

News

Macomb County Board of Commissioners



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Finance Committee Approves Funding for Water Monitoring System

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. — The Macomb County Board of Commissioners' Finance Committee today approved the allocation of \$50,000 to fund the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair Drinking Water Protection System. The one-time appropriation — which will be matched by St. Clair County to total \$100,000 — will keep 13 water monitors in the real-time network active for one year. In the meantime, a long-term solution will be sought, officials said.

The system monitors provide early contaminant detection for 13 water intake plants from Port Huron to Wyandotte, warning operators of source water contamination from chemical spills and other pollutants. The system monitors drinking water for approximately 3 million people in Macomb, St. Clair, Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw and Monroe counties.

“Drinking water is a vital resource, and doing all we can to provide safe, secure and clean water to our residents is something we take very seriously,” said Finance Committee Chair Don Brown.

Brown said the committee first learned of the monitoring system's dwindling funds last Spring and immediately called for collaboration from the Office of the County Executive and the network's partners to identify a funding source to keep it running. The system was developed in 2006 and has been funded through a combination of sources at the federal, state, local and private levels, with an approximately \$3.4 million investment to date.

Board of Commissioners Chair Kathy D. Vosburg is a member of the Macomb County Water Resources Advisory Council, which has been studying the issue.

“This is a good faith effort on our part, in hopes that users benefitting from the system will commit to a long term funding solution,” Vosburg said.

The item will go before the Board of Commissioners during its next Full Board meeting, at 7 p.m. Thursday. The Board meets on the 9th floor of the Administration Building, 1 S. Main, Mount Clemens.

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