

Sauk Valley Community College
August 18, 2025

Agenda Item 3.1.1

Topic: **Sewer Connection to Dixon**

College Health: **Campus Environment – College facilities and grounds are clean and updated. The campus is safe, secure, and welcoming.**

Presented By: **Dr. David Hellmich, Kent Sorenson, and Rich Groleau**

Presentation:

An update will be given on the planned sewer project with the City of Dixon. The attached draft letter presents key points regarding this project.

August 18, 2025

The Honorable Glen Hughes
Mayor of the City of Dixon
121 West Second Street
Dixon, IL 61021

Dear Mayor Hughes:

As the President of Sauk Valley Community College and on behalf of the SVCC Board of Trustees, I am writing to ask for your support and the support of the City Council regarding the proposed SVCC Sewer Connection to Dixon project, which has benefits for the City and the College.

Our current wastewater treatment facility has been in place since the College opened in 1965 and is beyond its original anticipated life expectancy, creating a clear need for a substantial and full replacement. If this infrastructure were to fail, SVCC could be shut down for a year or more. The principal options for the College are to undertake a full upgrade and replacement or facilitate connection to a municipal system. The projected cost for connection to a municipal system is anticipated, based on input from the engineers, to be significantly less expensive than full system replacement.

Working with the City of Dixon to allow the College to get to the municipal system, in addition to being less expensive to the stakeholders of the College, would allow access to IEPA funding that is likely to be accompanied by loan forgiveness, further significantly reducing the projected cost. Benefits for the City include expansion of the system to the College surrounding areas, providing a means by which the City can increase its infrastructure all the way out to SVCC. This expansion would allow and facilitate possible other new construction, existing businesses, and residents to connect to the city sewer. The College becoming a significant user of the system would increase City revenue by adding SVCC to its ongoing sewer usage fees. The College, of course, would expect to enter into a subsequent inter-governmental agreement that provides reimbursement to the City for costs incurred to complete this expansion.

In exploring the possible partnership, the College has been working closely with G. Matthew Hansen (Vice President, Water / Wastewater Department Manager at Willett Hofmann & Associates) as well as with Matt Heckman (Public Works Director), Matt Huyett (Asst. Public Works Director) and Josh McNitt (Wastewater Manager) for the City of Dixon.

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Dr. David Hellmich, President
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This project would have significant benefits to SVCC – replacing the current wastewater treatment system, which is beyond its life expectancy and requires frequent costly repairs; eliminating the environmental concerns associated with potential leakage or malfunctioning of the college's current system; eliminating the ongoing maintenance, testing, and reporting requirements for the College's private plant, which are becoming increasingly complex and costly, especially with changing regulations; and connecting to the city system that helps ensure waste is handled to the highest public safety standards. The project would address the need for replacement of the sewer system by connection to the municipal system, and it would reduce the financial burden of the taxpayers of the College by meeting the need in a more cost-effective manner.

As the College celebrates its rich history and success in its 60th year, we remain committed to building a strong future and fostering community success. This commitment is made possible through strong partnerships, forward-thinking, and sound financial stewardship. We are grateful for our mutual partnership, a relationship that is beneficial to all residents of our region.

Please give this project thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Hellmich".

David M. Hellmich, Ph.D.
President
Sauk Valley Community College

Sauk Valley Community College is dedicated to teaching and scholarship while engaging the community in lifelong learning, public service, and economic development.

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