

VOICE OF DETROIT <http://voiceofdetroit.net>

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EMA TIED TO FICANO, HEISE



Mayor Dave Bing at podium, (l to r) Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Anthony Marrocco, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner John McCulloch; McCulloch initiated motion that U.S. District Judge Sean Cox ruled on in February, which gave the suburbs domination over the Detroit Water Board.

EMA Group proposed 81 percent cut to DWSD workforce

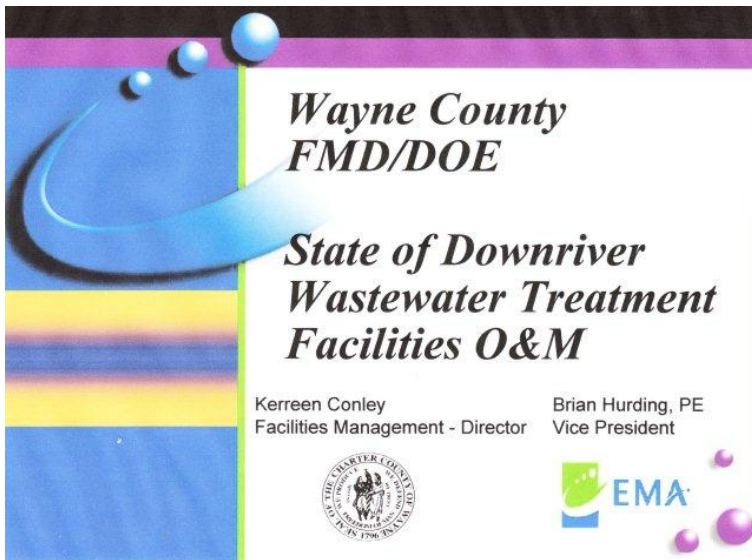
By Jackson Anderson

Oct. 1, 2012

The media is not reporting that the company that received the \$48 Million contract (EMA) is tied to the Robert Ficano Machine and Kurt Heise. No one is disclosing EMA's connection to Wayne County going back to 1998 – here is the proof:

<http://www.co.wayne.mi.us/documents/JMC-presentation-9-17-08-final.pdf>

Dave Bing is in over his head and does not do any homework. He is just going along blindly because he does not care and it sounds like a good idea. Ficano's people are running the City's Water Department (James Fausone, water board chair, Matthew



Schenk, DWSD COO, Woolfson, etc.).

How can you justify a \$48 million NO-BID CONTRACT to a EMA based on a 90-day self-serving review conducted after EMA (which was paid for by the first NO-BID Contract?) All that the Water Commissioners were given was a POWERPOINT PRESENTATION!

DAVE BING AND THE WATER COMMISSIONERS ARE GOING TO DECIMATE THE WATER DEPARTMENT (ELIMINATE 81%

Slide from presentation referenced in link above OF THE STAFF) BASED ON A SELF-SERVING POWERPOINT PRESENTATION BY AN OUT-OF STATE COMPANY?

Where is the expert review to confirm the viability of the proposal?

Where is the due diligence into EMA (they have a spotty history and have caused problems with other water systems) – Toronto is an example. New York may be another example (someone needs to check this out).



Kurt Heise (r), former Wayne Co. Director Dept. Environment

Where is the outcry over a \$48 million dollar no-bid contract? How can you **EMA's Brian Hurding** just say “the bidding process would take too long”?!!! Since when has that been an adequate justification for circumventing the bidding process? If it were Kwame Kilpatrick, then the news media would be calling it corruption.

Do you honestly believe that you can cut 81% of the staff with no effect on service?

Which staff will they cut?

They claim that they are going to cross-train people to do multiple jobs – so if a person calls in sick, we have effectively lost the equivalent of three people? As a practical

matter, do you believe that you can make everyone do three jobs overnight? People are not fungible.

Do we want more unemployed people in the City (950 new unemployed residents??)



Walter Fausone

This decision stinks and no one is probing into it. It is going to decimate the Water Department and potentially put the health of millions of people at risk. The media is just being bamboozled by the claim that there is a horseshoer title. Are we really that easily duped by the Ficano Machine?



Matthew Schenk

Ficano's ex-appointees get six-figure jobs at Detroit water department

By [John Wisely](#), Detroit Free Press Staff Writer July 10, 2012 |

Former appointees of Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano who are looking for new jobs could do a lot worse than applying at the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

In the past eight months, three of Ficano's former top aides have landed six-figure jobs with department, which serves more than 4 million customers in southeast Michigan.

The latest is William Wolfson, Ficano's former assistant deputy CEO, who was hired June 25 to be general counsel. The job is newly created and pays \$132,500 annually. Previously, City of Detroit lawyers handled the legal work. . .

Wolfson joins Matthew Schenk, who was hired in March as chief operating officer and is paid \$194,000 a year. In November 2011, the Board of Water Commissioners approved a \$100,000, 1-year financial consulting contract for Butler Benton, Ficano's former director of environment.

"We should all be concerned that the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department not become fertile ground for ex-Ficano appointees who want lucrative positions," said state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, who has sponsored a bill to place management of the department under a regional authority. Heise also worked for Ficano and knows all three men. Wolfson retired from Wayne County in 2009 with a pension that pays him about \$118,000 per year. Benton retired in 2011 with an \$80,000/yr. pension.

Schenk, 40, was one of several Ficano appointees given a special retirement incentive last year. Under the deal, he could qualify for a pension paying at least \$83,000 annually and potentially far more if he buys into the plan at a discounted rate.

Schenk told the Free Press in March that he has no plans to collect it yet because of his age.

Water department spokeswoman Mary Alfonzo said Wolfson's job was filled through a lengthy process. "Applicants were sought, interviews were conducted," she said, "I know that it was posted on our website." Wolfson didn't return a call seeking comment on his new post.

Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner John McCulloch, who was highly critical of Schenk's hiring, said Wolfson's was different because the job was posted statewide and water commissioners were in on the hiring.

"There is always a perception that you have all these 'Wayne County' people," McCulloch said. "This one, they went through the process."