



# ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

DRAFT Meeting Summary  
 Executive Committee Meeting  
 Wednesday, March 22, 2006 at 1:30 P.M.  
 City of Dearborn, DPW Offices

*Working together, restoring the river*

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  
 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.

- Welcome** – Robert Beckley of Livonia, Alliance of Rouge Communities Chair, welcomed the Committee and thanked Dearborn for hosting and providing refreshments.
- Roll Call of Members** - Chair Beckley took roll call at the meeting. The following table indicates attendees at the meeting on March 22, 2006.

*Alliance of Rouge Communities  
 Executive Committee  
 March 22, 2006*

<b>Officers</b>		
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Robert Beckley</b>	Livonia
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Wayne Domine</b>	Bloomfield Twp.
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Kurt Giberson</b>	Dearborn
<b>Past Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Jim Anulewicz</b>	Plymouth Twp.
<b>Counties</b>		
<b>Wayne Co. - Rep.</b>	<b>Kurt Heise</b>	WCDOE
Wayne Co. - Alt.	Kelly Cave	WCDOE
<b>SWAGs</b>		
<b>Main 1 &amp; 2 - Rep.</b>	<b>Brandy Bakita</b>	Southfield
Main 1 & 2 - Alt.	Jennifer Lawson	Troy
<b>Upper - Rep.</b>	<b>Tom Biasell</b>	Farmington Hills
<b>Middle 1 - Re.</b>	<b>Aaron Staup</b>	Novi
<b>Middle 3 - Rep.</b>	<b>Tom Wilson</b>	Westland
<b>Lower 1 - Rep.</b>	<b>Dan Swallow</b>	Van Buren Township
Lower 1 - Al.	Bob Belair	Canton
<b>Lower 2 - Rep.</b>	<b>Jack Barnes</b>	Garden City
Lower 2 - Al.	Mike Buiten	Wayne
<b>Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Representatives</b>		
Technical Committee Co-Chair	Gary Zorza	Farmington Hills
<b>Staff Support</b>		
Staff Support	Jack Bails	RPO
Staff Support	Colleen Hughes	RPO
<b>Others</b>		
Meghan Bonfiglio, Bloomfield Twp	Bill Craig, RRAC	Zachare Ball, RPO
Carolyn McCaughey, FOTR	Ralph Williams, Citizen	Barry Johnson, RPO

3. **Minutes of December 8, 2005, Executive Committee Meeting** - After soliciting comments on the December 8, 2005 meeting summary and receiving none, a vote to accept the minutes as prepared passed unanimously
4. **Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda** - Jennifer Lawson, Troy, requested the addition of an agenda item to present a grow zone resolution. The item was added under the PIE Committee report.
5. **Chair Communications** (Beckley)
  - a. Alliance Membership Status - Robert Beckley reported that all prior members of the Assembly of Rouge Communities have approved the Alliance Bylaws and are now official members of the Alliance except for Oakland County. The group discussed the hope that Oakland County would reconsider its decision not to join the Alliance.
  - b. Response from MEQ concerning SWPPI updates – Robert Beckley explained that the MDEQ responded on February 3, 2006 to Wayne County’s SWPPI update submittal and the ARC’s SWPPI template. The Technical Committee is reviewing comments regarding the IDEP template and will provide a more detailed report under the Technical Committee agenda item.
  - c. SWMP updates / SWAG facilitation / Grant requests – Robert Beckley postponed discussion of this item to be included with the Technical Committee report.
6. **Treasurers Report** (Giberson and WCDOE)
  - a. 2005-6 Invoicing / Assessment Paid Status – Kurt Giberson, Dearborn, reported that virtually 100% of the 2005 dues have been paid and that a status report was included in the handout for 2006.
  - b. 2006 Expenditures / Task Status Report – Kurt Giberson presented the 2006 payment and task status reports noting that work was proceeding as planned.
7. **Standing Committee Reports** (Beckley)
  - a. Finance Committee (Giberson)

- i. 2005 Expenditure Close Out – Kurt Giberson presented the 2005 payment status report noting that approximately \$28,000 of the 2005 was left for future use.
- b. Organization Committee (Heise/Payne – Co-Chairs) – Kurt Heise, Wayne County, reported that the Organizational Committee has worked hard to solicit the participation of all eligible communities as members in the ARC, but has exhausted its options with regard to Oakland County. Oakland County ARC member communities expressed disappointment hoping the county would reconsider and meet with the ARC to resolve its concerns. Oakland County communities agreed to draft a letter to Oakland County Drain Commissioner expressing their disappointment that the county was not a member of the ARC with the hope that such communication would prompt reconsideration. Mr. Heise suggested the ARC produce an annual report and/or press release documenting that regional cooperation is happening via the Alliance of Rouge Communities. He added that it would also be good to keep Judge Feikens informed of our progress and the challenges we still confront. The PIE Committee volunteered to prepare a draft document for that purpose.
  - i. Associate Members – Kurt Heise, Wayne County, reported that the Organizational Committee was working to expand membership and develop policies for membership categories. He reported that at the request of the Organizational Committee, the MDEQ provided a list of all public agencies in the Rouge Watershed subject to Phase II MS4 storm water regulations. Livonia and Farmington Hills have both discussed the Alliance with school districts in their communities.
  - ii. Cooperating Partners - A draft policy was presented that outlines how cooperating partners would participate in the ARC including a list of potential partners and procedures for nominations. Friends of the Rouge requested nomination as a cooperating partner. A motion to recommend the policy for approval by the full Alliance at the next meeting was made and passed unanimously.
  - iii. Open Meetings Act  
Jack Bails, ARC facilitator, presented a draft policy on compliance with the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information acts that includes procedures for meeting notifications, accepting and

response to FOIA requests and requests of the Chair for public presentations at ARC meetings. A motion to recommend approval of the policy to the full Alliance at their next meeting was made and passed unanimously. The draft policy will be posted to the ARC web site.

1. FOIA requests
2. Policy on Public Comment
3. Meeting Notifications

c. PIE (Public Involvement and Education) Committee (Lawson, Chair)

i. Status Report

PIE Committee Chair Jennifer Lawson distributed a summary of recent committee activities highlighting the success of the on-site disposal systems (septic tank and tile fields) workshops, progress toward development of the 5-year strategic plan, and the pilot fertilizer education program. She also presented a Grow Zone resolution recently approved by the Rouge River RAP Advisory Council and moved that the ARC develop a similar resolution for consideration of the full Alliance. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Technical Committee (Zorza, Vice Chair)

i. MDEQ SWPPI IDEP template response

Vice Chair Gary Zorza summarized the last meeting of the Technical Committee that focused on revising the SWPPI IDEP template in response to comments from MDEQ. The committee will distribute the updated template along with the PIE template in time for communities to apply it to their updated plan due to MDEQ in May. MDEQ's approval of an alternative approach to outfall inventories every 5 years included a required evaluation of the alternative approach compared to the standard outfall inventory method. The committee proposed to use funds from the IDEP budget allocation approved by the full Alliance in January to help prepare this assessment.

ii. MDEQ / Rouge River RAP Advisory Council (RRAC)

Area of Concern (AOC) Delisting Criteria

Mr. Zorza reported that members of the ARC technical and PIE committees attended a MDEQ AOC summit where procedures for

establishing delisting criteria for AOC were discussed. The MDEQ has developed standardized criteria that can be applied to all AOCs, or, an alternative whereby each AOC could develop their own customized criteria. The ARC working with RRAC evaluated the merits of these options and recommended that the Rouge AOC accept the standardized criteria developed by MDEQ.

iii. SWMP updates / SWAG facilitation / Grant requests

Grant applications for 319 Non-point Source program funds from MDEQ were submitted by some SWAGs recently to develop updated subwatershed management plans. The ARC discussed the preferred direction of the SWAGs given the interest of the ARC in moving towards a watershed permit pointing out that coordination of updates is important to this goal. The ARC officers agreed to meet to discuss how limited the SWAG facilitation ARC budget item should be utilized in 2006 and cautioned that existing funds should be used sparingly until they have completed their review.

**8. Report from WCDOE**

a. Rouge Project Update (Cave)

Ms. Cave reported that some EPA grant funds were still frozen, but expressed cautious optimism that they would be released soon. She reported that Wayne County was making plans to move forward with reviewing the Round VII subgrant applications and that an extension would be requested of EPA as a result of the delay caused by the freeze. She also requested that communities and other recipients of subgrants executed in 2005 provide project summaries for inclusion in the 2005 Year in Review report.

**9. Reports from SWAGS (Comments, Concerns, and/or Recommendations)**

- a. Main 1 & 2 – Met February 22 to discuss submittal of a 319 grant.
- b. Main 3 & 4 – Kurt Giberson reported that the City of Dearborn's CSO control project was moving along smoothly with minor glitches.
- c. Upper – No activity to report except that information is being disseminated as it becomes available keeping communities abreast of developments.
- d. Middle 1 – Nothing to report, except shared disappointment that Oakland County has not joined the ARC.

- e. Middle 3 – A meeting is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> to evaluate the results of the 2005 monitoring data.
- f. Lower 1 – The last meeting focused on submittal of a 319 grant application.
- g. Lower 2 – Nothing to report except that a meeting is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> to evaluate and select sampling locations for 2006.

**10. Summary of Executive Committee Actions (Beckley)**

Chair Beckley summarized actions during the meeting including,

- a. Recommendation to adopt Cooperating Partners policy
- b. Recommendation to adopt the draft Open Meetings/FOI acts implementation policy which will be posted to the web site for public review and comment.
- c. PIE Committee will draft Grow Zone resolution for proposal to full Alliance
- d. PIE Committee will develop a report of ARC accomplishments/successes and on-going challenges
- e. ARC staff will prepared a draft a letter to Oakland County Drain Commissioner on behalf of Oakland County communities requesting that the county reconsider its membership in the Alliance.
- f. PIE Committee will prepare a draft press release and pursue publication in local papers.
- g. ARC officers will meet with the Organizational Committee to evaluate SWAG facilitation and grant submittals.

**11. Upcoming Meeting(s)**

- a. Executive Committee -- June 14, 2006 -- 1:30 pm -- Livonia DPW

**Adjourn**