



For Immediate Release

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Macomb County approves funding for drinking water monitoring system

As recommended by County Executive Mark Hackel's Macomb County Water Resources Advisory Council (MCWRAC) the County Board of Commissioners approved MCWRAC's recommendation for a special allocation of \$50,000 to preserve the St. Clair River-Lake St. Clair Drinking Water Protection System (DWPS) for one more year.

Macomb and St. Clair counties will each contribute \$50,000 to maintain and operate the system. Pooled funds will enable the counties to continue the real-time data observation and notification component of the system, and to maintain a publicly accessible database of the information gathered.

As part of the recommendation, 12 communities with monitoring equipment within the system will be asked to operate and maintain the equipment at their respective intake plants to insure that the system is able to detect possible contaminants. Officials from each of the counties will facilitate meetings and dialogue with the involved communities to resolve technical issues and develop a more long-term and sustainable partnership.

"This state-of-the-art system helps to enhance the safety of our drinking water for at least one more year. This temporary solution provides an opportunity for participating communities to develop a more sustainable system for the future," said Hackel.

DWPS is an elaborate monitoring network launched in 2006 with federal, state and local funds. It enables municipalities between Port Huron and Wyandotte that draw drinking water from Lake St. Clair to continually monitor water quality at intake points. If a contaminant or unsafe condition is detected, water plant operators are alerted to shut down intake valves or pursue other appropriate actions to prevent unsafe water from being drawn into the drinking water supply. In this way, the public health is protected from contaminants that may be accidentally or intentionally introduced into the water.

Steve Gold, Director/Health Officer for Macomb County Health Department, said "We believe that this fully automated, real-time surveillance system, which protects 100 miles of connected natural waterways, is unique in the country, maybe in the world. With this system, the public's health is protected against contaminants introduced accidentally or intentionally all along the U.S. side of the Lake Huron to Lake Erie Corridor."

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