

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

- ✚ The Regional Water System and Public Works Boards approved the transfer of several City of Muskegon water contracts from Muskegon Township to our Regional Water System, and a change order for extra engineering work on the Eastside part of the system.
- ✚ The Board approved a lease agreement for another cell antenna on the Fruitport water tower.
- ✚ The purchase of 100 tons of potassium fertilizer for the wastewater farm ahead of the November price increases was approved.
- ✚ Permission was given to bid the cleaning of the Whitehall Plant Northeast Plume purge wells.
- ✚ A contract was approved for the Muskegon Area Rocketry Club for their use of a small site on the Wastewater Plant. This will be used for member recreation and for education of school children.
- ✚ Our Egelston Township Clerk, Deb Ackerman, attended the Public Works Board meeting and thanked Wastewater staff for their quick action and cooperation on the E Station line leak this month. We appreciated their fire department's quick response to keep the water out of Wolf Lake.
- ✚ The Municipal Wastewater Committee concurred with staff's recommendation to abandon our efforts for Federal STAG grants and accept a MDEQ first quarter 2009 SRF low-interest loan. The grants are relatively small, our congressional aides believe there will be no STAG grants next year, and occasional wire breaks heard by acoustic monitoring remind us that we need to finish this project as soon as possible. The Committee also recommended extending our contract with Muskegon Area First for two years to continue their economic development efforts.
- ✚ Our Parks are closed for the year with revenues slightly above last year.
- ✚ We are accepting Patterson Park caretaker applications through the end of the month.
- ✚ Staff is working with Fruitland Township to plan for the future sewer needs.
- ✚ Some interest is being shown by potential buyers for our Business Park North properties.
- ✚ Staff has met with WMU professors regarding algae and brown grease energy conversion options.
- ✚ Wastewater staff and Watts Trucking have been working hard to haul our drying bed sludge to our landfill. Our sludge contractor should start pumping more Cell #4 sludge out to these beds next week.
- ✚ Operations Maintenance is putting more RI Basins in the B, D, and E groups into service for winter.
- ✚ Our old 1970s Lift Station D and the associated pipeline were taken out of service this period. A new generator at the site will soon provide backup for the newer station that remains in operation.
- ✚ Staff will soon be placing rip rap rock on the storage lagoon dike slopes.
- ✚ The Northside Water System large water main and tank were chlorinated this period.
- ✚ Good progress has been made on the Laketon Township sewer and water contracts in October.
- ✚ All of the work is complete on our Business Park North infrastructure construction except a sign.
- ✚ Our Regional Water staff is now doing the sewer billing for Muskegon Township.
- ✚ Staff attended the mandatory MDEQ Gypsy Moth training, has been fielding related calls, and is discussing participation with the affected communities.
- ✚ The new landfill liner has been placed, and the contractor has begun installing cover over it.
- ✚ Sun Chemical is now online and using a significant amount of our landfill gas this month.
- ✚ A recently purchased house on Apple Avenue burned this month. The site will be demoed soon.
- ✚ We received our landfill operating permit renewal that is good through 2013.
- ✚ The Wastewater System again had several violations at our Black Creek Outfall for fecal Coliform and Chronic Toxicity. Although staff does not believe this is related to the land treatment system, it appears we will be forced to rebuild Laketon Pump Station to pump this water to the storage lagoons or the Rapid Infiltration Basins. The System is under an MDEQ Order to resolve these issues. A change in monitoring for our Muskegon River Outfall and Rapid Infiltration Basins, however, should resolve the difficulties the plant has had in the past with waterfowl-related bacteria violations.
- ✚ October will be the fifth month in a row that we have set hauled waste volume records.
- ✚ We have sold over 240 early and late season bow passes and over 40 bow passes for hunting during the firearms season.
- ✚ There will be First Aid and CPR training for the volunteer Rescue Team in December.
- ✚ Safety inspections are being done monthly at our various division work places.
- ✚ The last cutting of alfalfa has been taken, and the soybean harvest should be done today or tomorrow. We will average about 50 bushels per acre on the beans – which ties our record yield for this crop. A wheat cover crop is being planted in the soybean stubble for erosion control. Corn crop harvest should begin next week.
- ✚ The painting of the grain center and installation of new bin ladders has been completed.
- ✚ The construction of our new main lift station is nearly complete. The exterior doors, the final connection to the 60-inch force main, and the plumbing from the old surge tank to the new station are all the main work items that remain. Testing will begin on the station in November, and it is hoped that it will be online in December. We hope to have an open house to celebrate the completion of both Phase I and Phase II of our Collection System Upgrade this winter.
- ✚ A pre-construction meeting for the first segment of our 66-inch force main replacement is scheduled for this month. The Lift Station R force main extension will be completed this fall on Dangl Road between MacArthur and Hall Roads. The bids for Segment 2 of this work are due next week and will go to a special Public Works Board meeting October 28, 2008. MDEQ posted the SRF list of funded projects for first quarter 2009, and our Segment 2 work made the list.

Personnel

Please continue to pray for **Ron Colgrove** who recently determined he could not come back to work because of health reasons and resigned. Also pray for **Bob Harrington** as he will be having back surgery soon and will be off for several months. Thanks to all who have been working long hours on sludge hauling, grease pumping, irrigation rigs, landfill operations, and harvest. Thanks to **Mike Barry, Tony Dunn, and Ray Maleski** for their work in shutting down and isolating the E Station force main after a leak in that line was reported. We welcome **Robert Deur** as our Temporary Agricultural Laborer. Thanks to all who pledged to United Way this year. We made 98% of our goal.



Covering the new liner at Solid Waste



Watts Trucking being loaded with sludge for our landfill



Harvest from the combine operator's seat



Helicopter at the Wastewater model airplane field



Excavation for Laketon Township sewer lift station



Blasting the hauled waste solids away from the dumping area with our manure pump



Painting of the 50,000-bushel bins and loadouts completed



New Lift Station C almost complete