

## Community Growth Drives Water Companies to Pursue New Project Funding

Springfield Water and Sewer Commission and Lebanon Water Works Company have experienced significant economic growth in recent years. Economic development officials are actively preparing for continued expansion to ensure the utilities can meet future demand.

Daren Thompson recently visited Washington, D.C., advocating for funding for future projects. He was accompanied by Daniel Carney (SWEDA) and Brooklyn Leep (Marion County Economic Development) who met with Senator McConnell's staff and Congressman Comer's staff. The economic development representatives reviewed last year's growth in Washington and Marion counties and discussed plans for future expansion. The need for updated and



additional water and sewer infrastructure in both communities is great. In some cases, existing infrastructure is over 100 years old in both communities and has exceeded its useful life. Water and sewer infrastructure is also vital for economic growth and sustainability.

Lebanon Water has a proposed project for adding a 750,000 gallon water storage tank to their system, adding a booster station at the Washington/Marion County line, and doing some upgrades to the existing water lines and meters. These upgrades will benefit both Springfield Water and Sewer Customers and Lebanon Water Works customers because a previous project constructed an interconnection between both communities. An additional elevated tank would increase storage volume to the north side of Lebanon. The booster station would allow either entity to provide



### Lebanon Water Works

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water to the other in the state of emergency. The final component would allow for the replacement of aging waterlines and meters that have reached the end of their useful life.

Springfield Water and Sewer requested funding for replacing old water lines and meters in the downtown Springfield area and improvements to the water treatment plant such as adding Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Vessels to improve water quality. Replacing the downtown mains will boost water flow to the rapidly growing Mackville Road industrial area. Our legislators also listened to the

needs of our sewer infrastructure. New infrastructure is needed as it relates to our industrial areas as well as repairing and replacing failing sewer mains. When infrastructure reaches the end of its useful life, it becomes more prone to leaks and main breaks which can disrupt water service for our customers.

These proposed projects for Lebanon Water Works and Springfield Water and Sewer are much needed. Our boards and combined management team continuously strive to stay proactive rather than reactive concerning infrastructure needs. These projects will not only benefit our current customers but will ensure that we have capacity for the growth both communities are seeing. The growth also means more jobs will be available to the residents of our communities. Lebanon Water Works currently has over \$33 Million of projects in the planning and construction phases and Springfield Water and Sewer has over \$43 Million of projects in the planning and construction phases. The needs are great and we are working to balance the infrastructure needs, customer rates, and grant opportunities.



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