



A Note From The Commissioner

With spring in full swing, the WRC has been busy on many different fronts. Below are a few projects we have been working on. Around this time of year, I am often asked will there be a reduction in water and sewer rates for the coming year. That question is answered in detail in my guest opinion on water and sewer rates. I explain what drives those rates and the outlook for the future. Also, below you will find an article on the WRC's cost-reduction efforts. Often I am asked what has the WRC done to cut costs. This article will highlight what our office is doing and what it has done to help reduce costs. Additionally, listed below are all of the 2010 WRC construction projects that are either in the planning stage, getting started or have recently been completed. I hope you will find this E-Newsletter to be helpful and informative.



Water and Sewer Rates



I'm often asked when will we see a reduction in water rates. My answer is, unfortunately, we won't – at least not in the foreseeable future. Rates will continue to increase for a number of reasons. There are state and federal mandates that must be met. But, perhaps the biggest reason can be associated with "fixed costs." Fixed costs are expenses that are associated with providing water and wastewater services. These costs include such things as maintenance, repair and replacement of infrastructure, operational expenses and a host of other items that aren't subject to change regardless of the amount of water provided.

It must be remembered that providing clean, fresh water is different than most other services because we are dealing with issues of health, safety and environmental concerns. Providing those services while doing what we can to keep costs as low as possible involves a delicate balancing act. Quality cannot be sacrificed. We can not jeopardize the health, safety or welfare of the people who rely on us for drinking water.

[Click here](#) to read the entire guest opinion on water and sewer rates.

WRC Cost Reduction Efforts

Over the last two years, the WRC has implemented a number of cost-reduction measures. Employees have taken a pay cut and are scheduled to take another pay reduction next year. We've reduced the size of our workforce, reduced the number of vehicles in our fleet and cut vehicle use. We've consolidated and realigned jobs to save money. Additionally, we've streamlined our bill paying process and reduced cell phones. These are just a few of the steps we've taken to ensure that we provide the best possible service at the lowest possible price while providing quality drinking water and maintaining a reliable infrastructure system. To date, the WRC has been able to save more than \$2.2 million.



Being mindful of the current economic climate, the WRC has been actively seeking grants and contributions for various Cities, Villages and Townships (CVT) water and sewer-related projects. The WRC has secured more than \$27 million for a number of projects across the county. We're continuing to actively seek out grants for CVT-related projects as new grant programs become available.

2010 WRC Construction Projects

Click on the specific project for more details

Projects Under Development

- Charter Township of Royal Oak Water Main Improvements - Project Plan
- Bush Lake Study
- Hamlin Drain - Project Overview
- Waterford Township - Clinton-Oakland Sewage Disposal System Walton Boulevard Lining Project - Project Overview
- Evergreen-Farmington Sewage Disposal System and Clinton-Oakland Sewage Disposal System Rehabilitation Project - Project Overview
- Village of Franklin - Evergreen-Farmington Sewage Disposal System Gravity Sewer Lining Project - Project Overview
- Bloomfield Township - Evergreen-Farmington Sewage Disposal System Wabeek Country Club Sanitary Sewer Repair - Project Overview
- West Bloomfield Township - Franklin Sub-Watershed, Tenhill and Wallbrook Extension Drain - Project Overview
- Highland Township Well Water Supply - Project Overview
- City of Northville - Randolph Street Inter-County Drain - Project Overview
- Macomb County - Red Run Inter-County Drain Shoal Removal and Bank Stabilization Project - Project Overview
- Macomb County - Red Run Inter-County Drain E. coli Reduction Project - Project Overview
- City of Southfield - Rummell Relief Drain Repairs - Project Overview
- City of Southfield - Southfield Drain No. 2 - Project Overview

Projects Under Construction

- Donohue Drain - Project Overview
- Oakland-Macomb Interceptor Drain Rehabilitation Contracts 1 & 2

Recently Completed Projects

- **West Bloomfield Township - Manhole Rehabilitation and Sanitary Sewer Lining**
- **George W. Kuhn Retention Treatment Basin - Contract 6B**
- **City of Lathrup Village - Footing Drain and Houselead Rehabilitation Project**
- **City of Southfield - Footing Drain Disconnection Project**

Save the dates 2010!!

Clinton River Water Festival – May 21, 2010 - Oakland University, Rochester Hills

Great Lakes Guardians Duck Regatta – June 6, 2010 – on Kingswood Lake on the Cranbrook Institute of Science's campus in Bloomfield Hills

Rouge River Water Festival – September 14-17, 2010 - Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills

Clinton River Review – October 1, 2010 - Oakland University, Rochester Hills

WRC FYI

The WRC has added two new sections to its Web site. The first section deals with special drain assessments. The second section is the yearly meeting schedule for the various sewage disposal systems in the county. Visit us at www.oakgov.com/water and check it out.

The WRC is now on Facebook! [Click here](#) to become a fan!

The WRC in the news! [Click here](#) to see all news articles and commentary about the WRC.

WRC Contact Information

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