

2017 Felix A. Anderson Image Award

Philip Sanzica, PE

Chief Deputy Water Resources Commissioner, Oakland County



Philip Sanzica, P.E. is Oakland County Chief Deputy Water Resources Commissioner, having been appointed to that position in January 2013. He began his Oakland County tenure in 1972 as a Civil Engineer I in the Department of Public Works, the forerunner to the Water Resources Commissioner's office. Phil left Oakland County in 1979 to work as a Manager of Municipal Services with a local consulting engineering firm. He later served as a Project Manager for a construction company that developed properties and managed municipal projects in Michigan and Florida. He returned to Oakland County WRC in 1986 where he was a Chief Engineer until his official retirement in November 2012.

In his current role, Phil manages the day-to-day operations of the office. He is responsible for overseeing all project developments, from inception to completion, including planning, engineering, grant administration, financing, and operations and maintenance. The projects he has supervised includes interaction with local, county, state and federal agencies and involves permitting, grants, loans and community relations. He is a recognized expert in implementing large municipal infrastructure projects and innovative financing through the State of Michigan's State Revolving Fund Loan Program. He also has represented the Michigan Association of Counties as a member of its State Revolving Fund Advisory Committee.

Phil's major accomplishments include the \$142 Million George W. Kuhn Retention Treatment Facilities in Madison Heights, the \$85 Million Birmingham, Bloomfield Village and Acacia Park Retention CSO Treatment Basins and the \$162 Million Oakland Macomb Interceptor Drainage District Improvements.

According to Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash, "Phil has been a key member of my staff providing professional knowledge and valued experience throughout my term in office. He is well respected in the consulting engineering and construction industry, providing fair and insightful guidance on our wide variety of projects. He was the first and best decision I made."

A 1972 graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering, Phil is a Registered Professional Engineer and a licensed S1 Water Systems Operator in the State of Michigan. He is also a member of the City of Troy Planning Commission, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Water Environment Federation and the American Planners Association.

Phil is a founding board member of Pure Oakland Water, a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization that funds educational programs for students on water conservation, river, lake and stream preservation, pollution prevention and environmental protection and funds scholarships and internships in these fields. He lives in Troy Michigan with his wife Kelly Cave.