

Changes at Smithville

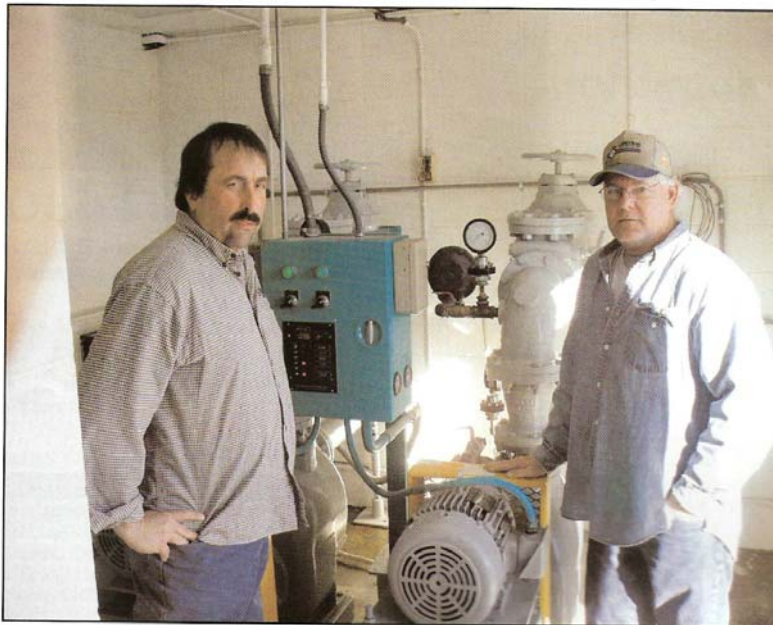


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Near the northern edge of Monroe County, on state Highway 25 is the Town of Smithville, with a population of 882. This municipality is like most others of this size- always looking to better the town and save money.

Recently a furniture manufacturer purchased some existing buildings and some land from the town. Realizing that there would be an additional load on the wastewater treatment plant, officials of the town started the process to provide the services needed for the industry and its potential growth. This had to be a two-pronged approach, as there were needs both in the water and wastewater systems.

The wastewater treatment plant had last been renovated in 1974 and was in need of upgrading, so the process started there. The permitted flow was .13 MGD and was constantly being exceeded. There were problems in meeting the permit limits for fecal coliform bacteria and percent removal of pollutants. To meet this need, an additional cell was considered, but a cost of \$1.2 million was not feasible. At this point, aeration of cells 1 and 2 with a floating cover on the third cell was deemed the best solution with a cost of approximately \$476 thousand. Renovation of a water tank boosted the total cost to \$535 thousand for the project.



(Mayor Greg Kennedy and operator, Mike Hathcock)

With the addition of aeration, the permitted flow was raised to .25MGD which allowed the town to meet the limit with the additional use. Studies show that it will also allow the addition of over 100 houses to the system.

Started in late August, the construction is complete and the first round of samples from the treatment plant has been analyzed. With the flow in compliance, it was noted that the percent removal was in the range of 98%, with only 65% being required in the permit. In the renovation, new pumps were installed that send the water to the Ten-Tom Waterway. The replacement of these

pumps, 400 gpm, and telemetric signaling for pump activation has served to keep the power costs in check when compared to the old system.

According to Mayor Greg Kennedy and operator, Mike Hathcock, the system is performing to expectations and Smithville is ready to welcome new industry and homeowners. It's good to see a small town on the move upward.



Top: Wasterwater Plant

Left: Mayor Greg Kennedy and operator, Mike Hathcock

