trained on it.
- ✚ A power outage at the wastewater treatment site is scheduled for this Saturday at Consumer's request.
- ✚ The video has been received of the Ruddiman Area Sewer. Staff will be studying it to determine what further work will need to be done.
- ✚ Anti-harassment training was done for Public Works staff this month.
- ✚ The laboratory Headworks Study that was submitted to MDEQ has been reviewed by three of their departments. We hope to have some comment or concurrence from them soon.
- ✚ Much of the lift station floor has now been poured at the new C Station. The block work should begin in February.



Installation of a sludge drying bed monitoring well near the Lagoon Interception Ditch

- ✚ PURE Technologies is back to continue their work to install fiber optic cable in our 66-inch force main.
- ✚ Wastewater staff will pursue a grant to work on our inland lakes study that we perform each year.
- ✚ MDEQ toured our sludge handling facilities last week where we are using some rebuilt Rapid Infiltration Basins.
- ✚ Sludge was pumped to six drying beds before cold weather shut down this operation late last week.
- ✚ Our driller has installed one of the new drying bed monitoring wells and will have the other done as soon as the weather allows.

Personnel

Please continue to pray for **Brian Bates** on his latest round of cancer treatments and for **Mark and Pam Johnston** as she continues to recover from her bone marrow transplant. **Forrest McCauley** had two more stents installed in his heart last Friday and is scheduled to be back to work next Monday. **Ken Scarth** is back from knee surgery, and **Carl Parrish** is back to work, but will also need work on his knees. **Wally Wolting** had knee surgery and will be out a couple of months, so pray for his recovery. Thanks to **Ron Glover**, **Steve Robinson**, and **Ryan Bean** for working all those extra hours plowing snow this long weekend.