



Working together, restoring the river

DRAFT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 1:30 p.m.

Canton Twp. Administrative Bldg., Lower Level Room D
1150 Canton Center Road South, Canton, MI 48188

James W. Ridgway, P.E.
Executive Director

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.
Redford Twp.
Rochester Hills
Romulus
Southfield
Troy
Van Buren Twp.
Walled Lake
Washtenaw County
Wayne
Wayne County
Wayne County Airport
Authority
Westland
Wixom

1. Welcome – Tim Faas, Chair

2. Roll Call of Members

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

| <i>Alliance of Rouge Communities Executive Committee</i> | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <i>Officers</i> | <i>Attended Meeting</i> | | |
| Chair | Tim Faas | Canton | Y |
| Vice-Chair | Gary Mekjian | Southfield | Y |
| Interim Treasurer/Past Vice-Chair | Wayne Domine | Bloomfield Township | N |
| <i>Counties</i> | | | |
| Oakland Co. – Rep. | John McCulloch | OCWRC | N |
| Oakland Co. – Alt. | Jim Wineka | OCWRC | Y |
| Oakland Co. – Alt. | Joseph Colaianne | OCWRC | N |
| Washtenaw Co. - Rep. | Janis Bobrin | WCWRC | N |
| Washtenaw Co. - Alt. | Michelle Bononi | WCWRC | Y |
| Wayne Co. - Rep. | Kelly Cave | WCDPS | Y |
| Wayne Co. - Alt. | Noel Mullett | WCDPS | N |
| <i>SWAGs</i> | | | |
| Main 1 & 2 - Rep. | Brandy Siedlaczek | Southfield | Y |
| Main 1 & 2 - Alt. | Meghan Bonfiglio | Bloomfield Township | N |
| Main 3 & 4 - Rep. | Jim Murray | Dearborn | N |
| Main 3 & 4 - Alt. | Eric Witte | Melvindale | N |
| Upper - Rep. | Tom Biasell | Farmington Hills | Y |
| Upper - Alt. | Kevin Maillard | Livonia | Y |
| Middle 1 - Rep. | Jill Rickard | Northville Township | Y |
| Middle 1 - Alt. | Aaron Staup | Novi | N |
| Middle 3 - Rep. | Jack Barnes | Garden City | Y |
| Middle 3 - Alt. | Kevin Buford | Westland | N |
| Lower 1 - Rep. | Bob Belair | Canton Township | N |
| Lower 1 - Alt. | Dan Swallow | Van Buren Township | Y |
| Lower 2 - Rep. | Ramzi El-Gharib | Wayne | Y |
| Lower 2 - Alt. | Tom Wilson | Romulus | N |

Others Present: Gary Zorza, Vice-Chair – Technical Committee; Zachare Ball, ECT Staff, Demetria Kimball, ECT Staff and Chris O’Meara, ECT Staff

3. Summary of October 6, 2009, Executive Committee Meeting

A motion was made by Ramzi El-Gharib to accept the October 6, 2009 meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Jill Rickard. Motion passed.

4. Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda

T. Faas gave an update on Priority Items the ARC Officers established in December, 2008. The priority items were:

1. ARC Membership Benefits: T. Faas said the objective was to promote and document the benefits of membership in the ARC to storm water managers, City Managers/Councils. He said that this needs to be a focus in 2010. Recently he met with Kelly Cave, Wayne County and Zachare Ball, ARC staff to discuss ways to do this.
2. Increase ARC Membership: The way to increase ARC membership is to coordinate better with other organizations. T. Faas said that he has approached the City of Detroit again about becoming an ARC member and has been told that the DWSD director has agreed to discuss the matter with Mayor Dave Bing. T. Faas also noted the officers have been in discussions with SEMCOG regarding what services it might be able to provide to the ARC in 2011.
3. Enhance Public Education: T. Faas said that the newsletter was published twice and should be increased. He also said the ARC will assess whether there is a need for other agencies to provide services to the ARC in 2011.
4. Better Define Roles: T. Faas said that in 2010, roles will be better defined and that meetings agendas and committee work should be streamlined. He also said the Strategic Plan should be reviewed and monitored by the Organizational Committee.

5. Executive Director Report

a. Membership Retention Plan

T. Faas discussed the concern for membership retention. He stated that the ARC will continue with the present budget with no dues increase. Pontiac, Superior Twp., Ypsilanti Twp., and West Bloomfield Twp. have confirmed that they have withdrawn from the ARC for 2010. The ARC officers will monitor the membership and review the budget again in March for the potential need of any budget amendments should anticipated revenues not match what was budgeted. T. Faas stated that we have more concern for 2011 and the continued membership of the ARC.

J. Ridgway described the items available to the members when talking with their councils about their membership in the ARC. We have emailed the slide show and made it available on the website. K. Cave asked what we think we need to do to keep our members. T. Faas stated that we have information available but at the end of the day it comes down to each community and what they need. T. Faas will be making personal calls to all members and get a gage of their expected participation for 2010. D. Swallow asked if you need to have a watershed permit to be in the ARC. T. Faas reviewed the bylaws and they do not state that exactly, T. Faas will check into it more.

J. Ridgway said that the federal government is re-opening the watershed permit piece talking about setting up universal requirements whether you are in an urban area or not. They are trying to get everyone to play by the same rules.

T. Faas asked J. Rickard about her meeting with the MDEQ. J. Rickard said that Townships would have less responsibility and pay a reduced fee on just the properties owned and operated if you go with the jurisdictional permit.

J. Rickard was surprised and pleased that the MDEQ have offered a favorable interpretation of the size of Northville Township's drainage area should they proceed with a jurisdictional permit. She will evaluate the permit requirements and make a recommendation to her Township Board.

Regardless of their permitting strategy, J. Rickard will recommend continued participation in the ARC in 2010.

T. Faas stated that some communities may feel that they are saving money now by discontinuing their ARC membership, but they will pay more later to meet the permit requirements on their own if they choose to terminate their ARC membership. MDEQ is pushing the jurisdictional permit which states you have to participate in a citizen advisory committee or watershed group such as the ARC. We need to communicate this to our members. J. Wineka asked where the permit states this and it was confirmed that it is in the SWM Plan requirement.

b. Wayne State University request to be Cooperating Partner

A request was received from Kurt Heise with Wayne State University's Urban Watershed Environmental Research Group (UWERG) to become a cooperating partner member of the ARC. J. Ridgway stated that they are doing a lot of good things regarding contaminated sediments, modeling, beach closures, etc. The Executive Committee discussed the potential for volunteer time from students at WSU. The Executive Committee approved the request by Wayne State University's Urban Watershed Environmental Research Group to become a cooperating partner in the ARC.

c. Vacant positions of Officer/Treasurer and Co-chair of Organizational Committee

T. Faas informed the Executive Committee that since Jennifer Lawson has resigned, Wayne Domine (past Vice-Chair) has agreed to be interim Treasurer until September, 2010. T. Faas will be emailing the full ARC asking for members who are interested in being an officer next year to join the Finance Committee as soon as possible.

T. Faas thanked Michelle Bononi for her service on the ARC Organizational Committee and asked if she would serve as Co-chair, replacing D. Payne, along with Kelly Cave. M. Bononi accepted the position and she was unanimously elected as Co-Chair.

d. Grant status report

J. Ridgway reported that the ARC submitted two GLRI grants for Danvers Pond and a Green Infrastructure Grant and prepared various support letters for other organizations submittals including Wayne and Macomb Counties and SEMCOG. There is roughly \$200 million available under the GLRI funding. The ARC staff is also preparing a submittal under NOAA for the Danvers Pond and Green Infrastructure. These grants require that the projects are listed in the AOC delisting document. Z. Ball stated that the ARC sponsored a tour for both NOAA and EPA staff in the fall, however the EPA was unable to attend because of flight delays.

K. Cave reported that Wayne County also submitted grants under the GLRI for the Wayne Rd. Dam and the Henry Ford Estate Dam along with a three-county regional IDEP grant for Macomb, Oakland and Wayne and a Wayne County IDEP program alone. K. Maillard, Livonia, stated that they submitted under the GLRI for Bell Creek. SEMCOG submitted a GLRI grant for green streets which encompasses three counties. J. Wineka, Oakland County, reported that they submitted a grant for streambank stabilization. It was suggested that the ARC put together a summary of the GLRI submittals within the Rouge Watershed. K. Cave stated that she will share their list with C. O'Meara as a place to start.

e. Proposed National Rule-Making for Storm Water Regulations

J. Ridgway stated that the proposed National Rule-Making for Storm Water Regulations is ready for public notice. The EPA is apparently planning to substantially modify the storm water rules but it is unclear if they plan to utilize the FACA procedures. If so, the ARC communities would be well served to participate in the FACA Process (As the Rouge did for the Phase II rule-making).

The EPA has scheduled a number of “listening sessions” throughout the country. J. Ridgway, speaking for the ARC, testified at the listening session in the Region V offices on January 19. He stated that the documented water quality improvements in the Rouge River have proven that a well funded watershed approach can clean urban rivers. He cautioned, however, that the tendency toward prescriptive measures are costly and do not result in water quality improvements. Command and control may work for true point sources, but not for urban storm water. Communities may own the drainage system but they have virtually no control of the private property that drains to it. He closed by reminding the EPA that the construction grants program successfully got the municipal wastewater treatment systems to meet their discharge limits. The same should be considered for urban storm water. The 319 program is far smaller than what is needed and has been underfunded since its inception. He discussed that fact that no practical financial tools are available. The EPA should evaluate some of the successes they have had in the Brownfield program and see if similar tools could work for community storm water programs.

All comments for the proposed rule-making are due by February 22.

6. Standing Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee

J. Ridgway reviewed the extension of time request by the ARC for OC1 and PIE8 to Wayne County. Wayne County accepted the request to extend the dates for the 2009 budget from 12/31/09 to 2/28/10. There is no increase in the amount budgeted for these items.

C. O’Meara reviewed the A/R report which shows receivables past due from Franklin and Dearborn for 2009 dues. C. O’Meara and T. Faas will follow up with these communities. The first round of 2010 membership dues invoices will be going out by the end of February.

b. Organizational Committee

The Organizational Committee will be meeting prior to the next full ARC meeting and will be reviewing and updating the grants procedure to incorporate the Executive Director performing the Grant Committee activities. They will also be reviewing the suggested changes to the purchasing policy to include outside funding requests. It was suggested that the Organizational Committee review and suggest revisions to the bylaws to include officer vacancies. There was discussion regarding the possible revision to the population numbers used to calculate ARC dues after the 2010 census figures are available. The organizational committee was asked to review this because of the decline in population due to the economy.

c. PIE (Public Involvement and Education) Committee

B. Siedlaczek passed out a memo regarding the 2010 Grow Zone Projects. The Grow Zone Planning Committee reviewed the nine submittals for grow zone projects and are recommending eight projects be approved which include:

- Village of Bingham Farms 14 Mile, Native Plant Garden
- E. L. Johnson Nature Center (Bloomfield Twp.), Riparian buffer
- Canton Township Public Library, rain garden
- Canton Township, trailhead wetland enhancement
- Canton Township, Sheldon/Warren Rd. Wetland enhancement
- Cleveland Elementary School, Livonia, Schoolyard habitat
- City of Livonia Bicentennial Park, combination
- City of Southfield Carpenter Lake, native meadow

The Coventry Gardens Improvement Association project was not approved because the project site is a subdivision park that is not open to the public.

The next PIE meeting is scheduled for February 25 at 1:30 p.m. in Southfield. B. Siedlaczek also stated that the PIE will be hosting a rain barrel sale in the spring watershed wide and hope to get a lot of press for the event.

d. Technical Committee

G. Zorza reported that Wayne County and the Executive Director staff have been working with USGS, CDM and FOTR to prepare the monitoring activities contracts for 2010. G. Zorza stated that Sanborn is beta testing the storm water permit reporting system and hope to have it ready by June. G. Zorza said that they are also working on the Storm Water Action Plan and should have a draft for the next Technical Committee meeting scheduled for February 18. They are working on IDEP training dates with Wayne County. G. Zorza reported that the land cover inventory should be done by April, 2010.

7. Report from WCDPS

K. Cave stated that the notice of Round X sub-grant availability from the Rouge funding should be ready for review by the end of February.

K. Cave reminded the communities to continue to send your success stories to be included in Wayne County's annual report for the Rouge grant.

K. Cave reported that the appropriation request for FY11 Rouge funding has been given to Congress.

8. Report from SWAGS

Z. Ball stated that she would be setting up three SWAG meetings for February.

9. Other Business

K. Cave stated that she met with T. Faas and Executive Director staff to discuss communication and regionally promoting the ARC through newspaper articles and specific projects that the ARC is involved with.

There was some discussion about making the full ARC meetings more interesting. T. Faas stated that the EPA had offered to talk about the sediment contamination of the Dearborn/Detroit Honeywell property and the potential grant funding for other areas along the river. J. Ridgway will follow-up with the EPA.

K. Cave suggested giving the Rouge 2009 presentation that she gave at the FOTR annual meeting December as another possibility.

M. Bononi informed the committee that the MDEQ did some "contractor" training regarding maintaining their facilities, specifically on housekeeping and hazardous materials. The came out and presented a training video and provided a written commitment that the training sessions met their permit requirements for training contractors. They provided education pieces as well. M. Bononi will forward the information that the MDEQ provided for their facilities staff, road commission and parks and recreation. Z. Ball informed the committee that the PIE also has storm water training videos available to ARC members.

The committee discussed reaching out to MDOT to see if they would consider joining the ARC. T. Faas will follow-up with them.

10. Summary of Executive Committee Actions

- Approval of October 6, 2009 Executive Committee meeting summary.
- The Executive Committee approved the request by Wayne State University's Urban Watershed Environmental Research Group to become a cooperating partner in the ARC.
- T. Faas to prepare email to Full ARC regarding the interim and future treasurer position.
- The Executive committee unanimously approved the appointment of M. Bononi as ARC Organizational Committee Co-chair.
- Executive Committee forward their list of GLRI grants submitted to C. O'Meara to be included in a summary for ARC members.
- T. Faas to review Bylaws regarding townships and the jurisdictional permit.
- Organizational Committee to review and suggest changes to the ARC bylaws regarding officer vacancies.
- Organizational Committee to review the ARC dues calculations as it relates to the decline in population because of the economy.
- Communities to provide success stories to K. Cave of Wayne County to be included in the annual report for the Rouge grant.

11. Upcoming Meeting(s)

- Technical Committee Meeting, February 18, 1:30 p.m. at Northville Township
- PIE Committee Meeting, February 25, 1:30 p.m. at the Southfield Parks and Recreation Bldg.
- Finance Committee Meeting, March 8, 2:30 p.m., Bloomfield Township
- Executive Committee meeting, March 16 at 1:00 p.m., Canton Administration Bldg., 1150 Canton Center Rd., Lower Level Room D.
- Full ARC Meeting, March 25, 1:30 p.m., Location TBD

12. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by B. Siedlaczek and seconded by D. Swallow. Motion passed.

ARC Executive Committee Attendance List

Meeting Date: _____

| Name | Community | Attended | Initials |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Alsaigh Razik | WCDOE | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Ball Zachare | ECT | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Barnes Jack | Garden City | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | JAM |
| Belair Bob | Canton Township | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Biasell Thomas | Farmington Hills | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | TJB |
| Bobrin Janis | Washtenaw County | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Bonfiglio Meghan | Bloomfield Township | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Bononi Michelle | Washtenaw County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MB |
| Buford Kevin | Westland | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Buiten Mike | Wayne | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Cave Kelly | WCDPS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MC |
| Colaianne Joe | Oakland County | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Domine Wayne | Bloomfield Township | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| El-Gharib Ramzi | Wayne | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | RJE |
| Faas Tim | Canton Township | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | TF |
| Janus Demetria | ECT | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| McCulloch John | Oakland County | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

Meeting Date: _____

| Name | | Community | Attended | Initials |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mekjian | Gary | Southfield | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Mullett | Noel | WCDPS | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Murray | Jim | Dearborn | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Payne | Dave | Bloomfield Township | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Rickard | Jill | Northville Township | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Ridgway | Jim | ECT | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Siedlaczek | Brandy | Southfield | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| St. Henry | Paul | Livonia | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Staup | Aaron | Novi | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Swallow | Dan | Van Buren Township | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Wilson | Tom | Romulus | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Wineka | Jim | OCWRC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| Witte | Eric | Melvindale | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Zorza | Gary | Farmington Hills | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| <i>MAILLARD</i> | <i>Kevin</i> | <i>LIVONIA</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |