

Director's Report

Maintenance—Keeping Things Humming

Staff was able to rearrange a few things to find a new space for our maintenance crew. The old space was getting tight and created a disconnect from other SCCMUA staff. The new space puts all staff on the main floor of the plant helping to create a more effective work environment. This new space is what was originally the odor scrubber room and had recently been used for file storage.

Staff is continuing to do repairs on generators in the system. Most have been simple block heater replacements but some have been costlier with transfer boards and crank sensors. This is nothing new and comes with the cost of providing adequate standby power. The environment these components are in have contributed to continued electronic failure. These electronic components are exposed to temperature swings and vibration while the units are operating. These conditions equate to a difficult environment for electronics to survive.

With over 100 pumps in the system, pump plugs are just another day on the job for SCCMUA staff. This past month, a few pumps had plugs removed. This is where education can help by educating

users in the consequence of the items be flushed or rinsed down the drain. We will continue to educate both the public and students about these issues.

Many preventive maintenance items have been completed in the winter months with the focus being on items inside the plant. These items are consistently monitored and maintenance is done as specs require. These items consist of annual/ semiannual oil changes and filter changes along with general housekeeping.



Rebuilt influent pump

Administration

Most of the staff was able to attend the Joint Expo located at the Lansing Center. This is a great opportunity for operators to talk with vendors about situations or mechanical issues we have been having with equipment. This also allows them to investigate new equipment and technologies that are being introduced.

The 457 transitions is continuing. This process can take up to 120 days and it appears this will be the case. The 457 account is open with MERS and funds are actively being contributed.

Year end has been completed and the auditors have been

in running tests and completing the year end audit. We are planning an Audit presentation in April.

The 2019 budget work has begun with supervisor input being gathered. We will be putting the budget together for the Board and committees to review. There will be a continued focus on pension liabilities and making up ground. Also, to maximize collection budgets to keep the systems viable for the future.

**Southern Clinton
County Municipal
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Process—Making it Clean

All parameters of the NPDES permit were met.

Staff has been working on new solutions for splash guards in the RBC room as the old system was failing and needed to be removable to complete the railing project. The new design will be easily removed to access portions of the RBC and will be installed in the areas where water splashes on the walk way, avoiding any hazards. Cost will vary based on the final design that is still being modified.

The application process for the new NPDES permit has started. The entire process will be in the DEQ's hands once the application process has been completed.

The metering chamber room had developed a leak that was relatively easy to repair and handled by SCCMUA staff.

SCCMUA uses a lance gas mixing system to agitate the digesters and help with mixing of digesting solids. This process is also beneficial in enhancing the quality of gas that is being produced. The process is accomplished by a positive displacement blower increasing the PSI of the gas created by digestion and forced back in near the bottom of the tank. The action is achieved by compressing the methane gas and is mechanically hard on the blowers as the methane is not refined and has many contaminants. These contaminants are corrosive to the blower and is only compounded by heat and pressure. Thus, maintenance is ongoing with this equipment and blowers are rebuilt and PM work is constant with oil changes minimally, once per month. This month, staff rebuilt one of these blowers with new bearings and seals.

The lighting in the RBC rooms has been completed with just cleaning and

loose ends to be finished. This project has been ongoing and utilized an energy reduction grant from Consumers Energy.

The plant flow meter has been replaced with a new meter. This project took longer than expected as the old meter did not want to be removed from its resting place without significant effort. The old meter had to be cut out piece by piece as it was corroded in place. This was the case with the bolts as well. We will monitor the meter and look back at previous meter readings to monitor its accuracy and rate of decline. There should be enough data from previous meters to pre-determine an accurate replacement date.



New Flow Meter

Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop

The Oaks development, in the City of DeWitt, has slowed with the weather conditions. Currently, the sanitary sewer has been 100 percent installed and is waiting for testing to be completed.

The Quarry, in DeWitt Twp, is working through the acceptance process on all levels. The project is planned to continue well into the summer of this year.

Crowner Farms phase 3, in DeWitt Twp, has been put on hold due to weather conditions and is planned to continue once the weather breaks.

Lakeside Preserve, in Watertown Twp, is currently working with an engineer to provide record drawings for all the phases that had been previously completed but never accepted.

With the cold winter and plenty of snow, all construction projects have been slowed or stopped. There were only 12 inspections for this past month, providing a good indicator of this. Another indicator is the number of Miss Dig requests. This month there were 187 requests with 55 that needed to be marked.

With spring approaching, we are getting ready for a very busy year. Many construction project plans are being reviewed along with what is being planned for new home development and projects by the municipalities.

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"The Clean Water People"

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