



Anthony V. Marrocco

Public Works Commissioner
Macomb County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Commissioner Marrocco Appoints Top Engineer As Macomb Representative on Water Board

Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Anthony V. Marrocco announced today that he has appointed a former Public Works chief engineer and West Point graduate as Macomb County's representative on the revamped Detroit Water Board.

Commissioner Marrocco said he selected Fred W. Barnes to serve on the water board because Barnes not only is a top notch engineer with decades of experience, he also has the integrity and insight to represent the interests of Macomb County on the seven-member board that governs the giant utility.

Barnes, 66, of Sterling Heights, was selected from a field of 30 people who applied for the water board position to represent Macomb County.

"It was a tough decision, but I felt that Fred's overwhelming credentials and 40 years in the field of engineering --- coupled with his inherent ability of probing into issues --- will give Macomb County a strong but fair voice on the Detroit Water Board," Commissioner Marrocco said. "I truly believe Macomb County residents will be pleased with the selection."

"I want to sincerely thank all of the candidates who applied for the water board position," Commissioner Marrocco said. "The selection process was very difficult."

Barnes worked for the Macomb County Public Works Office from 1976 until his retirement in 2000.

Barnes will assume his role on the Water Board for a four-year term on April 1.

"I am really excited about this appointment, and I see this as an opportunity to help direct one of the largest water and sewer systems in the United States," Barnes said. "At the same time, I will have the opportunity to serve the people of Macomb County."

Barnes said one of his major accomplishments during his tenure with the Public Works Office was improving the drainage system in Macomb County that helped prevent flooding, and also his role in planning the Garfield Sanitary Sewer Interceptor that serves northern Macomb County.

During his tenure as chief engineer, Barnes also was an adviser to the Martin and Chapaton Retention and Treatment Basins in St. Clair Shores. The two basins handle the combined sewer overflow systems for St. Clair Shores, Eastpointe and Roseville.

Barnes, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. served in Viet Nam as an advisor to the Republic of Viet Nam Army. He reached the rank of captain.

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Barnes is an ardent soccer fan. He refereed soccer for 20 years and was the venue referee coordinator for the 1994 World Cup for the first round matches at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Suburban counties for the first time were given the right to name three of the seven representatives to the Water Board, under a stipulated order entered by U.S. District Court Judge Sean Cox in U.S. District Court in Detroit last month.

The court order followed an agreement reached by Commissioner Marrocco, Detroit Mayor David Bing, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner John McCulloch.

Previously, Water Board bylaws allowed, but didn't require, suburban representation. Under terms of the order, the other four members must be Detroit residents.

Commissioner Marrocco said suburban representatives will have a stronger voice on the board because a super majority of five votes will be required to approve water and sewer rates and capital improvements projects.

The court order provides that water board members will receive a salary of \$10,000 a year, plus \$250 per board meeting. Maximum compensation will be \$20,000 a year.

Commissioner Marrocco said board members can expect to attend 3 to 4 board meetings per month, in addition to devoting time for research and discussion of issues. Most of the meetings will be held during daytime business hours.

In another innovation intended to empower the Water Board, it will have the assistance an in-house staff consisting of an attorney, finance officer and technical expert with experience in engineering, water operations or wastewater services. The staff will conduct research, investigate issues, make recommendations and monitor activities of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

(For additional information contact Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Anthony V. Marrocco at (586) 469-6101; Fred Barnes, at (586) 810-217-2161, or Macomb Deputy Public Works Commissioner Gene Schabath at (586) 469-7424)