

Steering Group for Plan Implementation & Monitoring

The success of the Rouge River Watershed Management Plan (WMP) depends upon consistent involvement and support from local, county and state governments, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, local businesses and citizens. While each community has unique situations that require case-by-case consideration and implementation, many of the recommendations in the WMP require coordination among all the communities of the watershed to be cost-effective at reducing pollutant loads. Continued involvement of the ARC Technical Committee, ARC Subwatershed Advisory Groups (SWAGs), ARC Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Committee and all interested stakeholders would provide sustainability towards plan implementation, coordination, evaluation, and revision.

The Technical Committee would meet quarterly and serve as a forum for general watershed issues and monitoring objectives. The SWAGs would meet quarterly and serve as a forum for discussing subwatershed issues and generating support for plan implementation within their subwatershed. The PIE Committee would meet quarterly and serve as a forum to discuss implementation of watershed educational initiatives and programs and measurements of success. The Alliance of Rouge Communities and its Executive Committee would meet at least twice a year to discuss any overall issues, plan implementation, milestones, monitoring activities and public education activities. Water quality improvements in the Rouge River will continue with collaboration by all the watershed stakeholders mentioned above.

Local Partner Resolution & Agreement

Sustainability of the WMP can be augmented through public recognition and support of the Plan. A stakeholder can acknowledge the problem of non-point source pollution, express support and intent to participate in a Committee, and consider and implement pollution reduction recommendations by signing the Local Government Partner Resolution or Community Partner Agreement. A sample Local Government Partner Resolution is present below. Although communities may wish to edit the resolution to meet their particular needs, any edits should maintain the spirit and intent of the sample resolution (Mill Creek SWMP, 2006).

The purpose of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) is to provide an institutional mechanism to encourage watershed-wide cooperation and mutual support to meet water quality permit requirements and to restore beneficial uses of the river to the area residents.

Local Government Partner Resolution for the Rouge River Watershed Management Plan

WHEREASE the (community) recognizes that the quality of life and economic well-being in the Rouge River Watershed are inextricably linked to the health of the river system; its tributaries, lakes, groundwater, wetlands and uplands; and

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Steps for Plan Sustainability



WHEREAS studies have shown significant sources of pollutants, within the Rouge River Watershed is nonpoint source runoff; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) determined and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has concurred, that the Rouge River is impaired for designated uses and have therefore established a TMDL for E. coli, biota and DO; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (community) shall implement, where feasible, the recommendations in the Rouge River Watershed Management Plan to address point and nonpoint sources of pollution as identified in the Plan, and appoint a representative to the Rouge River Subwatershed Advisory Group.

Approved By: _____

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

The Community Partner Agreement is available for non-governmental partners who participated in the plan development process or who wish to acknowledge support for the plan and assist in its implementation. Such groups may take the form of subdivision associations, lake associations, citizen groups, businesses, etc. A draft agreement is present below.

Community Partner Agreement for the Rouge River Watershed Management Plan Implementation

Background

Vision/Mission for the Rouge River Watershed

Statement of Intent

(Partner Name) supports the environmental integrity of the Rouge River Watershed for use and enjoyment by current and future generations. Moreover, we recognize that quality of life and economic vitality are linked inextricably to the preservations, restoration, and sustainability of natural resources of the Rouge River Watershed. Therefore, we support the continuation of the Subwatershed Advisory Groups as the appropriate body to implement the Subwatershed Plan, and (partner name) shall implement, where feasible, the recommendations in the Rouge River Watershed Management Plan to address point and nonpoint pollution. We understand that this agreement is voluntary and non-binding. (Partner name) acknowledges the importance of the Rouge River and its Watershed as irreplaceable yet vulnerable natural resources. Specifically:

1. (Partner Name) acknowledges that the MDEQ developed, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved Total Maximum Daily Load for E. coli, Biota and DO within specific reaches of the Rouge River Watershed in which point and nonpoint pollution accounts for these TMDLs.

2. *(Partner Name) acknowledges the need to improve the water quality and quantity management and to attain water quality standards for pollution load reductions.*
3. *(Partner Name) agrees to implement, to the greatest feasible extent, the voluntary Rouge River Watershed Management Plan to meet designated and desired uses.*

Organization: _____

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

