



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

- ✚ The Public Works Board approved Press's request for preferred landfill hauler rates.
- ✚ The Board approved the payback of excess water bond monies to Fruitport Township and Norton Shores.
- ✚ Bids for Wastewater force main materials, the cleaning of the Ruddiman Area Sewer, and the Irrigation Pump Station #3 screening were awarded to the low bidders.
- ✚ Permission was given to the Public Works Director and County Counsel to draft agreements with the Cities of Montague and Muskegon regarding the Wastewater System takeover of the Montague Main and Keating lift stations. These agreements will be brought back to the Board for approval.
- ✚ The Board authorized our Public Works Department to join an effort by several West Michigan water and sewer authorities to intervene in a Consumers Power rate case before the Public Service Commission. Consumers is seeking to eliminate our "PS" (pump station) rates. These lower rates apply where there is a lot of off-peak electrical usage, which benefits Consumers. It is estimated that the Wastewater System alone would pay \$190,000 more for electricity per year if the PS rates were dropped.
- ✚ Nothing unusual passed our Water Policy Board this month and the Wastewater Committee did not meet because of the November 15<sup>th</sup> deer hunting holiday.
- ✚ **Our Christmas Holiday pot-luck will be December 20<sup>th</sup> at the Farm Headquarters. Ellen will be sending out sign-ups to the divisions. This is a great time for our retirees to visit us!**
- ✚ We are essentially done with all the work on MacArthur Road that we can do now.
- ✚ First Aid and CPR training will be scheduled for the first week in December.
- ✚ Our hauled waste volume for November should exceed 2 million gallons – a record for November.
- ✚ Pure Technologies had some difficulties with their insertion procedure for the acoustic monitoring fiber cable and have ordered some new parts. They are scheduled to be back after Thanksgiving.
- ✚ Pumping of the sludge from Cell #4 should begin next week and work on the PS-3 strainer installation and associated piping should begin in December.
- ✚ Sidock is working on the electronic upgrades to Lift Stations A and B. These need to be complete when our new Lift Station C is put into operation.
- ✚ Two more line taps to inspect the condition of the 36-inch PCCP near Lift Station C will be done soon.
- ✚ Prein & Newhof has completed a draft of their report on the "defensive mechanisms" that have been considered in response to the most recent pipe failure. When this is completed, we will send it to MDEQ and request a meeting with them soon.
- ✚ Operations Maintenance worked with a helicopter service to swap mixer motors in Cell #2 and is currently removing the Cell #1 remaining mixer gearboxes and motors for our local motor shop to rebuild.
- ✚ Wastewater irrigation was shut down for the season at an elevation slightly lower than last year. Harvest of corn, soybeans, and alfalfa was completed with a record corn yield (136 bushels per acre) and decent soybean yield (43 bushels per acre). The fifth cutting of alfalfa was good as we had a warm fall.
- ✚ Fleet Maintenance is working on their annual preventative maintenance on the farm combines and grain heads.



*James Farrar, son of Roosevelt Park Public Works Director Matt Farrar and a nice 4-point he shot on the Wastewater Site*

- ✚ Much work was done on the sludge beds; moving berms, hauling topsoil for the new side slopes, and leveling the remaining basins. Rip rap will be added to the inside of the storage lagoon dikes soon.
- ✚ Our October Household Hazardous Waste event was the busiest ever.
- ✚ The contractor that will be doing the cleaning work on the Ruddiman Area Sewer is scheduled to start work later this month.
- ✚ County staff is working on refinancing the \$7M Muskegon Township water bond in the County's name.
- ✚ County staff completed a third party landfill gas agreement with Sun Chemical to use gas that Eagle Alloy cannot. It is hoped that it can be approved at a special board meeting November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ Staff is also working on the many utilities that we are bringing into our Business Park North – water, sewer, gas, electricity, fiber, etc.
- ✚ Our water tower at Michigan's Adventure is off-line for the season, so our Giles Road Water Pump Station is back to running in "pressure mode".
- ✚ The Wastewater Plant Maximum Allowable Headworks Limits (MAHL) study has been submitted to MDEQ. If this MAHL study is approved, then new local limits can be developed for our industries.
- ✚ More water and soil sampling has been done at the old Whitehall Plant site and three new monitoring wells have been installed.
- ✚ The scientists studying the bacteria problems at our Black Creek outfall are nearly done with their study and should have a report for us soon.
- ✚ The motor for Pump #1 at Lift Station C was rebuilt and returned to action this period.



*New monitoring well at old Whitehall Plant*



*Gravity sewer being installed on Hein Drive in our Business Park North*

**Personnel**

Please continue to pray for **Brian Bates** that his treatments can hold his cancer in remission and for **Mark and Pam Johnston** as they go through her bone marrow work and recovery in the next 5-6 weeks. **Rodney Holland** is recovering fine from knee surgery and should be back in early January. Congratulations to **Corey Burmeister** in passing his CDL testing and on his promotion to Maintenance Mechanic. No applicants were received for the two Irrigation Technician positions from within our union, so an outside recruitment will be sought. Congratulations to **Forrest McCauley** on his promotion to Grandpa! Grace Irene made her appearance November 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 pounds, 6 ounces and 19 inches long.



*Manhole for Acoustic Monitoring fiber optic cable insertion*



*1,250 horsepower pump motor being placed back in old C Station*



*Forms up above grade now at our new Lift Station C*



*Pulling 100 horsepower mixer motors in Cell #2*



*Water main installation north of Agard Road in our Business Park North*



*Watts Trucking tears down the last house at the MacArthur Road break site*