



### FLEET MAINTENANCE BUILDING EXPANSION

At the beginning of March Grand River Construction started the block work for all of the internal walls in the Fleet Maintenance Building Expansion and by the end of the April they were only a week away from finishing all the drywall. The overhead crane also arrived and was installed. They have now reached the point of substantial completion and are working on the punch list items, which include the finishing work and the installation of the power washer with all its associated plumbing.



### JAN-JUNE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Joe Tardani = 30 years  
Steve Barnard = 20 years  
Thomas Taylor = 10 years



### SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION AWARD CEREMONY

Weesies Brothers Garden Center in Montague was the venue for the 2019 Sustainability Champion Awards, held on April 23 and sponsored by the Muskegon Sustainability Coalition and Darling Cetaceans where the Wastewater was recognized for its "on-site and outreach education" efforts. Steve Barnard accepted the award on the Wastewater's behalf and was recognized for his role in these tours, as he personally leads 95% of them.

### 2019 BLUEBIRD NESTBOX CLEAN OUT DAY

A special thank you to everyone who came out to the Wastewater on Saturday, March 23, 2019 to help with our Nest Box Clean Out Day! We had a great turnout this year for this event! We were also blessed with awesome weather for the day. Don't forget, if you would like to volunteer to help during the upcoming nesting season by checking on the new hatchlings, please contact us either on Facebook or email [friendan@muskegoncounty.net](mailto:friendan@muskegoncounty.net) or call (231) 724-3440.



### THE 2019 GROWING SEASON

At the Wastewater farm we're right on the verge of our busy season. Rains and cool temperatures kept us out of the fields through much of April. We utilized our time fixing rig ruts in the fields and preparing equipment. Our new fertilizer spreader arrived on the 26th, so now we're off to the races to get ground covered (with potash and alfalfa starter fertilizer) and begin planting. We had a favorable window in the weather last fall after harvest, so we were able to get a lot of ground worked then. That leaves less for us to do now, which helps to ease the time crunch resulting from the delayed spring.

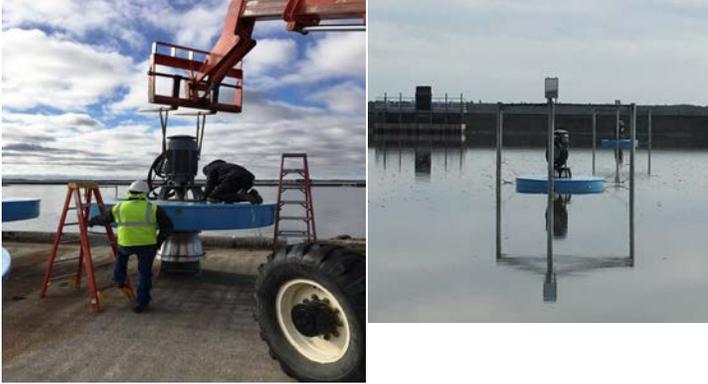
### SPRING COUNTY RECYCLE EVENT

The County Recycle Event was held on Saturday, April 27, 2019 with 905 vehicles delivering Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics, Tires and confidential documents for destruction." The next County Recycle Event will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2019. The Tire Program has had 3 collection events to date with additional Tire Program Events scheduled on select Saturday's through June 1, 2019.



### CELL (3) THREE RENNOVATIONS

On April 2, we began filling Cell 3 so that Triangle Associates could prepare for the last stages of the renovation. While the cell was filling (it took about seven days), Northwest Kent Mechanical, subcontractor to Triangle, began assembling the new aerators on site. Once the cell was full, the aerators were taken out of the cell to be secured to the mooring posts and connected electrically. Startup of the cell should begin to take place sometime in May.



### FLUME BAR SCREEN

We believe the rag problem is finally solved! The flume bar screen's purpose is to prevent rags from entering our aerated settling cells, where they destroy our aerator motors. However, we learned that control of hauled restaurant grease is required. When too much is dumped into the hopper, it builds up in the system and overflows the hopper, thereby overwhelming/hindering movement through the current conveyor/compactor. Discussion with the Bar Screen Manufacturer, Duperon, resulted in the suggestion to replace the current conveyor with a "shaftless screw conveyor" which is better suited for grease.

### RAPID INFILTRATION BED IMPROVEMENTS

Jackson-Merkey continued working through February on the Rapid Infiltration (RI) Bed Improvements project as they replace the system's 30 year-old butterfly valves with new gate valves. Each one of the 39 RI beds will get one of these new valves, which open to allow the beds to be flooded with the water pumped from the lagoon interception ditch. The Rapid Infiltration Treatment System is a major part of our overall treatment system. Many people don't realize that during the months when there's no irrigation, the water discharged through the RI system is the only discharge we have. And the volume of water treated by the RI system is not insignificant. On average it's only 30% less than the volume of water that enters the plant through the sewer.



The Rapid Infiltration (RI) Treatment System lies immediately south of the Wastewater's Maple Island entrance drive and thus attracts the gaze of visitors as they drive onto the Wastewater Treatment Plant property. Each black-lined shape above is an RI treatment bed. The white-lined shapes are RI treatment beds that were permanently converted into sludge drying beds.

### SLUDGE LOADING AND HAULING



In February, Yellow Rose Trucking began hauling sludge from the sludge drying beds to the landfill after the Board of Public works awarded them the sludge hauling bid at the February Board meeting. The Wastewater's heavy equipment operator Chris VanderLaan is shown above using our excavator to load the trucks doing the hauling.

### WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL CERTIFICATION - TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS

Atwood Timber & Lumber has been working on Segment 2 of our timber stand improvement efforts. Segment 2 encompasses 1746 trees from the forested areas north of the Wastewater entrance drive, south of Mosquito Creek, and east of Maple Island Road.



This was a common sight this month as Atwood Timber & Lumber worked steadily on the timber harvest for Segment 2 of our timber stand improvement efforts.

### MICHIGAN'S EDGE MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION OFFICIALLY OPENS THE MOSQUITO CREEK TRAILS AT THE WASTEWATER

On May 11, 2019 at 2190 North Maple Island Road, the MEMBA opened the Mosquito Creek Mountain Bike Trails. The series of multi-use trails will have varying difficulties, widths, and grades and is being built so that the user experiences support the local landscape and environment instead of working against it. The trails will utilize natural obstacles and anchor elements to define the trails and deters users from unintentionally widening paths. Mosquito creek trails offer opportunities for local cyclists and visitors to use the multi-use trails year round and support Muskegon County's need for safe and secure trails for a variety of exercise and recreational socialization. MEMBA is currently fundraising to complete the remaining phases of the project and hopefully will complete Phase 2 in the fall of 2019.

