

NEWS RELEASE

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Cass County Lakes Area Sewer Authority Wastewater Collection & Treatment System Receives Three Awards

MARCELLUS TOWNSHIP, MI. – In just a few short months of operation, the Lakes Area Sewer Authority Wastewater Collection & Treatment System (LASA) is getting a lot of notice for its successful construction and community cooperation.

The project received the [Southwest Michigan Planning Commission](#) “2011 Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Effort Award” earlier this year. This month, the LASA project was presented the Southwest Michigan ASCE “Quality of Life Award” and during the Michigan Engineering Conference, received the [Michigan Section ASCE](#) “Quality of Life Award”.

What makes the project an award winner is that its success was based on the partnership of the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Cass County, Van Buren County, Lakes Area Sewer Authority, Village of Marcellus, Marcellus Township, Volinia Township, Porter Township, Big Fish Lake Property Owners Association, Finch Lake Association, Gravel Lake Association, West Saddlebag Lake Association, Wightman & Associates engineering firm and a long list of contractors.

The Lakes Area Sewer Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed as part of a [United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development](#) \$10.8 million dollar funded project (\$1.433 million dollar grant) which aimed to install sanitary sewers around Finch, Fish and West Saddlebag Lakes in Marcellus and Volinia Townships, Cass County, as well as Gravel Lake in Porter Township, Van Buren County.

The collection system is a gravity system with lift stations while the treatment plant, located adjacent to the Village of Marcellus treatment lagoons, is a 250,000 gpd activated

sludge process, expandable to 1.0 mgd. The base basin design permits the receipt of septage and additional capacity for the Village.

The wastewater collection and treatment system serves 730 customers around four lakes and 230 Village of Marcellus customers.

About

[Wightman & Associates, Inc.](#), located in Benton Harbor, Michigan, provides cost-effective professional services for engineering, architecture, surveying, and construction inspection. As an employee-owned company, Wightman & Associates, Inc. maintains a skilled, professional team licensed to provide services throughout the Midwest, including Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Clients include governmental bodies, private developers, industrial, and commercial clients. For more information, you may visit www.wightman-assoc.com or call (269) 927- 0100.

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