

City of Oelwein

Oelwein Reed Bed Expansion and EQ Liner Replacement Project



The City of Oelwein is proud to announce the successful completion of the Reed Bed Expansion and EQ Liner Replacement Project, an essential infrastructure investment that will strengthen the long-term capacity and reliability of our Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project represents a significant step in ensuring the continued protection of our community's water quality and the responsible management of Oelwein's wastewater system.

Project Overview

- **Project Name:** Oelwein Reed Bed Expansion and EQ Liner Replacement
- **Total Project Cost:** \$1,683,726
- **Funding Sources:**
 - State Revolving Fund: \$1,138,000
 - Wastewater & Drinking Water Treatment Financial Assistance Program: \$375,000
 - Sewer and Wastewater Funds: \$170,726
- **Engineer:** Fox/Strand
- **Contractor:** Shift Companies LLC
- **Project Timeline:**
 - Bids Received: July 19, 2023
 - Completion: June 2025

Why This Project Was Needed

The Wastewater Treatment Plant is one of the most critical components of Oelwein's infrastructure. Over time, the facility's existing systems had reached their limits, creating both operational and environmental challenges that needed to be addressed.

1. Reed Bed Expansion:

The Reed Bed system is used to store and naturally dry biosolids, a byproduct of wastewater treatment. By expanding the capacity of the Reed Beds, Oelwein can now store more biosolids, which allows for reduced volatile solids and improved stabilization. This additional storage time enables more thorough drying, ultimately reducing the overall volume of biosolids that need to be land applied. This creates long-term cost savings, improves efficiency, and ensures better compliance with environmental regulations.





2. **EQ Liner Replacement:**

The Equalization (EQ) Basin liner had reached the end of its useful life. Its replacement was essential to maintaining the plant's ability to manage stormwater surges. The new liner ensures that stormwater can be safely stored, preventing system backups that could otherwise threaten both public health and the environment. This upgrade strengthens Oelwein's resilience during heavy rainfall events and ensures ongoing system reliability.

Impact on the Community

The completion of this project enhances Oelwein's ability to responsibly manage wastewater, safeguard water resources, and maintain regulatory compliance. By making this investment today, the City has positioned itself for long-term sustainability in wastewater treatment while reducing future maintenance and repair costs.

This project also demonstrates the City of Oelwein's commitment to leveraging state and local partnerships to maximize funding opportunities. With significant support from the State Revolving Fund and the Wastewater & Drinking Water Treatment Financial Assistance Program, Oelwein was able to complete this \$1.68 million project with minimized impact on local ratepayers.

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Completion Date: June 2025

