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## Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority

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### Inside this issue:

Process—Making it Clean 2

Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop 2



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"The Clean Water People"

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### Maintenance—Keeping Things Humming

Rodent repellent is a constant task for our operators at the lift stations. As one can imagine, rodents build homes and destroy electrical circuitry, which is very costly. Our team is spending a lot of time ensuring this doesn't occur by screening off large openings in the generator enclosures to try to make it harder for the rodents to get in.

The warmer weather has given us a jump on spring cleanup. The team has been picking up and repairing any damage to the landscape around the stations caused by snow removal. With as many stations that we have, it is challenging to place snow in a location that won't affect the landscape during the removal process, especially early in the season. Then, due to the unpredictable weather and heavier snowfall, we are forced to move snow further off of the hard surfaces, which increases the risk of minor grass damage and overall landscape damage. But, now that the snow is gone, we can focus on cleaning up any areas affected by snow removal this winter.

We are also progressing steadily with the check valve cleaning. This has been an excellent exercise, allowing us to fix and repair problems before they arise. It is impressive to see how many rags and other debris one

check valve can hold and still function properly! This new preventative maintenance program will be an annual event at a minimum to help mitigate poor flow due to unwanted debris.

The rebuild kit for the pump that failed last month at LS 113 has arrived. The team will be working on the repairs to the faulty pump and this pump will be put back in rotation as part of our backup list.

The team has also been assessing different panels and generators that need painting. This helps ensure the product's longevity and improves the station's overall appearance.



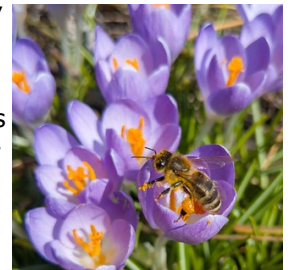
### Administration

This month, the team finished the 2025 draft budget and it will be presented at the committee level at the end of the month. This budget is unique in SCCMUA's history, as it is the most significant project since SCCMUA's inception! We will now start to see the financial impacts of the expansion project. Additionally, the transition from old to new processes will further impact the budget due to the overlap in new vs old electrical and chemical costs.

Our newest operators are still in training but doing well. The on-the-job training will continue for many years. Getting new members up to speed to be sufficient to operate and make sound decisions takes at least two years. Our field is unique, and the main and most effective

option for building knowledge is on-the-job training, along with some academic time sprinkled in.

The team is preparing for the big push of the expansion project, which will start in June. In order to get most of the significant operational equipment online, it will be all hands on deck from the contractor and the SCCMUA team. This collaboration is critical in order to achieve the operational goal by the end of the fall.



## **Process—Making it Clean**

NPDES Permit: All parameters of the NPDES permit were met. The total precipitation for the month was 2.572

Spring biosolids hauling is complete. Biotech Environmental sub-surface injected 960,500 gallons of biosolids into farmland in DeWitt Twp. This provides nutrients and microbiology to the soils, acting as a fertilizer. Land application of biosolids takes place generally twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall.

The team has been keeping up with routine maintenance and any other unscheduled maintenance items that arise. Recently, rebuilding the east primary sludge pump and changing out the seal (the previous one was leaking) and stator (the previous stator had heavy wear) to try and get the most efficiency possible from the pump. New refrigeration control

boards were purchased and installed to repair our primary and secondary samplers in the lab. It was noticed that the samplers were struggling to maintain temperature and after digging into the issue, it was determined that restoring the samplers was the answer. This fix allows the samplers to continuously maintain a required temperature of 4 degrees Celsius.

The team has looked into create more storage while still maintaining a clean look. One solution that has been implemented is converting an empty room under a stairwell near the pipe galley into a storage room. This will be organized and easy to access by adding storage racks and shelving. Another spot that has been converted to organized storage is in the RBCs on the wall in the B train area.

The storage includes an organized rack for holding brooms, squeegees, water and air hose sections. This space allows for easy access and a cleaner look for storage purposes.

Our team has also serviced and placed the west secondary clarifier back into service, allowing the east clarifier to be sprayed down and kept empty for contractors to access for the start of the secondary clarifier rehabbing work.



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

### **Miss Dig Totals:**

Miss Dig Requests: 389

Miss Digs Marked: 40

Inspection Services: 18

### **Projects:**

Staff continues reviewing the CCTV data from Plummer's Environmental. A total of 273 defects were observed. Many of the defects are minor and require only continued observation. Others will require a repair, usually in the form of a spot liner. Staff is working on a list of repairs for this year and a long-term repair schedule. A tentative cleaning and televising plan for 2024 and 2025 has been sent to Plummer's Environmental. The staff has begun work on a 2026 and 2027 cleaning and televising plan.

Bath Township master plan work continues. Pre-in and Newoff is working to create a flow model for entire Bath Township sanitary system. The model will allow for better planning and prediction of future growth. The model has proven

tricky due to the complex nature of the Bath collection system.

Team members will begin inspecting manholes in the road project areas for 2024. SCCMUA works with the Road Commission to make repairs and external wrap manhole adjustment rings. As collection systems tighten up over the years, adjustment rings have become the primary source of infiltration. By repairing damaged rings and externally sealing the rings, we can reduce infiltration.

The team continues to work on the GIS and Lucity databases improvements. This project will improve the accuracy of the GIS and Lucity systems. Staff will continue to make improvements as time allows. Improvements include updating attribute data, rectifying the GIS with air photos, creation of layers for tracking backups, past repairs, and future repairs.

