

Victory for environmentalists

Wetlands protection bill passes

By MARY GNIEWEK

Environmentalists have scored a victory with approval of a bill which protects Michigan's wetlands from commercial development.

Farmington's state legislators in Lansing, Sen. Doug Ross, D-Oak Park, and Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, threw early support to the measure.

"I am satisfied that this bill will provide Michigan citizens and the important Wetlands of the state the type of protection that neither environmental-

ists nor many developers can complain about," Brotherton said.

The legislation takes effect Oct. 1, 1980. It authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to conduct an inventory of all wetlands in counties with fewer than 100,000 residents to determine which areas need protection.

In counties with more than 100,000 residents, such as Oakland, the bill will take immediate effect without an inventory.

The measure restricts development or draining of swamps, marshes, bogs or other wetlands over five acres which

are adjacent to lakes, streams or one of the Great Lakes.

Ross was not available for comment Friday, but his Senate aide, Bob O'Leary, called the legislation a strong environmental bill.

"As it stands, it provides for substantial protection in counties over 100,000 residents where loss of wetlands is most critical," O'Leary said.

THE BILL was sponsored by Sen. Kerry Kammer, D-Pontiac. In the House, an amendment was added which some political observers believe threw a wrench into the measure.

The provision allows landowners to appeal DNR rulings if they believe restrictions on land are unreasonable.

Under the law, landowners who wish to alter wetlands will be required to apply for a \$25 permit at a local DNR office.

After inspecting the land, the DNR

will issue a permit only if there is "no feasible or prudent" alternative.

If a landowner appeals a DNR decision and a court rules in his or her favor, the DNR must pay for loss of property or amend the ruling to permit greater land use.

"It's a way of giving the landowner some relief," Brotherton said.

"There's got to be an appeal process."

Agricultural activity is also protected under the legislation. Almost all agricultural activity is exempt from the regulations spelled out in the bill.

Farmers are having enough trouble trying to make a living for their families these days," Brotherton said. "They don't need more rules from Lansing telling them what to do with their property."

Wetlands absorb water to prevent flooding and provide a natural habitat for wildlife.

Agendas posted

FARMINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18

Approval of minutes of regular board meeting of Dec. 4, correspondence, and approval of expenditures.

Items from the Superintendent

- Informational update.
- New position in accounting office.
- Approval of gift to district media center.
- Amended roofing contracts at Eagle, Kenbrook, and Farmington High School.

- Personnel items.
- Resolution — investment of school district funds.
- Musical instruments for secondary schools.

Reports from board committees
Reports from board representatives
FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17

Minutes of previous meeting.

Public Hearing

- To receive community input: Community Development Program, 1980-81.

Minutes of other boards

- Planning commission minutes of Dec. 10.
- Farmington Historical Commission minutes of Nov. 28.
- Farmington area Arts Commission minutes of Nov. 13.
- Board of Education minutes of Nov. 20.

Petitions and Communications
• Letter from Mary P. Cauley, owner of Bolinas Reef, 33335 Grand River re: sign variance.

• Request from Michigan Liquor Control Commission re: transfer of SDM license from Great Scott Super Markets to I.G.A., 24065 Orchard Lake.

• Notification of resignation from Gordon Page, Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees.

• Letter from Lynn Phenev, secretary, Farmington area Commission on Aging re: Special meeting with council.

• Resolution from city of Novi re: Senate Bill #94. (Direct election of library board members)

Reports from the City Manager

- Proposed ordinance controlling structure heights.
- Ratification of three-year work agreement: public safety officers.
- Progress report: Federal Department Store property assessment appeal case.
- Progress report: 1979-80 Farmington road maintenance contract.
- Comfort and energy study: Farmington municipal building.
- Emergency operations plan for the City of Farmington.

Miscellaneous

- Public comment.
- Financial report: General fund, five months ended Nov. 30.
- Financial report: 47th District Court, five months ended Nov. 30.
- Appointments to boards and commissions.

Resolutions and ordinances

- Adopt resolutions: Bank Master Depository and facsimile signatures.

Claims and accounts

- Monthly bills.

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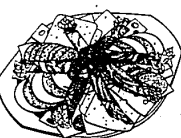
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12 oz. Tumblers (set of 4)	5.00	3.00	1.00	FREE	6.25
12 oz. Giant Mugs (set of 4)	7.50	5.50	3.50	FREE	8.50
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