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## Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority

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

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### Maintenance—Keeping Things Humming

At LS 115, the generator seems to have a faulty engine control module. The correct parts are currently being located. While waiting for the parts, the team has temporarily installed a pigtail into the transfer switch, which will allow us to quickly connect a portable generator in the event of a power failure there.

At LS 204, 205, and 206, the team installed bubblers. These bubblers are small air compressors that fit inside the control panel. An airline is then run to the wet-well and connects to a manifold where multiple aerators can be attached and submerged in the water. We have several setups like this throughout the system, and they have effectively addressed odor issues and the formation of grease mats without the use of chemicals.

A rebuilt pump was installed at LS 201 because the pump was showing decreased performance. The pump that was removed will be rebuilt, and the clearances adjusted to be ready when needed.

The seal had failed at LS 102 on pump #2.

The team installed a new rotating assembly, including a new impeller. The old rotating assembly has been taken back and will be fully rebuilt, including new seals, bearings, O-rings, and an impeller.

At LS 219, pump #1 was experiencing intermittent seal alarms. The pump has been replaced with one of our backup pumps. The replaced pump has been brought back, tested, received an oil change, and is ready to return to service.



### Administration

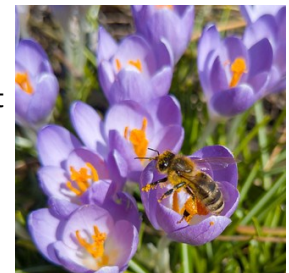
With school spring breaks in the last weeks of March and the first week of April, it is always challenging to maintain progress as many folks are out of the office for a week, making communication and progress difficult.

The team has nearly finished the draft budget for 2026. This is always challenging as we have to start very early in the year, and many things can change, as we have seen over a short period, particularly after the COVID time period. While we have been hoping to see costs plateau, that plateau doesn't appear to be in sight just yet. Health care costs are 20 to 30 percent higher than last year's projections, and labor costs continue to rise to remain competitive and retain qualified individuals. These are challenges everyone is facing as they plan year to year.

The SCCMUA team continues to work to find ways to become more efficient throughout operations. One of the more significant pro-

jects currently is evaluating our phosphorus removal through chemical addition, which we have always done. However, we are bench testing other alternatives to identify a more effective and efficient way for our process to move forward. Chemical costs have skyrocketed over the past couple of years, and the recent upgrades have eliminated two of the three chemicals used.

SCCMUA is currently back to full staff for the time being; some great candidates have been a welcome addition to the team.



## **Process—Making it Clean**

**NPDES Permit:** We are pleased to report that all parameters of the NPDES permit were successfully met, with a total precipitation for the month of 2.454 inches

Staff have been busy with routine maintenance and addressing any other issues that may arise. PM work, including oil changes, greasing, belt inspections, and proper equipment rotations, is consistently completed and scheduled to ensure the efficiency and functionality of our equipment here at the plant. Our team takes great pride in maintaining all operational equipment to achieve maximum longevity throughout each piece's life expectancy.

All headworks equipment, including the Grit Vortex, Grit Classifier, and Bar Screen, is operational and in service. The new bar screen offers twice the efficiency of the

old screen, as the space between the bars is ¼" compared to the ½" spaces of the previous screen. This improvement has been noticeable in the primary clarifiers, where we no longer see the debris that would have passed through the old bar screen. The debris removed from the bar screen also enters the grit dumpster as dryer material, caused by the compaction of debris through the auger and the vertical rise of the plumbing configuration leading to the dumpster. The grit vortex, paired with the new classifier, is working exceptionally well; we are observing increased grit removal since this process began.

The new #2 and # 3 RBC blowers are operational and in service. However, the blower optimizer is not yet in service as

Atlas Copco is awaiting a Protocol Converter. The blower optimizer is a "blower control center" that will automatically adjust the two blowers in service to meet the required air demand while maximizing power efficiency. These blowers are already demonstrating significant benefits, not only in terms of efficiency but also with the increased volume of air available when needed.

The new Sandhill pumps have been a game changer. We recently experienced flows coming into the plant exceeding 8 MGD. The new pumps, including both submersible and dry pit submersibles, managed that flow effortlessly, requiring only one pump to run at 70% of its pumping capacity.

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

### **Miss Dig Totals:**

Miss Dig Requests: 634

Miss Digs Marked: 42

Inspection Services: 5

### **Projects:**

Staff has continued to improve the GIS and Lucity asset management for the migration to Ziptility. The work has included cleaning up duplicates in the databases, filling in missing information, adding new assets to better facilitate workflows in Ziptility, and field-verifying data. Lucity and the GIS have been rectified to each other and are ready for implementation in Ziptility. Staff continues to improve the data by adding more useful information to each asset.

We have also continued the yearly Spring drawdowns at each lift station. Drawdowns will continue through May. Drawdowns are essential for modeling the system flows and determining pump efficiency.

Plans were reviewed for expansion of the Meadowbrook West subdivision.

The 2025 cleaning and televising list has been sent to Plummer's Environmental. Plummer's hopes to start cleaning late Spring.

