

Village President Update: Waste Water Treatment Plant

As the Village President, I wanted to share an update on our ongoing efforts to improve the wastewater treatment plant. Over the past few years, we have made significant progress on facility plans for upgrades aimed at meeting new environmental standards which are being driven by the Wisconsin DNR. The utility committee, along with our engineering firm, MSA, and Scott Sassman, our WWTP Operator, are working diligently to get the facility work started soon. We remain committed to providing reliable and safe services for our community.

Looking ahead, we will prioritize investments in modern infrastructure. Community feedback is always welcomed, and I encourage residents to stay informed and engaged as this important project moves forward.

The past few years the village has had MSA working on a facility plan, which is required for the WWTP upgrade. The facility plan explains what is required and then defines the need based on current and historical data, new and evolving DNR requirements, and potential future growth. MSA and their staff have been working diligently on finding the most appropriate and cost-effective ways to update our treatment plant including finding funding sources such as grants and principal forgiveness programs to help alleviate some of the financial impact to the Village.

Please review the PowerPoint presentation from February 5, 2026, public hearing on the Village website. I will provide an overview of the information.

Essentially the Village of Black Creek has an ageing facility that needs to be upgraded per new and evolving DNR requirements. Many components of the present plant are 30-47 years old. Mechanical, electrical, and site improvements need to be considered. The new plant will be designed for a twenty-year life span, which is standard in the industry. This does not mean the entire plant will need to be completely rebuilt in twenty years but over that time equipment will need to be replaced and/or upgraded as things wear out and requirements may continue to evolve.

The WDNR has set permit requirements for discharge and our current plant needs to be upgraded to meet the limits. The current plant continues to receive an "F" rating in a category on the yearly CMAR.

While building the new plant the old plant needs to be kept operational to continually meet the needs of Village. For this reason, the Village plans to build a new Department of Public Works building on Clark St., where the old baseball field is on the North end of the Village. At this writing the Village is accepting bids from contractors for the new DPW building. Hopefully the new building will be ready to move in by fall of 2026.

Please look forward to meetings soon as we complete the bidding process. More information will be available about the final cost and financing.

I understand the concerns many residents have regarding the cost and ultimately impact on our water and sewer bills. The Village of Black Creek is not alone in having to upgrade facilities. Many municipalities in the State of Wisconsin have or will need to upgrade their Wastewater treatment plants. A quick internet search can bring up information regarding these projects.

Please sign up for electronic notifications on the Village of Black Creek website to help stay informed. Always feel free to call or email me about any concerns residents have for the Village of Black Creek.