

WASTEWATER TREATMENT ACTIVITY BRIEFING

APRIL 2025

PREPARED BY: Terry Burns and Zoey Martin

PREPARED ON: 5/1/25

SUBJECT: WWTP Activity Briefing

BACKGROUND: The following items were completed over the last month by the WWTP staff.

- The DRB 200 Digital Reactor Block (TNT) was previously out of service and sent to Hach for repair. It has since been returned, and all functions are working properly.
- All Wastewater Treatment Plant personnel participated in a virtual training course focused on nitrogen removal design and operation using Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBR). The course was provided by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).
- While attempting to waste through the SCADA system, a valve failed to open. Terry manually adjusted it and then contacted James from Windemuller for assistance. A blown fuse was discovered on the control board, which was replaced. The system is now functioning properly.
- After a recent storm, staff conducted lawn cleanup. Sticks were collected and transported to the cemetery for disposal. Leaves were raked and thrown over the rear fence to maintain the facility's grounds.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant personnel visited the Benton Harbor–St. Joseph Wastewater Treatment Plant to observe different operational processes and improve understanding of alternative plant systems.
- Chlorine testing equipment was ordered to meet NPDES permit requirements. Testing will commence once the chlorine treatment process is finalized and implemented.
- Terry and Joe attended a full-day Michigan Rural Water Association math class via Zoom to prepare for their upcoming "D" certification exams.
- A pump was installed near the primary tanks to help empty standing water from the old plant. The water is directed to the thickener, which then routes it to the influent channel for proper treatment before discharge into the river.
- Both T-10 wear plates required adjustment. While working on them, Terry discovered that one unit had a faulty check valve. Gasvoda & Associates were called in to assess the issue. They confirmed the check valve was not seating properly and are compiling a list of necessary parts and repairs to restore full functionality.
- Tim and Zoey met with Terri Shattuck to discuss Buchanan's pretreatment program and are currently finalizing edits to the updated Sewer Use IPP Ordinance, originally drafted in May 2020.
- The Millpond lift station was temporarily shut down due to alarm calls. It was determined that the pump needed to be pulled and cleared of debris clogging the motor. Once cleared, the station was returned to normal operation. The yard was also cleaned up following damage from the March storm.
- Monthly sampling and analyses were performed for effluent total chlorides, sulfate, and copper. As well as quarterly testing on influent and effluent on mercury and PFOS. These tests are requirement of the plant's new NPDES discharge permit.