Michiana Water Authority
October 9th, 2026
10:00 a.m. (EST)

The meeting of the Michiana Water Authority was called to order at 10:00 A.M. (EST) by Mike Mumper. Present were Council Member Tim McCarthy, Public Works Superintendent Rick Reitz, and Clerk Anne Heywood. Craig Pierson was not present. Mr. Derek Snyder from NIES Engineering was present and provided an update on the Village's water project. There were 2 people present.

Water Infrastructure Improvements and Long-Term Planning

Village of Michiana and Grand Beach Joint Water System Discussion - Council Member Ed Sebastian from the Village of Grand Beach came to discussed their respective water systems, future infrastructure needs, and the importance of maintaining a reliable water supply for their community and Michiana's. Ed outlined several anticipated improvements, including water main replacements, routine infrastructure evaluations, valve replacements, and possible hydrant repairs. They also noted that the village will likely need to recoat the interior and exterior of its water tower within the next five to ten years. It was acknowledged that past maintenance practices, including exercising valves and flushing hydrants, had not always been performed consistently. As these maintenance programs continue, additional repairs and expenses may be identified.

Michiana Water System Upgrades - Mike Mumper reported that significant investments have been made in Michiana water system over the past four years. Improvements include increasing pumping capacity from 1750gpm to 2,000gpm gallons per minute, installing new computer control boards and chlorination systems, and replacing two of the three pumps. These improvements were made with the intention of ensuring Michiana could continue meeting Grand Beach's water demands, including potential future growth. The longstanding relationship between the two villages was emphasized, along with Michiana's commitment to maintaining sufficient capacity to serve both communities.

Water Transmission Lines and Capacity - Discussion followed regarding the size of the water transmission line along Creek Road. Existing records indicate a 12-inch transmission line; however, confirmation is needed to determine whether portions of the line may actually be 8 inches. Grand Beach indicated that current projections suggest an 8-inch line would be sufficient to accommodate anticipated residential growth and future water demand. Ed said Grand Beach is also planning to replace its master meter, pending EGLE permit approval. The replacement would be designed to eliminate restrictions at the meter and allow the system to utilize the available transmission line capacity.

Potential Emergency Water Connections with the Township - The discussion turned to the possibility of establishing an additional emergency water connection through the township to provide a secondary water source for both villages. Michiana expressed concern about protecting the existing water supply relationship with Grand Beach, referencing the previous transfer of water service to the Country Club section. It was emphasized that any agreement with the township should clearly establish that the connection would serve as an emergency backup rather than replace Michiana as Grand Beach's primary water supplier. It was also discussed potential differences in water treatment requirements, maintenance obligations, and engineering considerations associated with an additional connection. Further consultation with the engineers will be necessary.

Emergency Water Interconnections and EGLE Requirements - Ed continued discussing the importance of establishing approved emergency water connections between Grand Beach, Michiana, and New Buffalo Township. Grand Beach representatives explained that the village is currently operating under a consent agreement with EGLE following its sanitary survey. While most of the identified issues are being addressed, one of the primary outstanding concerns involves obtaining authorization to operate the township's emergency water interconnections. EGLE has requested that Grand Beach develop standard operating procedures (SOPs), evaluate water chemistry compatibility, and demonstrate that the interconnections can be safely operated during

emergencies. Ed expressed concern that EGLE has provided limited technical guidance regarding the specific steps necessary to obtain approval.

History of Emergency Water Connections - Michiana representatives recalled a previous boil-water advisory, believed to have occurred around 2012, when the village increased free chlorine residuals, flushed the distribution system, and utilized an emergency interconnection. The discussion also included the history of New Buffalo's water interconnections with the township. Several connections were originally installed with meters and isolation valves but remained closed following changes in the municipalities' water systems. During a previous water tower repainting project, one connection on Clay Street was modified with a pressure-regulating valve and meter to allow the township to temporarily supply water to New Buffalo. This arrangement demonstrated the potential value of maintaining emergency connections between neighboring water systems.

Michiana Water Treatment and Michigan City Agreement – Rick Reitz Water Superintendent discussed improvements to the village's chlorination equipment, including an investment estimated at approximately $15,000 for piping, scales, and related components. These improvements were necessary to address fluctuations in chlorine residuals received from Michigan City, particularly when levels were too low. It was also reported that Michiana recently entered into a new 50-year water supply agreement with Michigan City, providing long-term stability for its primary water source. It was discussed the possibility of using New Buffalo Township as an alternative water source during emergencies, while acknowledging that differences in water treatment chemistry would need to be addressed. It was further explained that certain interconnections could potentially operate in both directions, allowing water to be supplied to the township if its normal supply were interrupted.

Water Chemistry, Chloramines, and System Maintenance - A detailed discussion followed regarding water treatment and the differences between free chlorine and chloramines. Rick Reitz Water Superintendent explained that Michigan City utilizes chloramines, produced by combining chlorine and ammonia, to provide longer-lasting disinfection throughout the distribution system. While chloramines are beneficial for larger systems, maintaining proper water quality requires routine flushing, monitoring, and testing. Concerns were discussed regarding the formation of disinfection byproducts, including HAA5, when water remains in the system for extended periods. Ed from Grand Beach also expressed concern about low disinfectant residuals during periods of reduced water usage. These conditions can increase the risk of nitrification and other water quality problems. The discussion included the potential interaction between nitrification, orthophosphate, and bacterial growth within the distribution system. Both villages acknowledged the importance of continued water quality testing, appropriate disinfectant levels, and coordination with EGLE.

Future Cooperation Between the Villages - Mike Mumper reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Grand Beach's water supply needs and emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong working relationship between the two communities. It was suggested that representatives from both villages meet more regularly to discuss infrastructure improvements, water quality, emergency planning, and future system needs. A recommendation was made to consider joint meetings at least twice annually to improve communication and ensure both villages remain informed of potential issues affecting their shared water supply.

Water Project Status and Concerns Regarding Delays - Mike Mumper expressed concern regarding the continued delays in obtaining permits for the village's water main improvement project. The project has been in development for approximately three years, and Mike emphasized the importance of beginning construction before the end of 2026 to protect the federal grant funding. Mike acknowledged the work completed by Engineer Derek Sndyer but stressed the need to establish a realistic timeline for obtaining permits, advertising for bids, and beginning construction within the next 30 to 60 days. It was reported that village representatives recently met with approximately six EPA officials, along with congressional representatives, to discuss the project's delays and the importance of moving forward. EPA representatives expressed their willingness to assist in resolving outstanding issues and expediting the process.

2026 Water Main Improvement Project – Three Contracts - Derek explained that the project will be identified as the 2026 Water Main Improvement Project and divided into three separate contracts:

1. Contract 1 – Lakeshore Drive: Water main improvements along Lakeshore Drive.
2. Contract 2 – Chickagami, Choctaw, and Comanche: Water main improvements within these areas.
3. Contract 3 – Creek Drive: Water main improvements based on plans prepared by the village's previous engineering firm.

Although the improvements were originally funded through two separate grants, the funding has been combined to allow the projects to move forward together. Derek explained that the three-contract structure will allow the village to coordinate the work while addressing differences between the existing engineering plans.

Review of Previous Engineering Plans - Derek reported that he has completed a detailed review of the previous engineer's Creek Drive plans and identified approximately eight items requiring modifications. EGLE has already approved an extension of the existing Creek Drive permit. Derek would like to discuss the proposed changes with EGLE before proceeding to ensure that the modifications can be incorporated without creating additional permitting delays. One concern involves differences in construction specifications between the previous engineer's plans and the specifications being used for the remainder of the project. The previous plans called for concrete thrust blocks at fittings, valves, and hydrants, while Derek recommends using mechanical joint restraints for greater consistency throughout the project. The plans also specify ductile iron piping at hydrant connections, while the remainder of the system utilizes PVC piping. Snyder recommended changing these connections to PVC to maintain consistency, simplify installation, and potentially reduce costs.

Construction Materials and Cost Considerations - Derek Snyder discussed the significant cost difference between PVC and ductile iron piping. Estimated material costs for 6-inch piping were presented as follows:

- PVC piping: Approximately $9.25 per foot.
- Ductile iron piping: Approximately $33 per foot.

He also noted that ductile iron prices are expected to increase further next year. Based on the cost difference and installation considerations, Derek recommended utilizing PVC piping with mechanical joint restraints wherever appropriate. Tim McCarthy discussed the proposed changes and expressed support for maintaining consistent construction standards throughout the project.

Coordination of Creek Drive Improvements - Derek explained that the previous engineer's plans include connection details that differ from the proposed improvements near Chickagami, particularly regarding the installation beneath the drainage ditch. He is preparing revised general notes and construction specifications to guide contractors in coordinating the Creek Drive improvements with the remainder of the project. Derek stated that the original Creek Drive design is generally acceptable and that the proposed modifications are intended to improve consistency, constructability, and cost efficiency rather than require a complete redesign.

EGLE Permitting and Project Timeline - Mike Mumper reiterated its frustration that the project had not begun in September or October as previously anticipated. Derek reported that additional engineering staff have been assigned to the project and that substantial progress has been made over the past several weeks. He indicated that approximately two weeks would be a realistic timeframe to complete the revised plans and submit the package to EGLE for review. Derek also stated that he intends to contact Corey at EGLE as soon as possible to discuss the proposed Creek Drive modifications and the permitting process. Mike suggested arranging an in-person meeting with EGLE representatives, if necessary, to resolve outstanding issues and prevent further delays. Derek explained that the intent is to coordinate the Creek Drive modifications with the remaining project improvements and pursue one additional permit covering the new work, while addressing changes to the existing Creek Drive permit. Mike Mumper emphasized the following priorities:

- Complete the engineering plans and submit them to EGLE within approximately two weeks.
- Communicate directly with EGLE regarding the proposed modifications and permit requirements.
- Coordinate all three construction contracts to maintain consistent materials and installation specifications.
- Utilize available EPA and congressional assistance to address any remaining administrative delays.
- Establish a realistic schedule for bidding and construction, with the goal of beginning work before the end of 2026.

Creek Drive Engineering Plans and Proposed Modifications - Derek Snyder continued discussing the proposed modifications to the Creek Drive water main plans prepared by the village's previous engineering firm. Derek explained that maintaining different construction specifications between the three contracts could create confusion for contractors and potentially increase bid prices. Tim questioned whether it would be more cost-effective for Derek to redesign the Creek Drive portion rather than work with the existing plans. Derek recommended retaining the existing plans, provided EGLE agrees that the approximately eight proposed modifications are minor and do not require the previous engineer's involvement. He noted that the previous engineer's plans are available only in PDF format, rather than as digital CAD files. Although this may require additional layout work by the contractor, Derek does not anticipate significant difficulties because the Creek Drive installation is relatively straightforward. Mike also discussed its ability to approve minor field adjustments during construction. He explained that approval requirements would depend on the nature of the changes and whether additional EGLE authorization would be necessary.

Permit Submission and Approval Process - Mike Mumper requested clarification regarding the next steps once the proposed Creek Drive modifications have been reviewed with Corey at EGLE. Derek explained that the final engineering plans would be completed, stamped, and submitted to EGLE for review and permitting. At the same time, the project documents would be submitted to the EPA for review of federal funding requirements. Derek clarified the responsibilities of the two agencies:

- EGLE: Reviews engineering plans, water system design, construction standards, and permit requirements.
- EPA: Reviews federal grant compliance, bidding procedures, and required contract provisions, including Davis-Bacon wage requirements and Build America, Buy America requirements.

Derek stated that the required federal language has largely been incorporated into the bid documents. However, EPA will need to confirm that all applicable requirements have been satisfied before the project is advertised. The Board confirmed that the submissions to EGLE and EPA can proceed simultaneously rather than waiting for one agency to complete its review before approaching the other. Once the necessary approvals are received, the village can move forward with advertising the project for bids.

Construction Oversight and Inspection - Mike Mumper questioned how construction would be monitored once work begins. Derek explained that he will provide a separate proposal for construction inspection services. An inspector would be present while contractors are performing work to monitor excavation, pipe installation, backfilling, and compliance with the approved plans. Derek also discussed the importance of establishing a suggested construction sequence within the bid documents. Although contractors remain responsible for determining their construction methods, the engineering documents will provide a recommended sequence to assist with scheduling, coordination, and estimating the number of construction days required. This information will also help determine the amount of inspection time necessary throughout the project.

Open-Cut Construction Versus Directional Drilling - It was discussed whether the new water mains would be installed through directional drilling or open-cut excavation. Derek explained that open-cut construction may be preferable along Lakeshore Drive because of the area's sandy soil conditions. He noted that directional drilling through beach sand can present challenges, particularly when groundwater is encountered. With open-cut construction, the existing sand can be excavated and replaced with an approved granular backfill material,

such as Michigan 21A aggregate, which provides improved compaction and stability around the new water main. Derek indicated that properly compacted backfill would also provide a more stable foundation for future maintenance, repairs, and service connections.

Road Restoration Following Water Main Installation - Mike Mumper questioned whether road resurfacing would be included in the water main construction contracts or handled separately. Derek confirmed that road restoration requirements are being incorporated into the project documents. It was discussed the possibility of utilizing a paving contractor currently performing work for the village. Rick expressed satisfaction with the contractor's workmanship and cost savings compared with previous contractors. It was noted that the contractor, based in Elkhart, Indiana, has recently completed village paving work at a substantial savings. No decision was made regarding the contractor who would perform road restoration associated with the water main project.

Federal Funding Requirements - The Board acknowledged that the use of federal grant funding creates additional administrative and contractual requirements. Derek explained that contractors must comply with applicable federal regulations and complete the necessary certifications and documentation. Although these requirements add complexity to the bidding and construction process, Mike Mumper emphasized the importance of maintaining compliance to protect the village's grant funding.

Next Steps - Derek will continue finalizing the project documents, including the proposed Creek Drive modifications, construction specifications, sequencing, and restoration requirements. He will coordinate with EGLE regarding the modifications to the existing permit and submit the completed engineering plans for review. The bid documents will also be forwarded to EPA to confirm compliance with federal funding requirements. Mike Mumper reiterated its desire to expedite the review process and proceed with bidding and construction as soon as the required approvals are received.

Contractor Bidding and Selection Requirements - Mike Mumper asked about the bidding process and the requirements for selecting a contractor for the water main improvement project. Derek explained that the village is required to award the contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. However, the lowest monetary bid does not automatically qualify for acceptance if the contractor fails to meet the necessary requirements. Derek explained the distinction between the two qualifications:

- Responsive: The contractor must submit all required bid documents, certifications, and federal compliance forms.
- Responsible: The contractor must demonstrate the experience, qualifications, and ability to successfully complete the work.

Derek provided an example from a previous water main project where the lowest bidder lacked the necessary experience in water main installation and directional drilling. Following review with the municipal attorney, that bidder was determined not to be responsible. Mike recalled that the previous Creek Drive project received only one bid, which was approximately three times higher than the engineer's estimate. The village declined to proceed with that bid.

Proposed Modifications to Creek Drive Engineering Plans - Derek continued reviewing the approximately eight proposed modifications to the Creek Drive plans prepared by the previous engineering firm. 1. **Thrust Blocks and Mechanical Joint Restraints** – It was recommended replacing the specified concrete thrust blocks with mechanical joint restraints where appropriate. This would provide consistency with the other water main contracts and simplify construction.

2. **Hydrant Connection Materials** - The previous plans specified ductile iron piping for hydrant connections. Schneider recommended changing these connections to PVC to maintain consistent materials throughout the project and reduce unnecessary costs. New, larger fire hydrants will be installed, and the existing hydrants will

be removed upon completion of the work. 3. **Water Main Fittings and System Connections** – Derek recommended establishing separate bid items for fittings rather than including them as incidental costs. This would allow the village to better control expenses and reduce potential change orders when fitting configurations must be modified during construction. He explained that the previous plans did not fully account for the additional water main improvements now proposed near White Street, Cherokee, and Chippewa. Mike Mumper and Tim McCarthy confirmed that the project will include an additional water main connection extending from Cherokee toward Chippewa to provide a second water supply route to the rear portion of the village. Most of the proposed water mains will be 6-inch piping. However, the additional creek crossing will utilize an 8-inch main. Derek emphasized that the 8-inch connection is important for system redundancy. Currently, the village relies on a limited number of major connections, and a failure could significantly affect service to Michiana and Grand Beach. Mike agreed that providing a secondary water supply route is an essential component of the project. 4. **Permanent Insertion Valves** – It was recommended replacing the temporary line stops specified in the previous plans with permanent insertion valves. Temporary line stops allow contractors to shut off water flow while making connections but must be removed after the work is completed. Repeated use can result in additional costs. Permanent insertion valves would allow the village to isolate sections of the water system during construction and remain available for future maintenance and emergency repairs. Derek anticipates installing approximately four insertion valves as part of Contract 2. These valves would be installed early in the project, allowing contractors to control water flow and isolate sections of the system as construction progresses. The Board expressed support for this recommendation because it would improve the village's long-term ability to maintain and operate its water system. 5. **Pavement Restoration and Bid Structure** – Derek discussed modifications to the pavement restoration requirements included in the previous engineering plans. The original plans separated pavement restoration into numerous bid items, including stone, asphalt base, binder, and surface courses. Additional bid items were included for directional drilling. Derek explained that this approach could complicate the bidding process and make it difficult to compare contractor prices. He recommended simplifying the bid structure by including excavation, pipe installation, bedding, backfill, and initial pavement restoration within the unit price for water main installation. 6. **Final Road Milling and Resurfacing –** Derek said this would remain separately identified so the village could evaluate those costs.

Road Resurfacing and Federal Grant Funding - Tim McCarthy discussed the condition of streets in the rear portion of the village, including Choctaw, Comanche, Chippewa, Creek Drive, and surrounding intersections. The Water Board expressed interest in resurfacing as much of this area as possible following completion of the water main improvements. Derek explained that federal grant funding may be used for eligible road restoration directly associated with the water main project. However, the grant cannot be used to resurface roads beyond the approved project limits. Additional road resurfacing, including portions of Chippewa outside the water main construction area, would need to be funded separately by the village. Derek noted that asphalt resurfacing included within a federally funded water main contract may have a higher unit cost than paving completed through a separate, larger road project. Two possible approaches were discussed:

1. Require the water main contractor to restore only the pavement disturbed during construction, with the village completing broader road resurfacing under a separate contract.
2. Include full milling and resurfacing within the eligible project areas as alternate bid items, allowing the village to determine whether sufficient grant funding remains after the water main construction costs are established.

Mike Mumper favored maintaining flexibility in the bidding process so that available grant funding could be utilized for eligible road restoration without exceeding the project budget. Derek explained that if the water main construction bids are within the available grant funding, the village could consider awarding the additional paving work. If the bids exceed the available funding, the village could defer broader resurfacing and complete that work separately. Mike Mumper reiterated that the primary objective is to complete the water main improvements, improve system reliability, and establish a secondary water supply route for the rear portion of the village. The proposed engineering modifications are intended to simplify construction, improve contractor

bidding, reduce potential change orders, and provide long-term maintenance benefits. Derek will continue reviewing the proposed changes with EGLE and incorporating the necessary revisions into the final bidding documents.

Water Main Materials and Life Expectancy - Derek Snyder continued discussing the differences between ductile iron and PVC water mains, including durability, corrosion protection, installation costs, and long-term maintenance. He explained that ductile iron piping may have a longer service life than PVC when properly protected against corrosion. Modern ductile iron pipes typically include cement lining to help prevent internal corrosion and discoloration of the water. He noted that some of the village's existing cast iron pipes may lack protective interior lining, contributing to complaints of brown or discolored water. Derek discussed the use of protective wrapping, corrosion-resistant bolts, and sacrificial anodes to extend the life of metal water system components. Although PVC material costs are approximately one-third of ductile iron costs, Derek estimated that the overall installed cost savings may be closer to 10–15%.

Abandonment of Existing Water Mains - Rick Reitz questioned what would happen to the existing water mains once the new system is installed. Derek explained that the old water mains will generally be abandoned in place rather than excavated and removed. The abandoned pipes will be disconnected and capped at both ends. This approach avoids unnecessary excavation and reduces the potential for disturbing surrounding roads and properties. Mike also discussed existing service connections along Chippewa and confirmed that the proposed improvements are not expected to interrupt service to properties connected to the existing main outside the replacement area.

Directional Drilling Versus Open-Cut Construction - Derek further discussed the advantages and disadvantages of directional drilling compared with traditional open-cut construction. He recommended open-cut installation for the majority of the project, particularly along Lakeshore Drive, because of the area's sandy soil conditions. Derek explained that beach sand consists of rounded particles that do not compact as effectively as angular stone materials. Open-cut construction would allow contractors to remove the existing sand and replace it with properly compacted granular material around the new water main. This would provide greater stability and make future maintenance and service connections easier. Mike discussed whether contractors should be allowed to submit directional drilling as an alternative construction method. Derek recommended keeping the bid specifications straightforward and identifying open-cut construction as the preferred method rather than requiring contractors to price multiple installation options. He also noted that open-cut construction allows contractors to identify and work around existing underground utilities more easily.

Water Service Connections and Tapping Materials - Derek reviewed the final proposed modification to the previous engineer's plans involving water service connections. The original plans specified saddle-welded connections to the water main. He recommended using stainless steel service tapping saddles rather than welded or bonded plastic connections. Mike Mumper agreed that the more durable connection method would be preferable for future maintenance and reliability.

Potential Problems with Directional Drilling - Derek provided an example from another water main project where directional drilling resulted in significant installation problems. He explained that improper drilling equipment and alignment caused damage to restrained pipe joints during installation. Subsequent pressure testing identified additional leaks, requiring excavation and replacement of several joints. Although the contractor was responsible for correcting the problems, the repairs resulted in additional excavation and construction delays. He emphasized that these types of problems support his recommendation to utilize open-cut construction wherever practical.

Pipe Joints, Water Pressure, and System Flexibility – Tim McCarthy questioned how the new PVC pipes would be connected and whether the joints would withstand the village's water pressure. The engineer explained that the proposed PVC pipes utilize push-on joints with rubber gaskets rather than glued connections. Water pressure within the village generally ranges from approximately 60 to 75 pounds per square inch,

depending on location. Derek explained that mechanical joint restraints will be installed where necessary, particularly near valves, fittings, and dead ends, to prevent pipe separation under pressure. He also noted that push-on joints allow a limited amount of movement, which can help accommodate expansion and contraction caused by seasonal changes in water temperature. Water temperatures can vary considerably between summer and winter, creating stress within the piping system. Derek said that properly designed joints and restrained sections help accommodate these conditions while maintaining system integrity.

Future Service Connections – Rick Reitz discussed the ability to connect newly constructed homes to the replacement water mains. Derek indicated that the new system will accommodate future service connections through standard tapping procedures. The discussion then turned to the proposed connections and service arrangements for properties along Chippewa.

Water Service Connections and Meter Pit Installations - Derek Schneider continued discussing the proposed water service connections along Chickagami, Choctaw, Comanche, Creek Drive, and Lakeshore Drive. He explained that certain properties currently receive water through service lines extending along the public right-of-way. In some cases, replacing these individual service lines is more practical and cost-effective than extending a larger water main solely to serve one residence. The proposed improvements will include new service connections and meter pits where necessary. Existing service lines will be intercepted and connected to the new system. The Board questioned whether all affected properties currently have exterior meter pits. The engineer explained that some properties have existing pits, while others may still have water meters located inside their homes. The project will include installation of exterior meter pits as needed. Rick Reitz will coordinate the removal or relocation of existing interior meters where necessary.

Meter Pit and Service Line Bid Items - Derek explained that the bid documents will separately identify the costs associated with meter pits, meters, service connections, and service line installation. Service line installation will be priced by linear foot to account for varying distances between the new water main and existing residential plumbing. This approach will allow contractors to extend connections when necessary to reach service piping in satisfactory condition without creating unnecessary disputes or change orders. Mike Mumper emphasized the importance of ensuring that all affected properties have accessible water shutoffs and properly installed meter pits following completion of the project.

Lakeshore Drive Service Connections - Derek Snyder identified several properties that would be affected, including residential connections and a pool house. The discussion also included the Dunes private club. It was clarified that the property does not currently receive water service from the village and has not paid for a village water connection. No additional connection was proposed for that property during this discussion.

Water Meter Reading and Monitoring Technology – Rick Reitz and Ed from Grand Beach discussed their respective water meter reading systems. Michiana currently utilizes Sensus iPERL meters with a drive-by reading system. Village personnel travel through the community to collect meter readings electronically, which are then uploaded for billing. Ed explained that their village recently upgraded to a cellular-based automated meter reading system. The system allows water usage to be monitored remotely, including individual residential consumption and overall system demand. It also provides automated leak detection notifications, allowing the village to identify unusual water usage and notify residents of potential problems. Residents can access their own water consumption information, and village personnel no longer need to drive through the community to collect meter readings. The Water Board expressed interest in the benefits of this technology, particularly for identifying leaks at seasonal homes and properties that remain unoccupied for extended periods.

Federal Requirements for Water Meters - Derek noted that the Sensus iPERL meters may not meet the domestic manufacturing requirements associated with the federal Build America, Buy America provisions. However, the discussion indicated that federal waivers may be available for certain water meters that are not manufactured domestically. Derek will ensure that the proposed equipment and bid specifications comply with applicable federal requirements.

Grand Beach Master Meter Improvements – Ed from Grand Beach discussed plans to replace their master water meter. Quotes have been received from Peerless Midwest and DA Gott, with DA Gott appearing to be the preferred option at this stage. The proposed equipment may utilize a Badger meter or similar technology capable of providing more accurate monitoring across varying water demand levels. Ed explained that their water usage fluctuates significantly between peak summer periods and lower-demand seasons. The new master meter would improve monitoring capabilities and could be incorporated into the village's existing automated meter reading system. Tim McCarthy discussed the possibility of Michiana eventually upgrading its own monitoring capabilities without necessarily replacing every existing residential meter.

Final Engineering Review and Submission Timeline - Following the discussion of the proposed engineering modifications, Derek confirmed that he had reviewed the outstanding items associated with the previous engineer's plans. He intends to contact Corey at EGLE as soon as possible to discuss the proposed changes and determine whether additional approvals or involvement from the previous engineer will be necessary. Derek stated that he expects to have the completed plans ready for submission within approximately two weeks, with October 23, 2026, identified as the target date. The completed engineering plans will be submitted to EGLE for permit review, while the project bidding documents will be forwarded to EPA for review of federal grant compliance requirements. Mike requested that Derek keep Rick Reitz and village officials informed of the project's progress and immediately notify them when the documents have been submitted. Derek agreed to provide updates and emphasized that the proposed changes are intended to simplify construction, provide consistent specifications, and improve the competitiveness of contractor bids.

Next Steps - The engineering team will finalize the revised construction plans, coordinate with EGLE regarding the proposed modifications, and submit the required documents to EGLE and EPA. Mike again reiterated the importance of obtaining the necessary approvals as quickly as possible so the village can advertise the project for bids and proceed with construction. He expressed appreciation to Engineer Derek Snyder for attending the meeting and providing a detailed explanation of the proposed water main improvements, engineering modifications, and permitting process. Mike acknowledged that the project had experienced significant delays and that the additional information provided a clearer understanding of the work being completed and the steps necessary to move forward. Mike expressed greater confidence in the project's direction and optimism regarding the anticipated timeline. Derek indicated that he had also consulted with a contractor regarding construction methods, including directional drilling versus open-cut installation, to ensure the proposed specifications would be practical, cost-effective, and conducive to competitive bidding.

Water Committee Discussion - Derek discussed the importance of obtaining the original electronic files associated with the village's previous water system hydraulic model. Derek explained that the previous engineering firm provided the village with a PDF report containing the modeling results. However, the original electronic model files are necessary to efficiently update the system analysis as water main improvements are completed. Having access to the original model would allow the engineer to modify pipe sizes, evaluate system capacity, and rerun calculations without having to recreate the entire model, saving both time and expense. Rick will contact the previous engineering firm, Merritt Engineering, to request the original model files. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Anne Heywood/Clerk