



Working together, restoring the river

James W. Ridgway, P.E.
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 11:00 a.m.

Canton Township

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
Oak Park
Oakland County
Orchard Lake
Plymouth
Plymouth Twp.
Pontiac
Redford Twp.
Rochester Hills
Romulus
Southfield
Superior Twp.
Troy
Van Buren Twp.
Walled Lake
Washtenaw County
Wayne
Wayne County
Wayne County Airport
Authority
West Bloomfield Twp.
Westland
Wixom
Ypsilanti Twp.

1. Welcome – Tim Faas, Chair

2. Roll Call of Members

ECT took roll call of members and others present. A quorum was present.

ARC Executive Committee			Attended Meeting
Officers			
Chair	Tim Faas	Canton	Y
Vice-Chair	Gary Mekjian	Southfield	N
Treasurer	Jennifer Lawson	Troy	Y
Past Vice-Chair	Wayne Domine	Bloomfield Township	Y
Counties			
Oakland Co. – Rep.	John McCulloch	OCWRC	N
Oakland Co. – Alt.	Phil Sanzica	OCWRC	N
Oakland Co. – Alt.	Joseph Colaianne	OCWRC	Y
Washtenaw Co. - Rep.	Janis Bobrin	WCDC	N
Washtenaw Co. - Alt.	Michelle Bononi	WCDC	Y
Wayne Co. - Rep.		WCDOE	
Wayne Co. - Alt.	Kelly Cave	WCDOE	Y
SWAGs			
Main 1 & 2 - Rep.	Brandy Siedlaczek	Southfield	N
Main 1 & 2 - Alt.	Meghan Bonfiglio	Bloomfield Township	N
Main 3 & 4 - Rep.	Jim Murray	Dearborn	Y
Main 3 & 4 - Alt.	Eric Witte	Melvindale	N
Upper - Rep.	Tom Biasell	Farmington Hills	Y
Upper - Alt.	Jim Zoumbaris	Livonia	Y
Middle 1 - Rep.	Jill Rickard	Northville Township	N
Middle 1 - Alt.	Aaron Staup	Novi	N
Middle 3 - Rep.	Jack Barnes	Garden City	N
Middle 3 - Alt.	Kevin Buford	Westland	Y
Lower 1 - Rep.	Bob Belair	Canton Township	Y
Lower 1 - Alt.	Dan Swallow	Van Buren Township	Y
Lower 2 - Rep.	Ramzi El-Gharib	Wayne	N
Lower 2 - Alt.	Tom Wilson	Romulus	N

Others Present: Gary Zorza, Vice-Chair – Technical Committee; Mike Buiten, Wayne; Kevin Maillard, Livonia; Kurt Heise; Zachare Ball, ECT Staff and Chris O’Meara, ECT Staff

3. Summary of April 22, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting

A motion was made by Kevin Buford to accept the April 22, 2009 meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Bob Belair. Motion passed.

4. Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda

Michelle Bononi requested that the agenda item “outside agency requests for funding” be added under 6.b.

5. Executive Director Report

a. Regional financial hardship argument to the state and federal governments and the courts – on storm water, SSO and CSO

There was a discussion regarding the possibility of communities requesting regional financial hardship to the government considering the current economic state. The communities have limited budgets and this would limit the costs associated with storm water. Some cities have met the hardship exemption for their CSO/SSO requirement and the government has granted exemptions and a time extension on their projects.

There was discussion regarding the likelihood that MDEQ would grant the Rouge communities leniency on their storm water requirements. The communities will not have funding for storm water activities that they have right now in the future. The ARC needs to develop a strategy to go to Lansing with its concerns.

Joe Colaianne discussed challenging the mandate under the Headlee amendment. Specifically, he cautioned against accepting new requirements as communities MAY be foregoing their rights under Headlee, citing No Child Left Behind legislation as an example. The ARC could possibly prepare an injunction against the state to stop the Phase II activities. There would be a freeze on regulatory storm water, SSO and CSO regulations. The communities could comply with the EPA standards yet not be required to fulfill the current permit requirements. M. Bononi stated that Washtenaw County is not part of the contested case. She asked how the MDEQ requirements compared to other states noting that it is nothing like what we are required to do. She asked, why local communities are being asked to do more. She suggested that the ARC look at what ARC members do at a minimum and what critical needs should be met right away. . Kevin Buford asked if Washtenaw County has been contacted about the enforcement and the need for testing. M. Bononi stated that they haven’t heard anything yet and that they are not currently meeting the TMDL requirements.

Jim Murray stated that Judge Feikens can’t set standards. We have to deal with this issue politically. He said the Conference of Western Wayne and the Downriver Community Conference are aware of the issue.

Wayne Domine stated that the Finance and Organizational committees need to look at what we should do as an organization. He stated that it is not worth gathering data to analyze – we’re still going to lose 20% of the workforce. We need to focus on getting storm water on the political agenda of our communities. M. Bononi stated that she would hate to see the ARC do nothing and that we should set up a brainstorming session. J. Murray stated that the MDEQ should be responsible for telling local communities how they should comply in these critical times. The economy makes it very difficult for the communities to comply. K. Buford stated that we have nothing to lose by letting MDEQ know that we are fighting. He also stated that we need to let the public know we are fighting. Jim Ridgway suggested that we coordinate a political strategy. He suggested that the Organizational Committee talk about and develop a

political strategy including who to call, develop a public argument and have an attorney investigate our rights and responsibilities under the Headlee argument.

Kelly Cave stated that she will contact Charlie Dunn about giving the ARC an update on the contested case.

Tom Biasell stressed the importance of letting the public know that the ARC's focus is to be an advocate for clean water, and that we won't lose that focus because it is too expensive.

Tim Faas requested that the Organizational Committee develop a strategy for the regional financial hardship argument and get input to J. Ridgway. He stressed that this meeting should occur soon and that the scope needs to be kept simple – what we hope to do, what we want to do and how we are going to do it.

b. WMP Comments

The ARC Executive Director received MDEQ's comments on the WMP on May 15, 2009. In general, MDEQ is asking that communities prioritize areas in the watershed for restoration and explain what actions will be taken to restore those areas of the Rouge River Watershed. ARC staff will be working with ARC members through the SWAGs to revise the WMP over the next few months. The WMP will be revised throughout 2009, reviewed by ARC members and sent to MDEQ in January 2010.

c. 2008 Executive Director Annual Report

J. Ridgway stated that a copy of the 2008 Executive Director Annual Report was distributed to the Executive Committee.

6. Standing Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee

i. 2009 budget Status Report

Chris O'Meara reviewed the Quickbooks budget status report, accounts payable, accounts receivable and the member communities balance detail and the checkbook information with the committee. C. O'Meara said committee members should let her know if they would like to see other budget detail. C. O'Meara stated that the second round of dues invoices were sent out.

ii. 2010 Budget Preparation Schedule

Jennifer Lawson reviewed the 2010 Budget Preparation Schedule that will be sent out to ECT and the committee chairs. J. Lawson also stated that there will be no increase in member dues in 2010.

iii. Budget Amendments

J. Lawson presented the budget amendment OC Amendment 1 allocating \$11,750 from the ARC Unallocated Budget to a new budget item OC5 – 501(c)(3) Application. J. Colaianne questioned why the ARC is applying for 501(c)(3) status. He asked that the Executive Committee look into the ARC setting up a separate organization, possibly an ARC Foundation, that would carry the 501(c)(3) designation and the ARC itself would stay as a governmental agency. T. Faas asked Chris O'Meara to set up a meeting with the lawyer, accountant, officers and J. Colaianne to discuss the issue prior to submitting our 501(c)(3) application. The motion was made by J. Murray to approve the budget amendment allocating \$11,750 from the ARC unallocated budget to a new budget item OC5 – 501(c)(3) Application. The motion was seconded by J. Colaianne. Motion passed.

J. Lawson presented the budget amendment TC Amendment 3 reallocating budget from TC2 (ARC Collaborative IDEP and E. Coli TMDL Plan) to PIE 1 (Green Infrastructure Campaign). The motion was made by M. Bononi to approve the budget amendment reallocating budget from TC2 to PIE1. The motion was seconded by J. Colaianne. Motion passed.

b. Organizational Committee

M. Bononi stated that the ARC needs to develop some type of procedure for outside agencies requesting funds such as the partnership with MiEarth and Friends of the Rouge. The committee members agreed and the motion was made by M. Bononi to have the Organizational Committee develop a procedure when outside agencies request funding from the ARC. The motion was seconded by K. Buford, motion passed. J. Lawson asked that she be involved in the development of the procedure.

c. PIE (Public Involvement and Education) Committee

Nothing to report.

d. Technical Committee

G. Zorza stated that the land cover contract with Michigan Tech Research Institute is ready to be signed and will be forwarded to T. Faas for signature.

7. Report from WCDOE

K. Cave informed the committee that Wayne County's 2008 Annual Report has been prepared and will be available on the ARC website.

8. Report from SWAGS

There was nothing to report.

9. Summary of Executive Committee Actions

- The Committee approved the 4/22/09 Executive Committee Meeting Summary.
- The 2010 Budget Preparation Schedule was distributed.
- The Committee voted to approve OC Amendment 1 and recommend it to the Full ARC.
- The Committee voted to approve TC Amendment 3 and recommend it to the Full ARC.
- The Committee voted to have the Organizational Committee develop a procedure regarding outside agency funding requests.
- The Committee voted to have the Organizational Committee develop a strategy for the regional financial hardship argument.
- K. Cave to request a status update of the contested case from C. Dunn.

10. Upcoming Meeting(s)

- Finance Committee Meeting, July 8, 2:00 p.m. at TBD, possibly Bloomfield Twp.
- PIE Committee Meeting, July 9, 2009, noon, Beverly Hills (Howard Knorr's house)
- The Middle 1/Lower 1 SWAG is Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 9:30 A.M. at Northville Township Training Room
- Middle 3/Lower 2 and Main 3-4 SWAG is at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 18, 2009, Livonia DPW
- Main 1-2/Upper SWAG is at 1:30 pm., Wednesday, August 12, 2009 Location TBD

11. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by J. Murray. The motion was seconded by J. Zoumbaris. Motion passed.

ARC Executive Committee Attendance List

Meeting Date: _____

Name	Community	Attended	Initials
Alsaigh	Razik	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bail	Zachare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>ZB</i>
Barnes	Jack	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Belair	Bob	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>BB</i>
Biasell	Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>TB</i>
Bobrin	Janis	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bonfiglio	Meghan	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bononi	Michelle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>MB</i>
Buford	Kevin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>K.L.B.</i>
Buiten	Mike	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>MLB</i>
Cave	Kelly	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Colaianne	Joe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>JWC</i>
Domine	Wayne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>WD</i>
El-Gharib	Ramzi	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Faas	Tim	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>TF</i>
Heise	Kurt	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Janus	Demetria	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Meeting Date: _____

<i>Name</i>		<i>Community</i>	<i>Attended</i>	<i>Initials</i>
Lawson	Jennifer	Troy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
McCulloch	John	Oakland County	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Mekjian	Gary	Southfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Mullett	Noel	WCDOE	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Murray	Jim	Dearborn	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Payne	Dave	Bloomfield Township	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Rickard	Jill	Northville Township	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ridgway	Jim	ECT	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Sanzica	Phil	Oakland County	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Siedlaczek	Brandy	Southfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Staup	Aaron	Novi	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Swallow	Dan	Van Buren Township	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>DS</i>
Wilson	Tom	Romulus	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Witte	Eric	Melvindale	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Zorza	Gary	Farmington Hills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>SRZ</i>
Zoumbaris	Jim	Livonia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jim Z</i>

Meeting Date: _____

<i>Name</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Attended</i>	<i>Initials</i>
<i>KEVIN MAILLARD</i>	<i>LIVONIA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>SPM</i>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____