

# Director's Report

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## Process—Making it Clean

All parameters have been met with the exception of the monthly NH<sub>3</sub> (ammonia nitrogen) due to an increase in daily concentrations with low flows and supernatant quality.

Low flows have started to influence our process. The increase in concentrations caused us to bring on another train of RBC's as we were beginning to have issues with ammonia levels. This is due to the nitrifying abilities in the later parts of the trains and the ability for the biological growth to react as quickly to the changes.

Digester gas hoses were replaced this month. These hoses are connected to the lid of the digester and transfer pressurized gas down through the lance system to help keep the solids mixing in suspension. We also had to do maintenance on the digester gas meter as the methane created through biosolids digestion is metered. This gas is very dirty and has a

tendency to build up on the meter lobes causing the meter not to spin freely. We also purchased a new gas meter to be installed on the natural gas line that feeds the digester building. This meter will allow staff to monitor and track natural gas usage through the boilers. More gas is used in the winter months and it will be a useful tool. Staff will create a base line usage. When the number is out of that parameter, staff will be able to look for issues. Currently, the system transfers to natural gas on its own if there is not enough methane to run on.

Our staff has also been working on a revamp of our dewatering bins used by the vactor to dump the spoils. These bins are insufficient. We vactor typically two days a week depending on rag and grease mat build up in the stations. There is a substantial amount of debris collected. Staff had designed a different system utilizing the existing bins to create more surface area for the material to drain through.

## Administration

While discussing the MERS unfunded liability, we discovered that SCCMUA was reporting healthcare buyouts to MERS as part of the wage reporting process each month. After multiple discussions with MERS, a list of what is to be included as a wage and what is not was provided. We consulted with the Authority attorney regarding this matter. After all the data had been reviewed, SCCMUA has been reporting this as income since 2003. Per MERS rulings, the employer can only make reporting changes to active employees. In total, \$13,643.24 was distributed back to the active buyout employees.

Administrative staff has also been interviewing benefit representatives. We asked the other municipalities who they used for these services and asked them to give a presentation to staff. This has no cost as these agents are not paid by SCCMUA, but paid through the insurance agencies. We want to make sure we have a good fit for our

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organization and that we are getting the best options to make recommendations.

A small project has become a little more in-depth than originally planned. The wall paper that was in the offices and conference room had begun to rip and fall off the walls in some locations. The paper was simple to remove but the drywall had never been painted. This involved a skim coat of mud to smooth the existing surface and then a fresh coat of paint will be applied.

## Maintenance—Keeping things Humming

Our maintenance crew has been busy with annual maintenance and house-keeping at the stations. This has involved painting and cleaning of electrical panels and exposed piping. There has also been some site work with the removal and replacement of concrete pads.

There has been a flurry of pump failures in Watertown; we had three pumps fail within a week. Astonishingly, two of those pumps are located in the same station—LS 404. The pumps have been in service since 2003 and had similar failures within days of each other. This is very rare, but the failures were due to mechanical seal failure which have a life span. We are reviewing trends on seal failures to anticipate a target date to make repairs before the failures occur. This will be difficult in older and previously repaired pumps, but can be vital in original pumps.

At LS 402, one of the pumps had a seal failure caused by an impeller issue. This pump is original and in decent shape; the impeller was rehabbed and a new seal will be installed before putting

the pump back into operation.

A few generators were repaired. This is a necessary cost with standby generators as they are in the elements and tend to have circuit board issues. The annual preventive maintenance will be starting soon. This will include oil, fuel, and air filters.

They will also begin annual pump maintenance. Crews will pull and inspect all the submersible pumps in the system. They will drain the oil to look for water intrusion and inspect impellers and wear rings. There will also be electrical data gathered with amp draws and line monitoring.



Pump/Motor LS 404

## Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop

Plummer's Environmental has been working on our collection system TV/clean schedule for 2016/2017.

Plummer's scheduled work is approx. 70% complete with the planned TV/Clean work for 2017.

In Dewitt Twp. the Shadybrook development has continued to progress with the completion of the forcemain testing. The instrumentation panel was damaged in

shipping and has been sent back to the supplier for repair. Once the panel is back onsite and installed, startup will proceed as planned

In Watertown Twp., Deer Creek has installed approx. 640' of 8" gravity sewer along with two manhole structures.

In Bath Twp., the Hidden Valley development has begun with expected completion of utility extension to be complete in

the next week or two. There is approx. 1,200 feet of 8" gravity sewer planned for this project.

Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities  
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