



December 21, 2021

## Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority

Volume 14 Issue 12

### Inside this issue:

Process—Making it Clean 2

Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop 2



Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority  
"The Clean Water People"

3671 W. Herbison Rd.  
DeWitt, MI 48820  
517-669-8311  
www.sccmua.com  
www.facebook.com/sccmua

### Maintenance—Keeping Things Humming

Maintenance crews completed the installation of a new pump at station 201 in Bath Twp well ahead of schedule. This project came in well under budget and the bypass work went smoothly. This gave staff a chance to test the capacity of the bypass trailer and help flush out the force main. The forcemain remains restrictive and plans will address that issue in the future. The new pump is significantly better than the old pump.

A new pump and check valve were installed in the City at station 304 on Turner St. The pump that was replaced was 18 years old. With additional users on the system, it was time to replace the pump to ensure reliable operation continued for the increased demand. The old pump will be evaluated as a spare. The forcemain become plugged during this process, prompting the staff to take quick action. This small, but accessible force main was easily cleaned with the vector. Unfortunately, stone and sediment were removed and were likely caused by past development in the service area.

New air relief valves were installed at sta-

tion 501 on Herbison Rd in DeWitt Twp. This station is the largest in the system and is responsible for transmitting most of the municipal flows to the plant. The air relief releases air trapped in the inlet pipe and volutes of the pump to allow for a quick and easy spin up when the pumps are called to run. Faulty air reliefs can cause pump cavitation and priming issues and it is critical to keep them clean and replace them when necessary.

Annual generator maintenance has been completed at all sites; crews work to achieve this before winter. It offers some critical checks to the operation system of generators and PM work.

At our central tower in Padgett Park, a repurposed small building was placed to protect emergency equipment when power is lost. A more significant battery backup was also installed to provide additional time for crews to respond and eliminate the need to set up a generator to operate the tower. The tower is critical to lift station operation as all the data collected, including alarms, is transmitted through the tower.

### Administration

As the year winds down, staff begins to transition to the planning stages for the 2023 budget. This ramps up quickly as vendors are contacted for budget pricing for CIP items and the CIP is evaluated to ensure inclusiveness.

Staff met with SCCMUA design engineers to go over the progress and developed plan sets for our upcoming potential project. This project will help ensure SCCMUA operation continues to be viable for the next couple of decades; additional projects will also be needed over that time. The quickly changing environment and regulations may drive some of these projects. The two significant pieces of the process will be in the scope of those potential changes. While operating well, the

RBC's will likely need a level of replacement or updating as technology in the water treatment world is rapidly changing. It will likely yield a new process that will utilize our existing infrastructure. The other potential change will be in our biosolids program as additional regulations on the land application could steer the course to a different disposal method, which would ultimately require additional investment to implement.

Many things are changing at an expedited pace. SCCMUA is no different as the plant has been relatively untouched for over four decades. The path forward is near, and these exciting times will be full of challenges and rewards, one that SCCMUA will see through.

## **Process—Making it Clean**

NPDES Permit: All permit requirements were met. Total precipitation for the month was 1.14".

The RBC stripping process has been safely completed. This year, a new stripping method was identified and used; staff is happy to report it worked very well and provided savings to the Authority. The stripping process is crucial in removing excessive biomass and post-active material from the RBCs. The excessive mass occupies space otherwise used by active biomass for treatment. Since this is the first time these RBCs have been stripped, a real gain is seen. It ultimately lightens the shaft loads and increases capacity to near OEM conditions.

The stripping process is easy now; the real work begins with

tank cleaning and air header rebuilds, including diffuser replacements. Once complete, the stub shafts will be lathed, a hardened sleeve placed, and new bearings will be installed over the next couple of months.

Fall biosolids application is largely complete, with nearly 700,000 gallons applied to a local farm field at AG rates for next year's crop. This program is highly beneficial to the farmers and the Authority as it is the most efficient disposal method of digested and treated solid waste and remains beneficial. However, the program could see some speed bumps ahead with increased concerns of unregulated contaminants. Time will tell; however, for the time being, we are happy to provide a benefit to the farm-

ers and the environment.

During weekly testing of our non potable system, a pump failure occurred. Staff is working to identify a replacement as this pump is original to the plant and parts are no longer available. This system supplies healthy water as a backup to our effluent system for chemical feed and seal water for seal cooling. The system has a backup pump already in place, so the system can remain operational if needed until a replacement is identified.

The staff has completed annual IPP inspections ( Industrial Pre-treatment Program) with no significant issues. This is a yearly inspection of users that may significantly impact our POTW (Publicly Owned Treatment Works) through their industrial process or manufacturing.

## **Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop**

### **Miss Dig Totals:**

Miss Dig Requests: 551

Miss Digs Marked: 91

Inspection Services: 14

Plummer's Environmental has completed another year of cleaning and televising of the system. Videos have been finalized and delivered ahead of schedule. Review will begin after the first of the year.

Plummer's Environmental has also completed installation of spot patch repairs in DeWitt Twp and the City of DeWitt. Numerous defects have been identified through the yearly maintenance program. Defects are prioritized by severity of defect and the overall impact to the system and municipal infrastructure. Spot repairs prolong the serviceable life of the reach and prevent costly replacement and disruption to the system and community.

### **DeWitt Township**

Thomas Farms: Sanitary sewer for phase 1A has been installed. Testing can begin mid to late December. After much discussion and review, the sanitary sewer for this phase will connect into the 12" sanitary sewer in Clark Road. Phase 1B will also connect to the Clark Road sewer. Plans are being completed for phase 1B, and construction should start yet this year.

Quarry Village: Waiting for the contractor to perform the last manhole test.

### **Bath Township**

Webster Rd Extension: No change. KEBS is working on record drawings.

### **City Of DeWitt**

Wildflower: Testing is completed and testing passed. Waiting for final record drawings.

