

# Director's Report

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## Maintenance—Keeping things Humming

Crews have been busy while the weather has been nice for outside work. The annual generator maintenance has been finished with no major issues noted. The few repairs needed have already been completed.

Liftstation 102 has been officially put into service; our crew assisted with temporary power and piping work inside the station. The transition went smoothly. A few minor programing changes were needed and punch list items still need to be completed. This station was long overdue for an upgrade and came at the right time as the night before official start up, a shaft broke on the better of the two existing pumps making it inoperable. This station will provide adequate capabilities for the foreseeable future.

SCCMUA crew spend a large portion of their time in Bath due to the large number of lift stations in their system. The Twp has committed funds to improve their system with infrastructure im-

provements and rehabs planned for the future. This past month, crews installed a sump and drain system for LS 221 from the valve chamber to the wet well preventing water from deteriorating the structure and components. The internal guide rails were replaced at LS 215 due to corrosion. A new pump was installed at LS 217; pump #1 had failed beyond repair. At LS 211, new conduits were run from the wet well to the control panel as they were undersized for the pump cords. A pump was also replaced as it had failed beyond economical repair. New check valves were installed at LS 211; they were failing and leaking back into the station. At LS 213, a more permanent structure was installed for housing odor control equipment.

In Watertown Twp, crews have been working on the LS 401 pump installs. Due to delayed equipment builds, this project has taken longer than expected. At LS 402, some landscaping and concrete were added to divert water away from the panel.

## Administration

Staff has met with the healthcare benefit agent to discuss 2018 renewal rates. Healthcare continues to be a tough number to pin down as rates fluctuate up and down with no real consistency. In 2016, SCCMUA made the switch to the PHP narrow network which has saved tens of thousands of dollars. With that switch, employees have not had any complaints about the coverage or lack of participating providers. This year, the rate for the same insurance as currently provided increased 7.8%. This rate is consistent with the market.

SCCMUA still has a position unfilled in our operation. The Administrative Sectary position is a part time position that handles data entry and various supportive tasks for the department heads. This position has remained difficult to fill and keep filled. We have become more flexible with our schedule and offered prorated fringe benefits, yet interest still is less than acceptable. SCCMUA will continue to extend outreach to find a qualified candidate.

**Southern Clinton  
County Municipal  
Utilities  
Authority**

**Volume 10 Issue 11**

November 21, 2017

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The attempts to extend outreach to schools is helping create more interest in tours and our newly created presentation portion of the tours. We were elated to have 90 fifth grade students from Bath attend over two days of tours and short presentations. The children showed great interest and enthusiasm. The feedback from both the students and teaching staff was all very positive. We hope this grows into future interest and future changes in the system usage. It is our most influential way to make positive changes in the habits at home through our young individual and hopefully those habits translate into change for the future.

## Process—Making it Clean

SCCMUA reported a permit violation for Ammonia Nitrogen (Nh3) and Chlorine (CL2). Staff was involved in a frantic search for the culprit for the increased Nh3 levels in our discharge. After endless testing, the conclusion was that this was most likely self-inflicted. SCCMUA staff and a contractor were involved in a SCADA control system transfer the day before the violation. This caused an inaccurate amount of supernatant to be released back to the primary clarification step of the plant. Supernatant is a separated liquid from digested bio solids that is high in NH3. This theory was validated when there was no increase in influent Nh3 levels and a return to normal levels within 24 hrs.

A similar issue was found with the CL2 levels that had a one day increase with a decrease in dosage. This system was also modified with the increase in control capabilities with our SCADA up-

grade.

The SCADA project is finished besides final punch list items and the continued monitoring for any system bugs. This transition went fairly smooth with no major complication.

The second and final biosolids removal for 2017 has been completed in good time before foul weather stops this application. The process went very smoothly with the new contractor which had purchased the contract from Synagro. The total gallons of bio-solids applied were 864,400.

The RBC railing project is going well. This project will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

This month staff found an issue with one of the sludge transfer pumps. These pumps have been repaired in the past. The life cycle appears to be very

short as these pumps have a large price tag. We are talking to other experts on proper pump applications and piping. There are a few theories but no confirmation as of yet. I will be coming back to the board with a replacement pump recommendation in the future.

Staff is pleased to report that all of the annual testing has been completed for both the plant and Significant Industrial Users (SIU's) with no parameter violations found. Staff has also completed the annual inspections for the two SIU's in the system with no major issues noted.

## Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop

Annual meter calibration/ inspections have been completed. There was only one meter that was out of range. This meter is the main plant meter and was scheduled for replacement in 2019. We have moved forward with this replacement and the meter has been ordered. This meter is crucial in the delicate balance of validating flow numbers.

Manhole inspections for 2018 road projects in DeWitt Twp. have been completed. In the City, root control will begin the week of Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> with nine reaches being treated for root intrusions. There have been four spot liners installed in the City as well for structural issues.

All the mainline sewers for phase IIB of The Quarry in DeWitt Twp have been installed. Leads and mainlines for the south portion are ready for testing. TL Contracting has not brought the manholes up to final grade yet. Mainlines have been installed in the north portion of phase IIB. TL Contracting will complete the southern portion of IIB this year and the northern portion next year.

Crowner Farms phase III has continued and was going strong until the weather slowed them down due to the wet soils. Mersino was hired by the contractor to dewater along the project route. This project is 60% complete.

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"The Clean Water People"

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