



## WASTEWATER TREATMENT ACTIVITY BRIEFING JULY 2025

- Millpond Lift Station triggered an alarm due to Pump 2. Upon inspection, a large rag ball was removed. The pump was reinstalled and tested, restoring full functionality. Later in the month, Pump 2 again triggered an alarm. Terry identified that backflushing wouldn't help, so Joe and Jeremy removed the rag ball and restarted the pump.
- Schirmer Lift Station was inspected during routine maintenance. A sinkhole near the generator was discovered, likely caused by settled fill in the manhole. With assistance from the DPW's Vactor truck, the hole was temporarily filled with sand and covered with limestone rocks. Terry continues to monitor the area.
- Glacier Lift Station had an after-hours alarm. Terry determined Pump 2 required manual removal rather than backflushing. The next morning, the team removed a rag ball and replaced stripped bolts. Gasvoda will inspect further to ensure oil containment.
- Influent Electrical Box experienced a SCADA communication failure due to a blown fuse. Windemuller replaced the fuse, restoring connectivity.
- Sludge Press Polymer System had a pump head replaced. Four 55-gallon drums of polymer were ordered since the press requires it to run. Only one spare pump remains; more will be ordered.
- Distilled Water Tanks used for BOD5 testing were producing inconsistent results. Nalco Water replaced both tank canisters and verified no leaks. Testing results have returned to normal.
- Headworks Building received a fresh coat of floor paint after excessive moisture caused previous layers to chip. The surface was scraped, cleaned, and repainted.
- New lab supplies were ordered from North Central Labs, and gloves were restocked through Material Resources.
- Monthly and quarterly water testing (chlorides, sulfate, copper, mercury, PFAS) was conducted per NPDES permit requirements. Samples were sent to ALS in Holland, MI, all results were within acceptable ranges.
- The Annual Asset Management Report was submitted via the Mi Enviro portal, including updates to the 2025–26 budget, fixed assets, rate structures, and detailed water/sewer operations data for 2023–24 in accordance with the facility's NPDES permit.
- Superintendent Tim announced his departure. The city manager and department heads have begun the search for a full-time plant lead. Tom Rodgers (Benton Harbor St. Joe WWTP) was hired as interim support for paperwork a few times per month until a full-time Class B operator is found.
- A meeting with Jonas and Henry focused on reducing PFAS local limits in Buchanan's IPP ordinances, with guidance from Anne of EGLE.
- Anne issued an email indicating that Buchanan was overdue in submitting the PFAS POTW Effluent Monitoring Report. Upon further review, it was determined that the overdue report pertained to a previous permit, which expired in September 2024. All required information has since been updated in Mi Enviro and successfully submitted, resolving the issue.
- The upcoming DMR-QA 45 study, scheduled for October. All required testing materials have been ordered and successfully delivered to the plant by Advanced Analytical Solutions. The testing procedures to be conducted align with the requirements specified in the plant's NPDES permit, ensuring full compliance with regulatory standards.
- The facility completed 150 Preventive Maintenance work orders, ranging from equipment checks to complex repairs requiring substantial labor.