



Assembly  
of Rouge  
Communities

**OURS TO PROTECT**

*Working together, restoring the river*

## Assembly of Rouge Communities Executive Committee Meeting

April 20, 2005

1:30 to 4:00pm

Heritage Park Visitor Center  
Farmington Hills, Michigan

### 1. WELCOME

Mr. Beckley (Livonia) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Farmington Hills for hosting the meeting.

### 2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mr. Beckley asked all attendees to identify themselves.

Allen Park  
Auburn Hills  
Beverly Hills  
Bingham Farms  
Birmingham  
Bloomfield Hills  
Bloomfield Twp.  
Canton Twp.  
Commerce Twp.  
Dearborn  
Dearborn Heights  
Farmington  
Farmington Hills  
Franklin  
Garden City  
Inkster  
Lathrup Village  
Livonia  
Melvindale  
Northville  
Northville Twp.  
Novi  
Oakland County  
Plymouth  
Plymouth Twp.  
Pontiac  
Redford Twp.  
Rochester Hills  
Romulus  
Southfield  
Superior Twp.  
Troy  
Van Buren Twp.  
Walled Lake  
Washtenaw County  
Wayne  
Wayne County  
West Bloomfield Twp.  
Westland  
Wixom  
Ypsilanti Twp.

<i>Officers</i>		
Robert Beckley	Chair	Livonia
Kurt Giberson	Treasurer	Dearborn
Tom Biasell	Past Chair	Farmington Hills
<i>Counties</i>		
Phil Sanzica	Oakland County	Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office
Kurt Heise	Wayne County	Wayne County Drain Commissioner and Department of Environment
Kelly Cave	Wayne County	Wayne County Department of Environment
<i>SWAG Representatives</i>		
Brandy Bakita	Main 1-2	Auburn Hills
Jennifer Lawson	Main 1-2	Troy
John Kozuh	Main 3-4	Allen Park
Tom Biasell	Upper	Redford
Tom Wilson	Middle 3	Westland
Dan Swallow	Lower 1	Van Buren Township
Mike Buiten	Lower 2	City of Wayne

Others in attendance in the meeting included:

Jack Bails	Executive Committee Facilitator
Zachare Ball	Staff Support to PIE Committee
Barry Johnson	Middle 3 SWAG Facilitator
Carolyn McCaughey	Friends of the Rouge
Scott Parker	ECT
Dave Payne	Organization Committee Co-Chair
Amy Ploof	Staff Support to ARC
Jim Ridgway	Main 1-2 SWAG Facilitator
Gary Zorza	Technical Committee Vice-Chair

**3. MINUTE OF JANUARY 25, 2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Oakland County made a motion to approve the minutes.  
Allen Park seconded the motion.  
The motion was approved unanimously.

**4. ADDITIONS OF CHANGES TO DRAFT AGENDA**

Ms. Kelly Cave, Wayne County, requested adding a discussion of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) activities in the Rouge River Watershed. This item was added to agenda item 8.

**5. CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Beckley reported on a meeting held with Lansing MDEQ staff to hear the concerns of the ARC regarding impediments to the watershed approach. Attendees at the meeting were Bob Beckley, Jack Bails, Kelly Cave, Chuck Hersey and MDEQ staff including Skip Pruss, Deputy Director. The ARC representatives explained that the basic issues regarding the watershed approach must be resolved before communities begin to develop innovative watershed wide approaches to issues. The ARC group will provide MDEQ with more specific details on items of concern, including the IDEP guidance document. MDEQ also confirmed that Livonia is a Phase II community.

MDEQ requested that SWAG representatives meet on April 26 at 1:30 in Warren to discuss PEP/IDEP issues. The purpose of the meeting is not to discuss individual SWPPIs. Please contact Jack Bails to attend the meeting.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Kurt Giberson, ARC Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report. The 2005 budget was approved by the ARC in December, 2004. The ARC is currently operating in the black. Invoices for 2005 have been sent to all communities.

**7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**7A. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Giberson presented the final 2004 Financial Status and Payment Status reports. The 2004 budget balance of \$14,256 will be carried ahead to the 2005 budget as contingency funds.

**7B. ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Heise, co-chair of the Organization Committee, gave the Organization Committee (OC) report. The OC met on April 14, 2005. The OC has three recommendations from the meeting.

- i) There will not be any assessments for the three counties until December 31, 2007. The decision to assess the counties will be reviewed annually after that date. The Finance Committee will work with the counties to develop a mechanism for tracking in-kind services. There was consensus to accept this recommendation.
- ii) The OC has been working to secure insurance for the ARC. The quote from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority was \$26,000. The members believed that this amount of money was high for the benefits received. The Officers and the Organization Committee co-chairs will continue to look at other options. The bylaws may be updated in the future to protect the officers from risk. There was consensus to accept this recommendation.
- iii) The OC Committee received a letter from Friends of the Rouge requesting a discussion of the future relationship between FOTR and the ARC. The OC committee recommends referring the FOTR request to the PIE Committee to develop and recommend an outline for the long-term relationship between the ARC and FOTR. The OC envisions a FOTR bid package for services provided for all ARC communities and a listing of services that communities can purchase individually. The Huron River Watershed Council model was offered as an example. The distinction between public education and involvement was discussed. After several minutes of discussion on the topic, the recommendation of the Executive Committee was for the three officers to provide direction to the PIE Committee regarding the Friends of the Rouge request prior to the next PIE Committee meeting on May 11.

**7C. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Ms. Jennifer Lawson, Acting Vice-Chair of the Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Committee, gave the PIE Committee report. The PIE committee met on March 16. Minutes of this meeting were distributed. The PIE Committee has been very active planning a number of events including a detention pond workshop on May 19 and the Public Education workshop on September 28 in Southfield at Lawrence Tech.

**7D. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Gary Zorza, Acting Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee, gave the Technical Committee report. Mr. Zorza reported members of the ARC TC met with MDEQ to

discuss *E. coli* and habitat sampling in the Rouge River. MDEQ is willing to coordinate their activities with the ARC. MDEQ will be conducting DNA analysis of some *E. coli* samples.

**8. REPORTS FROM SWAGS**

**8A. WCDOE**

Ms. Kelly Cave reported on the progress of the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) projects in the Rouge River Watershed. In the budget for this current year, the COE has allocated \$20,000 of Federal funds to complete the "Rouge River Supplemental Reconnaissance Report". The COE desires an endorsement from the ARC to complete this report, with the previously directed focus toward Flow Management and analysis of dams throughout the watershed. The consensus of the group was that COE should finish the report with a focus on flow management and analysis of dams throughout the watershed.

There was also discussion of the proposed fish passage at Fair Lane Estates; the COE completed some initial work to move this project forward, but it has been on hold for the past year. Wayne County was directed to work with the COE to try to obtain funding for more work on this project, perhaps under Section 506 (Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem restoration program) or Section 206 (aquatic ecosystem restoration program).

Farmington Hills made a motion to approve Ms. Kelly Cave to continue to coordinate with the US ACOE on the ARC's behalf and to approve the US ACOE to complete the reconnaissance report.

Oakland County seconded the motion.

There was unanimous support.

**8B. MAIN 1-2.** Ms. Brandy Bakita reported the Main 1-2 is meeting April 21. The Main 1-2 public education group has been working on a riparian newsletter and public service announcements.

**8C. MAIN 3-4.** Mr. Kozuh reported the Main 3-4 discussed the status of grant projects during their last meeting.

**8D. UPPER.** Mr. Biasell indicated the Upper does not plan to update their subwatershed management plan at this time. Comments on the draft bylaws are due to Jack Bails by May 1.

**8E. MIDDLE 1.** The Middle 1 was not represented at the meeting.

**8F. MIDDLE 3.** Mr. Barry Johnson indicated the Middle 3 does not plan to update their SWMP at this time.

**8G. LOWER 1.** Mr. Swallow indicated the Lower 1 SWAG discussed how the SWAGs will fit into the ARC.

**8H. LOWER 2.** Mr. Buiten indicated he had nothing to report.

**9. REPORT FROM WCDOE**

Ms. Cave reminded communities, SWAGs, and volunteer groups to submit the success stories for the upcoming "Year 2004 in Review Report"; please submit the stories to the SWAG facilitators.

**10. DISCUSSION AND STATUS OF ALLIANCE TRANSITION**

Mr. Beckley indicated the invoices for 2005 have been sent to all Assembly communities. Comments on the draft bylaws are due to Jack Bails by May 1. The goal is to have bylaws available for communities to present to governing bodies by July 1.

**11. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

The changes recommended by the Organization/Membership Committee to the draft bylaws will be incorporated into a draft and distributed to all ARC members.

The ARC officers will continue to research possible sources of insurance for the ARC.

The chairs will provide guidance to the PIE Committee prior to the May 11 PIE Committee meeting regarding the Friends of the Rouge request.

**12. MEETING SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ASSEMBLY/ALLIANCE**

**12A. FULL ASSEMBLY MEETING**

The next Full Assembly meeting may be the end of May or early June.

**12B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next Executive Committee meeting date has not been set.

**13. ADJOURN**

Mr. Beckley adjourned the meeting.