



Ex-Cell-O aids WSU

Professor Robert B. Thornhill, director of the division of engineering technology at Wayne State University, examines an \$80,000 Workcenter 105 machine which the university will use to teach computer-aided manufacturing. The machine was made available at \$1 a year, according to Edward J. Giblin (center), chairman of Ex-Cell-O

Corp., Troy. An unidentified student will get "hands-on" experience in applying numerical control to manufacturing in the Engineering Technology building at 4855 Fourth, Detroit.

Pols bicker, but county gets rep to water board

By TOM LONERGAN

It normally doesn't take the Oakland County Board of Commissioners six months to make a routine appointment.

But when the appointment involves a power dispute between Drain Commissioner George Kuhn and County Executive Daniel Murphy, both Republicans, even the routine becomes a controversy.

The issue which took commissioners six months to resolve was the appointment of a county representative to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments' Areawide Water Quality Board (AWQB).

Murphy initially wanted the board to appoint Milton Handorf, director of the county Department of Public Works (DPW). Handorf reports to the county executive.

Kuhn thought he was better suited for the job, but withdrew his candidacy at the last minute and offered Republican Commissioner Richard Wilcox of Orionville as a compromise choice.

THE BOARD of Commissioners last Thursday approved Wilcox 16-10 over the Democrats' candidate, Commissioner Alexander Perinoff of Southfield. The vote was along party lines. Before Kuhn withdrew, Democrats had committed their 10 votes (one Democratic commissioner was absent) to him. Kuhn has several conservative Republican allies, including Commissioner Henry Hoot of Troy, besides the Democrats.

The majority of the Republicans sided with Murphy on the appointment. The AWQB appointment became part of a continuing dispute between Murphy and Kuhn over proposals to merge the drain commissioner's office with the DPW.

The DPW, part of Murphy's domain, maintains sewer, water and solid waste operations in the county. Kuhn's drain commission office, an elective position not responsible to Murphy, handles

sewer construction and maintains storm water drains.

Murphy wants the departments merged under his administration as part of a unified county government under the executive. Kuhn said all water matters should reside with the drain commissioner, since state law gives him the authority to finance sewer construction.

The Board of Commissioners has decided to leave things as they are, unless the state legislature or the courts change them.

IN A LETTER to the board, Kuhn said bickering over the AWQB appointment had "unnecessarily divided the board of commissioners into two warring camps."

His sudden withdrawal, shortly before Thursday's board meeting, sent Democrats back in caucus where Kuhn's deputy, Robert Fredericks, said Kuhn "doesn't want to take the appointment if the Republicans fight to the last mile."

Kuhn was "very upset with the Republicans and he still is," Fredericks said.

The Republicans were going to support Commissioner Paul Kasper, R-Bloomfield Hills, for the water quality board appointment, before Kuhn offered his compromise.

Murphy had removed Handorf from consideration and wanted the Republicans to appoint a commissioner.

Kuhn hinted in his letter that he had the necessary 14 votes to be appointed, but such a slim margin would have made it "impossible to function effectively," he said.

But one Republican said Kuhn only had two Republican votes, besides the Democratic block.

The water quality board was established last year to coordinate regional planning in water quality, soil erosion and sewage treatment. The monitoring board has 27 members from seven Southeast Michigan counties.

Ford makes LIT \$125,000 richer

Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield is getting \$125,000 in two years because Ford Motor Co. is worried about the dwindling supply of manufacturing engineers.

The University of Michigan-Dearborn will receive \$275,000 over five years under the same program.

LIT will use the funds to create a manufacturing engineering option in the mechanical engineering department of the School of Engineering. Ford gave a first-year check of \$75,000 to LIT engineering dean Stephen R. Davis.

"The nationwide availability of such engineers has declined 14 percent over

the past five years, and recent studies indicate there will be a long-term growth in the number of jobs for manufacturing engineers," said James K. Bakken, vice president of operations support staffs for Ford.

The new programs are expected to begin in September at both schools, according to a Ford Motor Co. Fund announcement. Funds will be used for curriculum development, acquisition of materials and initial funding of a program director.

The fund is a nonprofit corporation operated for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. It is supported by Ford Motor Co. It is not related to the Ford Foundation.

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