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# Attempt to cripple water board fails

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) is moving closer to establishing a new Area Water Quality Board as a regional tool in meeting federal clean water standards.

But a handful of Oakland County conservatives is joining an adamant Washtenaw County delegation in opposing such a new agency.

They failed last week, however, in their bid before SEMCOG's executive committee to cripple the AWQB plan with a series of amendments.

The executive committee voted 17-7 to recommend establishment of the AWQB to the SEMCOG General Assembly, final authority for the region. The general assembly is scheduled to meet Oct. 20 in the Michigan Inn, Southfield.

SUPPORTING A new water Quality board were these local executive committee members: Alexander C. Perinoff, Oakland County commissioner from Southfield; Richard Ceggar, mayor of Lathrup Village; and Jerry Raymond, Livonia city councilman.

Opposed were Henry Hoot, Oakland County commissioner from Troy, and

Home Case, Bloomfield Township supervisor.

Under the resolution that was passed, "The Area Water Quality Board would be the entity to perform areawide monitoring and oversight; voting membership on the AWQB (would) not be restricted to elected officials; the functions of areawide monitoring and oversight and continuing areawide planning (are) to be financed by a fee based on sewage flow."

Washtenaw delegates insist the state Water Resources Commission be given

those functions. Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti officials were successful before the state agency in blocking a Wayne County Road Commission "super sewer" plan for a single treatment plant on the shores of Lake Erie.

**WASHTENAW COMMISSIONER** Kathleen Folik offered an amendment to send all three alternatives to the general assembly. These include the AWQB, the Water Resources Commission and the designation of SEMCOG itself as the operating agency.

That proposal was beaten down after Livonia's Raymond argued: "We can

send information to the general assembly so the delegates might know the basis of our recommendation. But to send all three alternatives, without a recommendation, is to make a mockery of our meeting today."

The AWQB would be a 27-member agency appointed by local governments and the SEMCOG general assembly. Its purposes, besides monitoring and coordinating work of local agencies, would be to solve disputes between local forces. A regional water quality plan is mandated under the 1972 Clean Water Act amendments.

## Regional economy is probed

"A mature and aging economy" in metropolitan Detroit will produce a shrinking or at best stable tax base, but one which will likely produce high levels of earned income.

That's the conclusion of two economists in a research paper to be presented today as part of a year-long research project.

Economists John Mattila and James Moor will present their research at 8 p.m. in room 150 of Wayne State Uni-

versity's General Lecture Hall. Warren and Third. Admission is free.

The Mattila-Moor paper is the first of nine in the series "Financing the Metropolis." The project is sponsored by Metropolitan Fund, Inc., a non-profit urban research foundation in southeast Michigan.

A citizens panel will respond to the paper.

Metro Fund plans a series of monthly programs examining alternatives for financing delivery of various area-wide services in the metropolitan municipality, or "metropolis."

The Mattila-Moor paper will exam-

ine "The Southeast Michigan Economy: Past, Present and Future." It will point to a number of economic trends. The authors predict "the revival and survival of the central city."

Mattila is a professor of economics at WSU. Moor is assistant professor of economics at Central Michigan University.

"Financing the Metropolis" project is headed by Kent Mathewson, president of Metro Fund. Project director is Dr. William Neenan, University of Michigan economist.

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