

Judge gives new water consortium expanded powers

BY KURT RUBAN
STAFF WRITER

The Southeast Michigan Consortium for Water Quality met Monday for the first time since U.S. District Court Judge John Feikens directed the group to come up with ways to solve the region's water problems.

Last week, Feikens ordered the 40-member board, com-

posed of metro Detroit business, government and environmental leaders, to take a more active role in protecting water quality, including finding ways to clean up local waterways.

In addition, Feikens wants the consortium to work closely with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to address suburban concerns about water rates, operational efficiency and safety measures.

The DWSD, which supplies water and wastewater services to more than 4 million people in southeast Michigan, has been criticized by suburban leaders for years.

However, the seven-member Detroit Water Board, which is appointed by the mayor of Detroit, will set policy for the DWSD.

Feikens' order was a main topic of discussion among con-

sortium members on Monday. Ford Motor Company executive Tim O'Brien, who chairs the consortium, said the group is excited about the new challenge.

"Judge Feikens has brought us together. He said he wants the consortium to act cooperatively in solving these issues. That is our charge. Now we've got to come up with the solutions," O'Brien said.

One of the main problems the consortium will have to solve is stopping polluted stormwater from entering local rivers. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments estimates it is a multi-billion dollar problem.

Feikens, who has led efforts

to clean up the Rouge River, actually formed the consortium two years ago, but it has largely been a fact-finding group. Now the group will help set policy, and Feikens said he will use his authority to help the group get around jurisdictional disputes that in the past have acted as roadblocks to improved water quality.

Oakland County Drain Commissioner John McCulloch, a consortium member, said there has been a lot of cooperation and positive energy, despite the fact the board has a variety of members who have different interests.

"The issues we are dealing with are very complex and there are numerous interested


parties that want to weigh in on the debate. But I am very encouraged by the level of cooperation we've had. Everyone on this board wants improved water quality," he said.

In addition to forming a number of leadership groups and special task forces Monday, consortium members agreed to meet every three months.

O'Brien said it's time for the board to follow through with its mission.

"It's time for the consortium to knuckle down and start showing some results," he said.

thub@oe.howsteele.com | (248) 901-2535



EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES
NATIONALLY ACCREDITED CENTERS:
ALAMEDA (248) 489-3808
FAIRVIEW (248) 785-2059
FARMINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL (248) 489-3373
STATE LICENSED - PARENTS ALWAYS WELCOME
NOW ENROLLING!
TUITION CLASSES
KIDBITS: NEWBORN TO 3 WITH PARENTS
PARENTS AND TODDLERS
3 TO 4 YEAR-OLD
FREE CLASSES FOR ELIGIBLE CHILDREN
HEAD START
MICHIGAN SCHOOL READINESS
SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
AVAILABLE YEAR 'ROUND, 7 AM TO 6 PM
QUALIFIED STAFF
STATE CERTIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSED TEACHERS
TRAINED PARAPROFESSIONALS
FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS CURRICULUM
LITERACY - COMPUTERS - SCIENCE - MATH - MUSIC
GYM - MEDIA - CAFETERIA
SPECIAL PROGRAMS - FIELD TRIPS
PARENT INVOLVEMENT - FAMILY ACTIVITIES
RECENTLY RENOVATED FACILITIES
FENCED PLAY AREAS
NO RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS
NEW! WOOD CREEK SCHOOL CLASSES, TOO!

OBITUARIES

Thelma S. Cook

A memorial service for Thelma Selma Cook, 86, of Farmington Hills will be held at a later date.

Ms. Cook was born Dec. 30, 1916, in Detroit and died May 14, 2003, at White Hall Nursing Home in Novi. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her sons, Allan (Norma) and Phillip (Elizabeth); and daughter, Deborah (James) Vigneau.

Arrangements made by Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Rose E. Thompson

Services for Rose Edna Thompson, 66, of Farmington Hills were held May 16 at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Hoppe officiating.

Mrs. Thompson was born Oct. 11, 1936, in Detroit and died May 13, 2003, at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

She is survived by her husband, Paul; children, Roseann (Fred) Mayo, Walt (Laura) Humbarger, Sue Sabon, James Humbarger and Robert (Donna) Humbarger; stepchildren, Joni Thompson, Paul (Sandy) Thompson Jr., Jeff Thompson, Terry Thompson and Tammy Rice; siblings, Mary Shephard, Gene Hodges, Peggy Beggs, Sister Robert Ann, Donna Wilson and Robert Lathrop; 16 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

David G. Granzin

Services for David George Granzin, 64, of Plymouth were held March 25 at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Saad officiating.

Mr. Granzin was born Nov. 12, 1938, in Bruce Township, Mich. and died May 13, 2003, in Plymouth. He was a physical education teacher and driver's education instructor for Livonia

Public Schools.

He is survived by his daughters, Tamara Forman and Tracy Baranowski; sister, Mary Carolyn Beckman; fiancé Donna Goode; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Joseph G. Koehler

Services for Joseph George Koehler, 85, of Farmington Hills, will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, May 19 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington. Visitation will be held 2-9 p.m. today, May 18, at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Mr. Koehler was born May 10, 1918 in Brown City, Mich. and died May 14, 2003 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. He was a graduate of Catholic Central High School and attended the University of Detroit. He was a World War II Navy veteran and was a diesel engineer for General Motors Corporation until his retirement in 1974. Mr. Koehler also worked as director of engineering for Isuzu Diesel until 1984. He was a 60-year member of the Knights of Columbus St. Francis Council, a member of the Fourth Degree at the K of C, the Holy Name Club, the Farmington Elks, an active member of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church and the O.L.S. Ushers Club and Athletic Club.

He is survived by his wife, Betty; children, Marie (Lawrence) Laethem, Barbara (Giles) Urbain, Charles, Joseph Jr. (Elsine), Margaret Green; brothers, Edmond and Robert Koehler; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. He is preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Peggy, grandson, Thomas Caza; eight brothers; and three sisters.

Memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Central High School.

Bazaar Oriental Rugs • 29601 Orchard Lake Road • N. of 13 Mile Road • Farmington Hills

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

Bazaar Oriental Rugs

In Farmington Hills

One of the best collection of rugs in town!

100'S OF RUGS - PAKISTAN • INDIA • IRAN
Like Tabriz • Nain • Isfahan • Kashan-Wool & Silk
Must Be Sold In Short Time

EVERYTHING 60%-75% off

Bazaar Oriental Rugs

29601 Orchard Lake Road • Farmington Hills
Just north of 13 Mile

248-855-0404

Going Out of Business Permit No. 03-01 Farmington Hills

Plant Plan Great Gardens

- Large Ornamental Trees... Wide Selection
- Vast Selection of Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Japanese Maples
- 1000's of Perennials to Choose from with a Wide Variety of Unusual Plants

Custom Landscaping Design & Installation Available

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed On All Plant Materials Purchased For One Year

\$5.00 OFF
Any Purchase Of \$25 Or More
With this coupon • Expires 5-24-03

STEINKOPF NURSERY

Family Owned & Operated Since 1945

Serving Michigan Gardeners for Over 70 Years

29601 Orchard Lake Road • Just N. of 8 Mile • Farmington Hills, MI 48335
Hours: Monday-Saturday 8 am - 7 pm, Sunday 10 am - 6 pm

248.474.2925