

Director's Report

Southern Clinton
County Municipal
Utilities
Authority

Process—Making it Clean

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

The warmer than normal temperatures this winter have helped to maintain plant efficiency. We have seen minimal changes in RBC weights, equating to minimal operational changes. It has been calculated that each 10° celsius drop in water temp equals a 50% reduction in biological activities. This year we have maintained slightly warmer water temps; flows have stayed slightly elevated. This was likely due to minimal ground freezing and mild temperatures.

Some of the upgraded equipment in the lab that was purchased last year has really begun to show its value in time

efficiencies. We have been able to generate 2-3 hours of time each day. This has been beneficial in completing general plant preventive maintenance.

We are still pushing Synagro for bio-solids removal and we have made some headway. At this point, we still have some capacity in storage and they are waiting for frost laws to be removed to increase efficiency. We hope for a good period of weather to be able to haul 500,000 to 800,000 gal into the fields before crop production begins.

Preparations have begun for this year's projects around the plant. The largest project will be the SCADA project which has started and is slated to take 90 days from start to finish. We look forward to the benefits of the new system and learning its new capabilities.

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Special points of interest:

- *Bio-Solids at peak capacity*
- *Wind Storm Damage*
- *Budget preparations*
- *Chemical addition in Bath Twp*

Wind Storm Damage

We are very sad to report that we lost the most beautiful tree on the property during the recent wind storm! There were a few other tree mishaps but nothing significant.



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Maintenance—Keeping things Humming

The maintenance crew has finished the Vactor repairs and it is ready for spring. Station maintenance has continued with the mild temps. We have been able to get more done than expected this year. This will put us in a good position coming into the construction season. Staff has been working on a priority list for repairs and maintenance at the stations. This will allow us to prioritize work and to assure the needed work is getting completed.

Looking at our fleet of vehicles, we

have different levels when it comes to criticality for vehicle use. Half of our fleet is used for basic transportation and investigative work with minimal tools and capabilities. The other half are specialized. These vehicles include the service trucks that have cranes and equipment carrying abilities. Currently, we have two trucks capable of removing pumps from stations for inspections or repairs. The older of the 2 trucks is a 2004 F-450 that has been having more and more mechanical issues but more importantly the crane is

failing and is getting costly to repair. The goal is to keep critical fleet vehicles reliable and safe as they are crucial in day to day functions at SCCMUA. Less critical vehicles can be stretched over a longer period. A failure to those vehicles would not stop any critical functions at SCCMUA.

Administration

The budget process is in full swing. It is important to be able to evolve and adapt to the changing environment. We continue to add new growth to the system including new lift stations and this also impacts the budget.

With the political environment in constant evolution, healthcare will be another number that will be difficult to pin down. With many potential changes in the healthcare reform, one can only hope for steady numbers with minimal increases.

The MERS retirement system has con-

tinued to change assumptions that have been reflected in our actuaries. We will see significant increases in employer costs for the next ten years. As we climb the mountain of cost increases, there may be a possibility to smooth the mountain to more of a hill. Additional payments annually would pay down some of the unfunded liability smoothing out the large spikes. This is based on assumptions and the limit of future growth. Currently, MERS uses a 7.75% rate of return and in 2016 the rate of return was just over 11%.

While this is good, it is not as simple as

the finances in our personal life. The increase in the rate of return will help but there are a lot of other assumptions that get calculated into the actuarial. We are working with MERS to gather options and to be able to present and make a recommendation moving forward.

Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop

In Shadybrook (DeWitt Twp), all sanitary pipe has been installed and vacuum tested. Meadowbrook West (Bath Twp) has completed all testing to date.

Hydrogen sulfide levels in Hawk Hollow gravity sewer have continued to be an issue. Over the past fall and winter, staff has monitored H₂S levels at the LS

212 and LS 214 discharge locations and at a location where the flows from the two stations come together. The ferric chloride feed has greatly reduced the H₂S levels within Hawk Hollow, but does not eliminate all H₂S discharge. Staff experimented with chemical feed at LS 213. Calcium nitrate was

injected into the wet well. Hydrogen sulfide levels dropped dramatically within the manhole where the two flows come together. Staff will continue to experiment with chemical feed to find the most cost effective approach to reducing the H₂S levels.

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"The Clean Water People"

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