

2006
2006



Annual Report
Annual Report

Executive Summary



To: The Citizens of Oakland County
Once again it gives me great pleasure to submit this, the executive summary of the 2006 Annual Report of the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office.

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There have been some very important milestones this year. In June, my predecessor, George W. Kuhn, was invited back to Oakland County to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the retention treatment facility that was named in his honor. This facility, which is located off I-75 near 12-Mile Road in Madison Heights, will reduce overflow volume by an average of 875 million gallons per year. Designed to prevent the release of untreated wastewater into the Clinton River, the facility relies on the latest technology to protect and improve the quality of the river for decades.

I understand that protecting the environment is a life-long and very expensive process. But, through an aggressive search for funds and grants, we were able to substantially reduce the amount that otherwise would have been paid by you, the citizens of Oakland County. I'm proud to say that since I was elected some six years ago, my office has attracted more than \$22 million in grants and another \$103.5 million in low-interest loans. That's a significant amount of money and represents tremendous savings for the benefit of Oakland County residents.

As part of our quest to teach environmental stewardship to youngsters, we developed programs and activities that make learning fun and memorable. The Dirt Doctors program is a successful educational tool that you will read more about later in this executive summary. We're also proud of the enthusiastic response we received with our Kids' Clean Water Calendar Contest. I've included an example of their artwork for your review and, I trust, enjoyment.

I'm proud of what we've accomplished during 2006. Still, there always is room for improvement. In fact, continuous improvement is our mantra. Those aren't just empty words. In October we earned re-certification for our ISO 9000 quality system and passed with flying colors for our ISO 14000 environmental system.

Finally, I'd like to hear from you. If you have any helpful suggestions for improvement that you'd like to share, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

John P. McCulloch
John P. McCulloch



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Another Busy and Productive Year!

We certainly were busy in 2006 with numerous drain and construction projects that benefited residents throughout Oakland County. These projects not only help the environment, but they protect property values as well. Before highlighting the projects and programs, let's take a look at the financial numbers. If you want a more detailed breakdown, please call the number at the back of this executive summary.

Enterprise Funds continue to be our largest expenditure. That's to be expected because those funds include such things as salaries, contracted services, materials, water and sewer services purchased from the City of Detroit, along with a variety of miscellaneous costs.

In 2006, nearly \$130 million in **Enterprise Funds** expenditures were used to provide services throughout southeastern Oakland County.

Debt Funds represent money set aside to meet current and future financial obligations. That accounted for about 13 percent of the budget.

Construction Funds represent slightly more than 12 percent of the 2006 expenditures. **Maintenance Funds**, which are for services to township and agricultural drains account for about 2 percent of the budget while **Internal/Revolving Funds**, used primarily for equipment, account for another 2 percent of the budget. The amount in **Special Revenue Funds** represents pollution control grants in the spending plan and accounts for a very small percentage (0.10 percent).

The **General Fund** represents a different type of revenue source. It's the chief operating fund of Oakland County. The fact that it is less than 3 percent of our entire budget means that only a very small amount of our revenue comes from taxpayers. The vast majority of our funding comes from water and sewer ratepayers in those communities where we operate and maintain systems.



John P. McCulloch

Fiscal Year 2006 Drain Commissioner Expenditures by the Numbers				
Category	Expenditures	Revenues	Income (Loss)	% of Expenditures
Construction Funds	\$23,531,894.39	\$31,110,642.14	\$7,578,747.75	12.23%
Maintenance Funds	\$3,997,941.12	\$2,820,210.71	(\$1,177,730.41)	2.08%
Debt Funds	\$25,159,055.27	\$25,065,755.32	(\$93,299.95)	13.07%
Enterprise Funds	\$129,982,383.30	\$137,513,955.31	\$7,531,572.01	67.55%
Internal/Revolving Funds	\$4,068,034.60	\$3,521,257.11	(\$546,777.49)	2.11%
Special Revenue Funds	\$188,253.37	\$43,395.32	(\$144,858.05)	0.10%
General Fund	\$5,512,769.53	\$1,818,959.14	(\$3,693,810.39)	2.86%
Total	\$192,440,331.58	\$201,894,175.05	\$9,453,843.47	100.00%



We're Registered — Again!

Once again, we earned continued registration of our ISO 9000 Quality Management System. In addition to our quality management system, the 2006 review also included an examination of our ISO 14000 Environmental Management System.

The standards, that have earned the ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 designation a worldwide reputation, are known as “generic management system standards.” That means that the same standards can be applied to any organization, large or small, whatever its product.

We're extremely proud of the demonstrated level of commitment our staff has shown to this process. Ours is a service organization. Everyone here understands that customer service is our top priority. It is in this spirit that we measure our success. Customer satisfaction is the hallmark of our success.

Dirt Doctors Program

Our office partnered with Oakland *Plus*, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of water resources, to establish the Dirt Doctors program.

The Dirt Doctors program is designed to teach children how their actions affect our waterways. The program explains the connections between rainfall, vegetation, soil erosion, and water quality in a fun-filled, interactive presentation complete with squirt guns and a fair amount of dirt and mud.



We stand ready to move forward in 2007 with our successful Dirt Doctors program with presentations at local Water Festivals and elementary schools.



Clinton River Watershed Road Signage

Oakland County communities installed road and trail signs at visible locations to increase public awareness of the Clinton River. We coordinated a bulk purchase of the signs and the Road Commission for Oakland County lettered and installed the signs to meet the demands of each community. More than 200 signs were purchased and installed at watershed boundaries, road crossings and along trails. Signage is an example of cost-effective cooperation between watershed partners.



Before

After

Franklin Subwatershed Ten Hill and Wallbrook Project

The Rouge River runs through some of the most densely populated areas of the state. Stream bank erosion is common throughout the watershed due to increases in peak flows as the watershed has become more urbanized. In this area of West Bloomfield Township, about 300 feet of the Franklin Branch of the Rouge River were improved and the stream bank stabilized. In addition, a large, ranch-style home was in danger of falling into the river as more and more of the land was eroded away. To prevent that from occurring, work began in April of 2006 and all major work items were substantially completed by July, 2006.

With the assistance of the West Bloomfield Township Environmental Department and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, we used a softer, greener approach to a difficult problem. The result was a more pleasing, meandering, two-stage channel design, accented by natural boulders. That, coupled with vegetated banks, will make for a greatly enhanced aesthetic appreciation of this open stream. This project emphasized the watershed approach to stream erosion control. Some Great Lakes Basin Program grant funds were used to help defray the approximately \$290,000 construction costs of these improvements.



Before

After



Oxford Township Water Supply System

Several areas of Oxford Township will benefit from a \$17.7 million project designed to improve water supply and reduce arsenic levels. The improvements mean that the township will meet the new federal regulations while ensuring that drinking water is free of any impurities.

In addition to the water tower (pictured at left), the project also includes four water treatment plants with horizontal pressure filters to remove contaminants, several pressure reducing vaults and booster stations. A new well field with 12-inch to 16-inch water mains also was included in the project.



Rochester Hills Extension

This project is located in the northeast quadrant of the City of Rochester Hills in an area bounded by Mead Road to the north, Sheldon Road to the east, Cross Creek Boulevard to the south and extending beyond Rochester Road to the west.

This project was designed to provide improved and extended water and sanitary sewer service. It involved the installation of approximately 37,000 feet of water mains and other sanitary sewer piping. It also added 27 grinder pumps and the restoration of bituminous and aggregate road surfaces.





The \$144 million George W. Kuhn Retention Treatment Facility in Madison Heights expanded its capacity from about 90 million gallons to 130 million. One of the largest construction undertakings in Michigan, more than 100,000 cubic yards of concrete and approximately 14,000 tons of steel were used in the construction process. Outfitted with the latest technology, the facility will protect and improve the quality of the Clinton River for decades to come. (A row of chlorine pumps is pictured below.)



Drain Commissioner John P. McCulloch (left) and former Drain Commissioner George W. Kuhn celebrate the dedication of the Retention Treatment Facility in Madison Heights that was named in honor of Mr. Kuhn.

Dedicated To Serving You Better

We're moving forward to serve you better. After all, the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's office is a service organization. We're dedicated to protecting and preserving our most precious natural resource: clean, pure water. Oakland County is a wonderful place to live and work. We're doing our part to ensure that our lakes, rivers and streams retain their natural beauty. That's why we capped off 2006 with a reorganization designed to increase efficiency, promote cost savings and cooperation while providing even more dedicated service to the citizens.



Kids' Clean Water Calendar

Protecting the environment is a life-long commitment. That's why we make a dedicated effort to reach youngsters with our message of environmental stewardship. In 2006, fourth and fifth-grade students throughout Oakland County submitted drawings for our second annual calendar contest. Winning entries, along with facts and tips to improve water quality, were featured in the calendar. The calendar provides a creative reminder that clean water is everyone's responsibility.



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