

Last Remaining Issue in 1977 Lawsuit Resolved

April 29, 2011

The last remaining issue in one of Michigan's longest running lawsuit has been resolved. U.S. District Court Judge Sean F. Cox today ordered that the seven members of the Detroit Water Board cannot be removed by Detroit's mayor except for cause.

According to the terms of the February 2011 stipulated court order, Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties each would nominate a representative to the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners while Detroit Mayor Dave Bing would appoint an addition four to represent Detroit. According to the terms of the court order, the nominees must have at least seven years of experience in a regulated industry, a utility, engineering, law or finance.

Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner John P. McCulloch nominated prominent Bloomfield Hills attorney J. Bryan Williams to be Oakland County's representative on the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners.

Although Detroit has four representatives while Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties each have one, the new board's by-laws mandate a supermajority requiring five votes to approve rates and a five-year capital improvement plan.

The question of whether board members could only be removed for cause was settled today after both Oakland and Detroit filed legal briefs agreeing that panel members "should only be removed for cause."

