



## **Town of Stafford Water Pollution Control Authority**

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### **2017**

#### **A Year in Review**

As 2017 draws to a close, I remain honored to be a part of the WPCF and proud of the board members and staff for their efforts in overcoming the difficulties of this year. At the beginning of the year, Weston and Sampson's project engineer left the firm, causing concern among the WPCA because of only the engineer's familiarity with the WPCF. In the end, the WPCA awarded the Wastewater Facility Plan Update evaluation to Wright-Pierce Engineering. Weston and Sampson continued to work diligently on the inflow and infiltration in the WPCF's collection system. Reducing excessive leaks and illegal connections in the collection system will help reduce the number of nitrogen credits purchased from DEEP.

We completed some updates at the RT. 190 pump station including an installation of an odor control system by Evoqua Water Tech, rebuilding the emergency generator, and a monthly maintenance schedule to clean "flushable" rags out of the submersible pumps. The WPCF staff evaluated Meadow Lane pump station, which is 35+ years old. The WPCA decided to upgrade this station with new pumps that the WPCF staff installed. Replacement of the control panel and electrical components will be done in the near future.

During the hot summer months, there was excessive growth of an algae type plant in the effluent tank. This uncontrollable growth mass became lodged into the effluent filter underdrains. With the assistances of Wright-Pierce, the WPCF is updating the effluent filters, adding a screen, and installing a cover to the effluent tank to help reduce future problems.

The WPCA's Vac-Con sewer line cleaning truck chassis required numerous repairs and proved unreliable, leading the WPCA to purchase a new one from a different manufacturer. A special thank you to the Town's DPW garage for allowing the WPCF staff to use their similar truck while the new Vac-Con was being built. We took delivery of the new Vac-Con in May and it has been used on a weekly basis, keeping the sewer lines clean from roots and debris. Stafford, Ellington, and Vernon were lucky enough to receive an 80% grant and took delivery of the new Tri-Town CCTV truck. These new vehicles will be able to clean and inspect the sewer lines and be proactive in the maintenance schedules, while allowing for fewer sanitary sewer overflows and unexpected repairs.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Updates to the collection systems were made throughout the year, including the replacement of 100 feet of sewer line on Bellrose Street, crack injection of leaky manholes and the replacement of many manhole frames and covers on the newly paved Furnace Ave.

The WPCF superintendent conducted an evaluation of sludge hauling. This evaluation focused on the possibilities of saving money by subcontracting the sludge hauling to a private contractor. It was found that keeping the sludge hauling in-house would be the most reliable and economical decision. Following this evaluation, the WPCA moved to replace the two 23-year-old 6,500-gallon tank trailers with one new 6,500-gallon trailer. The older tank trailers were sold and that money was returned to the town's general fund.

With the DEEP requirements on employment at a WPCF, certified professionals in this field are not always available for employment. The WPCA continues to look for certified operators to fill the vacancies.

Johnson Memorial Medical Center, WPCA staff, and officials of the Town of Stafford have continued to work toward a solution to comply with a consent order issued to JMMC by DEEP. An economical solution was reached which allowed JMMC to rebuild their own treatment facility instead of connecting to the town's POTW.

The WPCF staff continued to work diligently on collecting back sewer user charges, placing some accounts on payment plans, and collecting full payments from many others. After reviewing the long-term capital improvement projects for operation and maintenance at the WPCF, the WPCA board decided to increase the annual sewer user fees by twenty dollars per single-family units. The Stafford WPCA remains in the lowest third rate bracket, when compared to other WPCAs in the state.

As I mentioned in the beginning, the WPCF had a few difficulties in 2017, but with the help of a fiscally responsible, versatile WPCA board and a hard working WPCF staff, positive solutions prevailed. I look forward to continue working with the WPCA board members and the WPCF staff in 2018.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy 2018.

Sincerely,

Rick Hartenstein  
Superintendent WPCF