



A Note from the Commissioner

Since the last quarterly E-Newsletter, the WRC has been working hard on a number of new projects and initiatives. Below you will find a small sampling of endeavors we have been working on.

As you may know, my office is undertaking a large rehabilitation project on the Oakland-Macomb Interceptor (OMI). In cooperation with the Macomb County Public Works Department, we have agreed to assume operation and maintenance of this interceptor system which affects a number of Oakland County communities in the Clinton-Oakland Sewage Disposal System. Below you will find a link to the final project plans.

During the last month, I have been able to save Bloomfield Township and the City of Birmingham more than \$825,000 through refinancing existing bonds totaling \$10 million.

In an ongoing effort to educate the public on the services we provide, the WRC has launched a Speakers' Bureau. We'd be happy to visit your community to talk about what we do and answer any questions dealing with water, wastewater, storm water or other environmental concerns.

I hope you find this WRC E-Newsletter helpful and informative. I encourage you to visit our Web site at <http://www.oakgov.com/water> to see all we do.

Oakland-Macomb Interceptor (OMI) Rehabilitation Project



OMI Augmented Drainage Board members from left:
Macomb County Commissioner Irene Kepler, Chief Deputy Macomb County
Public Works Commissioner William Misterovich, Deputy Director of the Michigan
Department of Agriculture Karl Hausler, Oakland County Water Resources
Commissioner John McCulloch and Oakland County Commissioner Tom Middleton

The Oakland-Macomb Interceptor (OMI) is a portion of an existing sanitary sewer system that was built in the early 1970s by the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD). This system is comprised of three major interceptors: Edison Corridor, Oakland Arm and Avon Arm. This entire system is the sole conveyance conduit for transport of sanitary sewage to the DWSD wastewater treatment facility that serves more than 830,000 people in Macomb and Oakland County communities.

The OMI was constructed in 1970 and 1971 along with the Romeo Arm which, over the past 38 years, has experienced a number of near catastrophic failures. The collapse of portions of the Romeo Arm Interceptor have disrupted service to much of eastern Macomb County and caused sanitary sewer to overflow to the surrounding area.

Because of these failures, recent in-depth inspections of the interceptor were completed and a number of areas of major deterioration were identified. These inspections indicated numerous areas where significant infiltration is occurring continuously. These are often accompanied by identifiable indications of voids adjacent to the pipe where surrounding soil has been washed into the interceptor. The inspections also identified areas where serious structural deficiencies in the pipe wall are evident. It is the intent of this project to perform extensive rehabilitation of the OMI to return the facilities to a condition commensurate with a minimum 20-year life span.

Rehabilitation efforts are expected to be completed over a five year time frame, beginning in 2009 and concluding in late 2013. To read the entire final OMI project plan [click here](#).

Refinancing Drain Bonds Nets More Than \$825,000 in Savings



Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner John P. McCulloch saved Bloomfield Township more than \$405,000 and Birmingham more than \$420,000 in interest costs by refinancing bonds issued back in 2001. He was able to garner a true interest rate of slightly more than 2 percent on the combined issues of nearly \$10 million.

“I am extremely pleased with the amount of savings we were able to realize on behalf of the residents of Birmingham and Bloomfield Township,” McCulloch said.

He explained that refinancing, (it’s called ‘refunding’ when you’re talking about bonds), is similar to what a lot of people have done when they’ve refinanced their home mortgages. They’ve taken advantage of the lower interest rates. “We’re doing the same thing,” McCulloch said.

The refunding on the seven-year notes marks another milestone in a growing list of savings to several Oakland County communities since McCulloch took office in 2001.

“As I’ve indicated previously, when I see an opportunity to save taxpayer money, I’m going to take advantage of it,” said McCulloch. “As with the prior savings, this current savings means that these two communities can use the money previously earmarked for interest payments for other needed projects. I’m passing the savings directly back to the citizens where it belongs.”

New! WRC Speakers' Bureau

We believe the work we do here at the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's office would make for an eye-opening and fascinating topic of discussion for your community or neighborhood group. After all, this office impacts countless aspects of your daily life. Inasmuch as most of the infrastructure we oversee is underground, many people underestimate the important role it plays in providing clean, fresh, uninterrupted water to our homes and businesses.

We’d welcome the opportunity to visit your community to talk about the services we provide. If you would like a visit from a WRC



speaker, please let us know. Also, if you know of a civic, community or neighborhood group that you think would like a visit from one of our speakers, give us a call.

To learn more about our Speakers' Bureau, or any of our educational programs suitable for all ages from adults to school-age youngsters, please call our community liaison, Chip Tischer, at 248-858-1120.

Excellence is Consistent At Water Resources Office

For the fourth straight year, the Commerce Township Wastewater Treatment Plant has won the top performance award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). At the same time, the Walled Lake-Novı Wastewater Treatment Plant won the top prize for the third year in a row.

Both facilities were awarded the prestigious Gold Peak Performance Award, which was given in recognition of their "100 percent, complete and consistent National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit compliance," for calendar year 2008.

"Even though we've won this award repeatedly in the past, I am just as pleased and excited about being in such rarified company as I was when we won our very first award," said Water Resources Commissioner John P. McCulloch. "I'm extremely delighted with the level of conscientious professionalism displayed by the crews working at these two facilities. It is a remarkable achievement."

McCulloch said the awards "once again represent continued national recognition of our level of service and commitment to the people of Oakland County."

NACWA Executive Director Ken Kirk said that winning two gold awards was "an outstanding example of environmental efforts."

He said that the NACWA is honored to showcase the achievements of the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's office and our nation's public wastewater utilities through the Peak Performance Awards Program.

The award recognizes public wastewater treatment facilities for uncompromising compliance with clean water standards. The gold award is given to those facilities that have achieved 100 percent compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit for an entire calendar year.



Clinton River Review 2009

October 2, 2009
Oakland University - Oakland
Center Banquet Rooms
8:30 a.m. - noon
RSVP by e-mail to:
envreq@oakgov.com

or call 248-858-0958 by September 25, 2009

For more information, e-mail or call
WRC Community Liaison Chip Tischer tischerc@oakgov.com or 248-858-1120.

WRC Contact Information

Phone: 248-858-0958 - **Fax:** 248-858-1066 - **24-Hour Pollution Hotline:** 248-858-0931
E-mail: wrc@oakgov.com - **Web site:** www.oakgov.com/water

WRC - One Public Works Drive, Building 95 West - Waterford, MI 48328-1907

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or e-mail address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your Subscriber Preferences Page. You will need to use your e-mail address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact support@govdelivery.com. All other inquiries may be directed to webmaster@oakgov.com.

This service is provided to you at no charge by Oakland County, Michigan.



GovDelivery, Inc. sending on behalf of Oakland County, Michigan · 1200 North Telegraph Road · Pontiac MI 48341 · 888-350-0900