

# Director's Report

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Southern Clinton  
County Municipal  
Utilities  
Authority

## Process—Making it Clean

The NPDES permit met all parameters without any violations. We will start compiling information for the upcoming permit application due in 2018.

The plant is operating very well. With the unusual weather this winter season, the RBC's have not seen the drastic weight changes as in years past. This only reconfirms the relationship between water temp and biomass metabolism. We will continue to monitor this as the spring nears with hopes of minimal influence.

This year we changed a few things with the operation of our clarifiers. In the past, we would typically operate with one tank in service and one tank dry. We have started to leave the water flowing through the clarifiers to avoid excess corrosion, in hopes of prolonging the service life.

The work on the RBC's continues slowly as we are now ready for the lathe that was approved and ordered in January. We are still addressing the air system that delivers the air to drive the RBC's. This will be the final chapter in the first RBC train to be rehabbed.

Bio solids removal has hit a snag this year with the recent announcement of Synagro leaving the state. We have been in contact with them and they have reassured us that they will fulfill their contractual obligations. This would be the best case as the competition is very small in Michigan and prices will only continue to climb. In the future, it may be more cost effective to handle the disposal of bio solids in house. We will continue to research options.

With the upgrade to the digester system in 2005/06, SCCMUA has the capacity to store approx. 1.2 million gallons of bio solids on site. This is divided between 2 tanks. The original tank is located in front of the plant and can hold approx. 350,000 gallons of bio solids. The newer tank is located behind the plant and is capable of holding 800,000 gal of bio solids. Although we have the ability to use both tanks it is not ideal. With the Synagro situation looming, staff has made preparations to utilize the front storage tank if needed.

Biosolids as an industry is evolving, focusing more heavily on more effective and efficient use of the product. Many private companies are investing millions if not billions into the future recycled use of this product. At the current time, most of the market is utilizing and marketing a class A bio solids product as a commercial fertilizer filler. This is due to the micro nutrients that are available in a processed bio solids. In those cases it is very difficult to quantify the nutritional gains. There is a lot of work going into micronutrient researchers as these are easier for plants to process and uptake.

The future is exciting and ever changing. The key is keeping to practical yet effective solutions.

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### Special points of interest:

- *Biolsolids update*
- *Pump replacements*
- *Flow meters*
- *Project update*

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## Maintenance—Keeping things Humming

Maintenance staff has been busy with the Vactor repairs approved in January. This takes a little more time as staff has to be able to put the unit back together relatively quickly in case of an emergency: respond to a sewer backup or station failure.

Staff has also been busy getting a few new pumps installed in the Bath service area. These new pumps will help insure that at least one pump in that service area is operating as it should. The pumps being replaced were 15 + years old, with multiple repairs in their past. After a certain amount of rebuilds it become cost prohibitive to repair the

pump and they must be replaced. This is more of an issue with submersible pumps, as all parts of the pump operate submerged in sewage.

Maintenance staff has also been doing some plant maintenance as we are still in a transitional stage of new employees. We anticipate this to continue in the near future as we continue to adapt.

Previously, SCCMUA had a preventive maintenance contract with Cummins Bridgeway. This contract covered basic engine maintenance. Last year we let that contract go and had our staff per-

form these maintenance tasks. Emergency backup power is very expensive to maintain. In past years SCCMUA spent on average \$29,000.00 in maintenance alone. With our staff doing this preventative work, we have cut that number in half without impacting other duties. We still have to have certain repairs and maintenance items performed by a qualified service provider, similar to your vehicle.

## Administration

The City and Watertown flow meters were changed in July due to age. The old meters were installed in 2002 and were calibrated annually. The difference in readings between the new and old meters was quite large. We have gathered 6 months of data. Those meters have increased the accuracy and raised the question regarding the appropriate time frame for those billing meters to be changed. Looking at past data, it appears there is some loss af-

ter the 5 year mark with a continuously degrading slope after that point. We will continue to monitor and make recommendations as needed.

The year end process was wrapped up and the auditors have compiled there data for a report to be presented in April. A rather visual component of the audit is the GASB 68 entry related to the unfunded liabilities associated with current pension programs.

Tetra Tech is very close to finalizing the asset management program per SAW grant requirements. There have been plenty of hurdles along the way; this is a good thing as it insures the plan is sustainable. The SAW grants end date is Oct. 2017.

## Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop

Dewitt Twp. Shady Brook project has been trudging forward slowly with the mild weather conditions offering an early start in the construction season. There have been a few minor issues along the way, but all have been easily resolved with a little help from SCCMUA staff. The projects have been steady and it

appears construction on residential housing will steadily increase in the near future.

There are a few road projects slated for 2017/18 we are working to get ahead off. This ensures that infrastructure repairs are addressed before project bidding.

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