

# Director's Report

## Process—Making it Clean

All parameters of the NPDES permit were met without any violations.

We are pleased to report that our biosolids have been adequately removed for the spring and summer months. With extended storage time, we were able to condense the solids to nearly 7% solids. This is a huge savings, as we pay per gallon (\$.0348 per gallon) of biosolids hauled. The total hauled was 840,500 gal of digested biosolids that were land applied. We will clean one of the digesters this fall to remove the accumulated debris such as rags and hair mass. The cleaning is done in the fall as it allows the most time for fields to be available with normal weather patterns.

We received the Journal Squirrel (portable lathe) the first week of May. This was much later than we had planned as there were delays in the manufacturing process. Now that it is

here, the adapter plates can be made and the rehab process will begin.

With the location of the plant and the proximity to the surrounding neighborhoods, it is important we maintain a good physical appearance on the SCCMUA grounds. The grounds were planted with various species of pine trees to provide ample screening and visual buffers to the residents that live in close proximity to the plant. The trees that were planted were fast growing to provide quick cover. Those species of trees have a shorter life span and have begun to die off. SCCMUA staff has begun the process of planning the removal and replacement in phases, based on condition and growth of the replacement trees. There have been 38 trees marked for removal in the coming years. Trees will be replaced with a longer living and disease resistant species to help insure a visually appealing landscape.

## Administration

During the May testing period, we had four individuals write the State of Michigan wastewater license exam. SCCMUA has been supportive of those who wish to broaden their education and credentials. Tests are offered in May and September allowing individuals two opportunities per year.

This year we have had several changes in personnel. We are getting closer to having a full crew; this has been a long wait. The hiring process went well but we did extend the job posting for an additional 2 weeks and used different avenues to reach a desired candidate. We tested eight candidates from 25 or so applicants. Five candidates were interviewed. A collective decision was made to make an offer to James Hill. Mr. Hill will be a good fit to our organization. He possesses skills that will benefit SCCMUA and our ability to service the communities that rely on us.

This year we budgeted for seasonal help, one who is return-

ing for his third year. We received three applications for the seasonal positions. We conducted interviews on May 9th and hired two of the candidates.

The Budget process has internally wrapped up with the annual evaluation of the LT CIP and a comprehensive look at plans to handle unfunded liability in our MERS Plan. This year, the focus is on a plan to make up ground in our MERS unfunded liability. This is no easy task and has many different scenarios that will play out in the future. We need to take steps toward appropriately handling unfunded liabilities before they become too difficult to make gains. Our MERS payments will continue to climb until 2027 based on the last MERS actuarial. The sooner we act upon this, the smoother the climb to the crest in the hopes we can shorten that period of catchups with above expected growth in the markets.

**Southern Clinton  
County Municipal  
Utilities  
Authority**

**Volume 10 Issue 5  
1**

May 16, 2017

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## Maintenance—Keeping things Humming

The maintenance crew has continued the normal work related to maintaining 51 lift stations in the SCCMUA system. These duties vary every week with a few constants. The crews have a tall order keeping 100 plus pumps operating.

This month, we installed a flow deflecting tee at station 113 (LaCosta in DeWitt Twp.) in hopes of deflecting rags from piling on top of the pumps causing plugs. Many new float trees have been designed and installed by SCCMUA staff. This new design allows staff to safely reach the transducers and floats for cleaning.

With the increased flows through much of the early spring, a large amount of wear has been put on the pumping and collection system. This will show up in time with seal failures and electrical issues. This has happened at 501 (Herbison Rd) and at Sandhill. We are evaluating options for the Sandhill pump station which is located at the plant. These pumps have been rebuilt many times over the service life with

only one of the motors being rebuilt over those years.

At this time, seals are showing signs of failure and will need to be replaced in the near future. The pumps are in the LT CIP from 2023-2025 for replacement but seal replacement and pump inspections are not cheap and add up to a decent percentage of the cost of a new pump. We are still waiting on some data and a decision will then need to be made to secure the future of the pumping system.

The Ann Dr. sewer collapse is mostly complete other than the site restoration. The road patch had short delays due to the weather but it has since been patched. The liner for the pipe is scheduled to be installed the week of May 15<sup>th</sup>. The process for installation has been modified for the best chances of success and longevity. The project will add a pre-liner to keep the ground water from rinsing away the resins and the cooling effects of the ground water infiltration. A temperature monitoring stripe has also been added to the liners and will relay temp readings every foot.

This will help ensure that the areas where ground water is present, will reach proper curing temperatures. A water inversion technique will be used for the same reasons the other precautions have been added, as water has a better ability to transfer and maintain the heat needed to cure rather than other options.

At station 117, a new flow meter was installed. The previous flow meter had begun to show signs of failure, with lower recorded flows. This period of lower recorded flows was short lived as the meter ultimately had a complete failure with a leak from the flow tube into the electronics. The new meter has a sealed cable with a remote display to prevent damage in the case where the flow meter was submerged for any amount of time. The new meter is up and running and compiling complete and accurate data.

## Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop

This month, construction has been in a holding pattern by the contractors waiting for the wet weather to dry up. Once that happens, the projects will begin to ramp up quickly. Requests for Miss Digs have risen substantially which is a good indicator of projects beginning to get started.

Shady Brook expansion continues to move forward slowly. The sanitary sewer expansion has been tested and we are

waiting to get that information for review.

Plummer's Environmental will be in the services area for the next month or so weather permitting. They will be working on the annual TV and Clean schedule for the municipality's collection systems. This work is very beneficial in both establishing base line defects to monitor for future movement and identi-

fying possible failures in the system with hopes of eliminating system disruptions.

Collection system flow meters have been installed in the King Arthur service area in DeWitt Twp. These have been installed to identify the infiltration source and or locations, as infiltration has been a long standing issue in this area.

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