

**Muskegon County
Board of Commissioners**
*Hall of Justice, 990 Terrace, 4th Floor
Muskegon, MI 49442*

*Benjamin E. Cross
Marvin Engle
Susie Hughes
Kenneth Mahoney, Chair
Charles Nash*

*Terry Sabo
Robert Scolnik
Rillastine R. Wilkins, Vice Chair
District 7 - Vacant*

Board Minutes may be found on the web at <http://co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk>

Regular Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2014
4:36 p.m.

Chairman Mahoney, Presiding

The Full Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Mahoney. The invocation was given by Chairman Mahoney. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

Roll Call

Present: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Kenneth Mahoney, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo, Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins

Also Present: Mark Eisenbarth, County Administrator,
Nancy A. Waters, County Clerk,
Jeanne Pezet, Deputy County Clerk,
Doug Hughes, Corporate Counsel

2014-464 **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Commissioner Cross, seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, to approve the agenda.

Voice vote.

Motion Carried

2014-465 **APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

Moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, to approve the meeting minutes of Tuesday, November 6, 2014.

Voice vote.

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENT (ON AN AGENDA ITEM)

There was no public comment.

COMMUNICATION

2014-466 **RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE COMMUNICATION FROM OTSEGO COUNTY**

Moved by Commissioner Wilkins, seconded by Commissioner Hughes to receive and place on file the following Communication item was distributed to Commissioners: Otsego County Board Resolution No. 14-30: Calling on the State of Michigan to Provide Adequate Road Funding and Asking for Additional Local Road Funding Options.

Voice vote.

Motion Carried

COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

2014-467 **AWARD PRINTING OF THE OFFICIAL 2015 MUSKEGON COUNTY VISITORS GUIDE AND FOLD-OUT MAP, PLUS A 30,000 UNIT OVERRUN OF THE FOLD-OUT MAP TO ROGERS PRINTING OF RAVENNA, MICHIGAN FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$37,695, WITH FUNDING PROVIDED BY ADVERTISING SALES AND BUDGETED CVB FUNDS, AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT**

CD/SP14/11-11

The Community Development/Strategic Planning Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Scolnik, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to award printing of the Official 2015 Muskegon County Visitors Guide and fold-out map, plus a 30,000 unit overrun of the fold-out map to Rogers Printing of Ravenna, Michigan for a total cost of \$37,695, with funding provided by advertising sales and budgeted CVB funds, and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the agreement.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-468 **APPOINT DAVE JOHNSON AS INTERIM WASTEWATER DIRECTOR EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 7, 2014, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$41.257 TO CONTINUE UNTIL FINAL REPLACEMENT BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

BPW-14-083

The Board of Public Works recommends, moved by Commissioner Sabo, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, to appoint Dave Johnson as Interim Wastewater Director effective November 7, 2014, at an hourly rate of \$41.257 to continue until final replacement by the Board of Public Works.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-469 **AUTHORIZE AN ADDITION OF \$67,500 TO THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH URS CORPORATION AND AN ADDITION OF \$24,206 TO THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM MANAGER CONTRACT WITH FISHBECK, THOMPSON, CARR, AND HUBER, FOR NEW CONTRACT AMOUNTS OF \$266,359.11 AND \$96,752.00 FOR URS AND FTCH, RESPECTIVELY**

TR14/11-31

The Transportation Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Wilkins, seconded by Commissioner Sabo, to authorize an addition of \$67,500 to the Architectural Services contract with URS Corporation and an addition of \$24,206 to the Construction Program Manager contract with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, and Huber, for new contract amounts of \$266,359.11 and \$96,752.00 for URS and FTCH, respectively.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-470 **APPROVE ALLOWING STAFF TO CONDUCT AN INFORMAL QUALIFICATIONS BASED SELECTION OF A LAND CONSULTANT, ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE SELECTED LAND CONSULTANT, AND COMPLETE THE ACQUISITION OF 4618 MARTIN ROAD IN FURTHERANCE OF FUTURE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE TOTAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ACQUISITION NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000, WITH THE COUNTY'S 2.5% SHARE NOT TO EXCEED \$3,750**

TR14/11-32

The Transportation Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Wilkins, seconded by Commissioner Sabo, to approve allowing staff to conduct an Informal Qualifications Based Selection of a Land Consultant, enter into a contract with the selected Land Consultant, and complete the acquisition of 4618 Martin Road in furtherance of future Airport Development, with the total costs associated with the acquisition not to exceed \$150,000, with the County's 2.5% share not to exceed \$3,750.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-471 **APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE OF \$17,954,174.24 COVERING THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 25, 2014 THROUGH NOVEMBER 7, 2014 AS PRESENTED BY THE COUNTY CLERK**

WM14/11-160

The Ways and Means Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to approve payment of the accounts payable of \$17,954,174.24 covering the period of October 25, 2014 through November 7, 2014 as presented by the County Clerk.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-472 **AUTHORIZE STAFF TO CONTINUE ADMINISTERING THE DTE TEST AND TUNE-UP PROGRAM FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MUSKEGON COUNTY THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015**

WM14/11-61

The Ways and Means Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to authorize staff to continue administering the DTE Test and Tune-Up Program for the residents of Muskegon County through December 31, 2015.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-473 **APPROVE THE REVISED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE LAKESHORE REGIONAL PARTNERS, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2014, FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT AND SERVICE**

WM14/11-162

The Ways and Means Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to approve the revised Intergovernmental Agreement with the Lakeshore Regional Partners, effective October 1, 2014, for Substance Abuse Treatment and Service.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Terry Sabo, Robert Scolnik,
Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Abstain: Charles Nash

Motion Carried

2014-474 **APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR CONTRACTUAL DISTRICT COURT PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED \$17,250 PER MONTH UNTIL THE MUSKEGON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER DEPARTMENT ASSUMES THESE DUTIES**

WM14/11-163

The Ways and Means Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to approve payment authorization for contractual District Court Public Defender services not to exceed \$17,250 per month until the Muskegon County Public Defender Department assumes these duties.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-475 **AUTHORIZE THE GRANTS COORDINATOR TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE MUNICIPAL RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY ON BEHALF OF MUSKEGON COUNTY TO OFFSET CURRENT CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR THE MUSKEGON COUNTY JAIL**

WM14/11-164

The Ways and Means Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to authorize the Grants Coordinator to submit applications to the Municipal Risk Management Authority on behalf of Muskegon County to offset current construction costs for the Muskegon County Jail.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-476 **APPROVE ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES BEING PROVIDED BY THE EQUALIZATION DEPARTMENT TO FRUITPORT TOWNSHIP AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO EXECUTE A TEMPORARY AGREEMENT PREPARED BY THE EQUALIZATION DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE**

WM14/11-165

The Ways and Means Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to approve Assessment Administration Services being provided by the Equalization Department to Fruitport Township and authorize the Chair of the County Board of Commissioners to execute a temporary agreement prepared by the Equalization Department to provide the service.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-477 **APPROVE THE CONTRACT SETTLEMENT WITH THE BROOKHAVEN AFSCME UNIT AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY BOARD CHAIR AND COUNTY CLERK TO SIGN THE LABOR AGREEMENT SUBSEQUENT TO SIGNATURES BEING OBTAINED FROM UNION REPRESENTATIVES**

WM14/11-166

The Ways and Means Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to approve the contract settlement with the Brookhaven AFSCME Unit and authorize the County Board Chair and County Clerk to sign the labor agreement subsequent to signatures being obtained from union representatives.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-478 **AUTHORIZE THE MUSKEGON COUNTY INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH INFOGEOGRAPHICS, INC., FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) SUPPORT AND UPGRADES AT AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$29,870.00**

WM14/11-167

The Ways and Means Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to authorize the Muskegon County Information Systems Department to enter into an agreement with InfoGeographics, Inc., for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) support and upgrades at an amount not to exceed \$29,870.00.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-479 **APPROVE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD, ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING HOURLY EMPLOYEES) ENROLLED IN MUSKEGON COUNTY MEDICAL PLAN HD SHALL PAY AN EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION OF 10% OF THE MONTHLY PREMIUM EQUIVALENT FOR THE EMPLOYEE AND APPLICABLE DEPENDENTS AND IF THE EMPLOYEE SELECTS MUSKEGON COUNTY MEDICAL PLAN RM OR 2P, THE EMPLOYEE SHALL PAY ONE (1/2) OF THE ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE COPAY COST OF THIS COVERAGE IN EXCESS OF THE COPAY COST OF MUSKEGON COUNTY MEDICAL PLAN HD IN ADDITION TO THE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION OF 15% OF THE MONTHLY PREMIUM EQUIVALENT OF MUSKEGON COUNTY MEDICAL PLANS RM OR 2P FOR THE EMPLOYEE AND APPLICABLE DEPENDENTS. ALL MEDICAL PLANS WILL INCLUDE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE AT \$10/\$40/\$80. IF AN EMPLOYEE IS ENROLLED IN A MEDICAL PLAN THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE EXCISE TAX ON HIGH COST COVERAGE (CADILLAC TAX), THEY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR 100% OF THE EXCISE TAX**

WM14/11-156 *

The Ways and Means Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to approve open enrollment period, eligible employees (excluding hourly employees) enrolled in Muskegon County Medical Plan HD shall pay an employee contribution of 10% of the monthly premium equivalent for the employee and applicable dependents and if the employee selects Muskegon County Medical Plan RM or 2P, the employee shall pay one (1/2) of the additional employee copay cost of this coverage in excess of the copay cost of Muskegon County Medical Plan HD in addition to the employee contribution of 15% of the monthly premium equivalent of Muskegon County Medical Plans RM or 2P for the employee and applicable dependents. All Medical Plans will include prescription drug coverage at \$10/\$40/\$80. If an employee is enrolled in a medical plan that is subject to the excise tax on high cost coverage (Cadillac Tax), they will be responsible for 100% of the excise tax.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-480 **APPROVE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD, ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING HOURLY EMPLOYEES) ENROLLED IN MUSKEGON COUNTY MEDICAL PLAN HD SHALL PAY AN EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION OF 10% OF THE MONTHLY PREMIUM EQUIVALENT FOR THE EMPLOYEE AND APPLICABLE DEPENDENTS AND IF THE EMPLOYEE SELECTS MUSKEGON COUNTY MEDICAL PLAN RM OR 2P, THE EMPLOYEE SHALL PAY ONE (1/2) OF THE ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE COPAY COST OF THIS COVERAGE IN EXCESS OF THE COPAY COST OF MUSKEGON COUNTY MEDICAL PLAN HD IN ADDITION TO THE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION OF 15% OF THE MONTHLY PREMIUM EQUIVALENT OF MUSKEGON COUNTY MEDICAL PLANS RM OR 2P FOR THE EMPLOYEE AND APPLICABLE DEPENDENTS; ALL MEDICAL PLANS WILL INCLUDE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE AT \$10/\$40/\$80 AND IF AN EMPLOYEE IS ENROLLED IN A MEDICAL PLAN THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE EXCISE TAX ON HIGH COST COVERAGE (CADILLAC TAX), THEY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR 100% OF THE EXCISE TAX; THIS MEDICAL OPTION WILL BE OFFERED VIA A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING TO ALL 10 BARGAINING UNITs**

WM14/11-168

The Ways and Means Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to approve open enrollment period, eligible employees (excluding hourly employees) enrolled in Muskegon County Medical Plan HD shall pay an employee contribution of 10% of the monthly premium equivalent for the employee and applicable dependents and if the employee selects Muskegon County Medical Plan RM or 2P, the employee shall pay one (1/2) of the additional employee copay cost of this coverage in excess of the copay cost of Muskegon County Medical Plan HD in addition to the employee contribution of 15% of the monthly premium equivalent of Muskegon County Medical Plans RM or 2P for the employee and applicable dependents; all Medical Plans will include prescription drug coverage at \$10/\$40/\$80 and if an employee is enrolled in a medical plan that is subject to the excise tax on high cost coverage (Cadillac Tax), they will be responsible for 100% of the excise tax; this medical option will be offered via a letter of understanding to all 10 bargaining units.

Commissioner Sabo stated he was proud of the teamwork of the Board and employees.

Commissioner Nash stated it takes a lot at the ground level because citizens let their voices be heard.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

2014-481 **APPROVE A RESOLUTION HONORING THE REETHS-PUFFER MARCHING BAND FOR BEING NAMED FLIGHT II STATE CHAMPIONS AND FOR PLACING 4TH AT THE BANDS OF AMERICA GRAND NATIONALS IN INDIANAPOLIS**

WM14/11-169

The Ways and Means Committee recommends, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Engle, to approve a Resolution honoring the Reeths-Puffer Marching Band for being named Flight II State Champions and for placing 4th at the Bands of America Grand Nationals in Indianapolis.

Roll Call

Yes: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Terry Sabo,
Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins, Kenneth Mahoney

No: None

Motion Carried

* Numbers not sequential as this item came from Old Business from a prior meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

2014-482 **APPROVE APPOINTMENTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman recommends, moved by Commissioner Engle, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, to approve the following appointments:

1. Building Authority: Appoint Mark Eisenbarth for a term through 6/30/17
2. WEMET (West Michigan Enforcement Team) Board: Appoint Mark Eisenbarth
3. Foreign Trade Zone – terms through 12/31/17
 - a. Appoint Jonathon Wilson
 - b. Reappoint Ed Garner (Muskegon Area First)
4. Public Works Board: Appoint Jerry Bartoszek, City of Norton Shores, term through 12/31/17
5. White River Zoning Board – terms through 12/31/17
 - a. Reappoint Sam St. Amour
 - b. Reappoint Thomas West
 - c. Reappoint Thomas Hamilton (Alternate)

Voice vote.

Motion Carried

Commissioner Cross reported that the Library Board will enter into a contract with a new District Library Administrator.

Commissioner Engle learned that the Fair Board had 39 events in 2014.

Commissioner Wilkins attended the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) Transportation Committee and members were excited about the extended bus routes.

Commissioner Hughes also attended the WMSRDC Transportation Committee meeting and noted that there was also discussion about the abandoned bridge over US 31 being added back on MDOT's agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

2014-487 **ACCEPT THE ENGAGEMENT LETTER FROM MILLER, CANFIELD, PADDOCK AND STONE, P.L.C. TO ACT AS BOND COUNSEL FOR THE REFINANCING OF THE 2006 WASTEWATER SYSTEM AND THE 2006 WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM BONDS AND AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

The Administrator recommends, moved by Commissioner Sabo, seconded by Commissioner Engle to accept the engagement letter from Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. to act as Bond Counsel for the refinancing of the 2006 Wastewater System and the 2006 Water Supply System Bonds and authorize County Administrator to sign engagement letter.

Voice vote.

Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

2014-488 **TO PREPARE A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR ANITA MARTIN AT WASTEWATER FOR HER VOLUNTEER WORK TO ACHIEVE THE HABITAT ACCREDITATION AT WASTEWATER**

Moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, to prepare a resolution of appreciation for Anita Friend at Muskegon County Wastewater for her volunteer work to achieve the Wildlife Habitat Council's Rookie of the Year Award. (See attached.)

Commissioner Sabo noted Ms. Friend did a lot of the work on her personal time, developed the committee, and worked on improvements during her breaks and lunches.

Voice vote.

Motion Carried

Commissioner Nash reminded everyone that the West Michigan Lake Hawkes will have their first home game this Saturday, November 22, at 6 p.m. at Reeths-Puffer High School.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

2014-489 **MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 4:55 P.M.**

Moved by Commissioner Cross, seconded by Commissioner Nash, to adjourn at 4:55 p.m.

Voice vote

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Nancy A. Waters, County Clerk

NAW/jmp

Preliminary Minutes
To be approved at the Full Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2014



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 18, 2014

Contacts: Dave Johnson
Interim Director of MCWMS
231-724-3440

Jonathan Wilson
Economic Development Coordinator
231-724-8861

Muskegon County Wastewater Management System Winner of Wildlife Habitat Council's Rookie of the Year Award

Muskegon, MI – For its contributions to wildlife habitat conservation, Muskegon County Wastewater Management System (MCWMS) was awarded the Wildlife Habitat Council's (WHC) Rookie of the Year award. The winner was announced at WHC's 26th Annual Symposium, Celebrating Corporate Conservation, on November 11th in Baltimore, MD.



“The Wildlife Habitat Council certifies more than 800 programs around the world. Each is different, but what they all have in common is that they are measurable conservation efforts taking place on working landscapes,” says Margaret O’Gorman, President of the Wildlife Habitat Council. “Those that earn nominations for one of our five international awards represent the best of the best in land management practices and community engagement in conservation efforts. Muskegon County Wastewater Management System’s program is an outstanding model of how a corporation can be active in conservation by involving its employees, the community and local conservation organizations towards common goals that benefit the natural community and the human community.”

WHC’s prestigious International Conservation Awards recognize voluntary activities by companies who demonstrate excellence in the areas of wildlife habitat enhancement and restoration. The Rookie of the Year award is presented to one newly-certified Wildlife at Work program each year and exemplifies a superior wildlife habitat program. This year WHC granted first time certification to 45 Wildlife at Work programs from which 3 were chosen as finalists for the Rookie of the Year award. The 2014 nominations included MCWMS, Exelon Corporation - Lake Forest, Illinois and Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America, Inc. - Blue Springs, Mississippi. The MCWMS is honored to receive such a prestigious award. The Wildlife Habitat Council’s Wildlife at Work program provides a structure for corporate-driven cooperative efforts between management, employees and community members to create, conserve and restore wildlife habitats on corporate lands. Wildlife at Work programs are voluntary efforts that exceed regulatory requirements. Projects vary in scope from large scale prairie and wetland restoration, to individual species management and native planting projects. These programs emphasize community involvement in habitat projects by collaborating with



local teachers and students, Scout groups, Master Gardeners and other community members. There are currently 659 certified Wildlife at Work programs worldwide.

In addition to receiving the Rookie of the Year award, MCWMS received certification for its Wildlife at Work program. MCWMS met strict certification guidelines set by the WHC for two projects: a songbird nest box project and a native prairie habitat restoration project. A wildlife team, consisting of past and present MCWMS employees, oversees the implementation, monitoring, and assessment of each project. The consistent dedication of volunteers from the Muskegon Nature Club, Grand Rapids Audubon Club, Pheasants Forever and other local community groups have been instrumental in achieving certification.

Future plans include the completion of a wildflower meadow near the administration building with an intersecting nature trail with interpretive signage. The MCWMS would like to thank the WHC for their support as well as all those who have helped make this project a success. It is our sincere hope to continue to develop a strong partnership with the community and demonstrate coexistence between primary treatment operations and habitat enhancement efforts. Anyone interested in volunteering or hearing more about enhancement efforts at the MCWMS site can contact Anita Friend at 231-724-3440.

About Muskegon County Wastewater Management System: *Muskegon County is located in West Michigan, bordering the shores of Lake Michigan at the terminus of Interstate 96. Muskegon County Wastewater Management System treats wastewater from 16 municipalities with a 43 MGD design, the largest land treatment in the State of Michigan. The 17 square miles of property has several recreational opportunities. For example, MCWMS is one of the best locations in west Michigan for bird watching. Muskegon Astronomical Society has an observation site. Snowmobile club has trails throughout. Port City Radio club has a model airplane field. The property also hosts a Rocketry club, water fowl hunt and bow hunting.*

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. WHC-assisted wildlife habitat and conservation education programs are found in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and 11 other countries. To learn more, visit www.wildlifehc.org.