



Working together, restoring the river

ASSEMBLY OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

Meeting Summary

General Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2005 from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Summit on the Park - Canton Township

4600 Summit Parkway

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

1. WELCOME

Mr. Robert Beckley of Livonia, Assembly of Rouge Communities Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Canton Township for hosting the meeting.

1A. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum

Mr. Beckley took roll call at the meeting. He asked all attendees to identify themselves and the organization they represented. He noted that prior to the meeting the City of Birmingham indicated it would be unable to attend and designated their consultant to serve in their place.

The following communities were in attendance at the meeting:

Allen Park	Auburn Hills	Bingham Farms	Birmingham
Bloomfield Township	Canton Township	Dearborn	Farmington Hills
Garden City	Inkster	Livonia	Melvindale
Northville Township	Novi	Oakland County	Pontiac
Southfield	Van Buren Township	Walled Lake	Washtenaw County
Wayne	Wayne County	Westland	

The following communities were absent from the meeting.

Beverly Hills	Bloomfield Hills	Commerce Township	Dearborn Heights
Farmington	Village of Franklin	Inkster	Lathrup Village
Northville	Plymouth	Plymouth Township	Rochester Hills
Romulus	Superior Township	Troy	West Bloomfield Twp.
Wixom	Ypsilanti Township		

Only Lyon Township has not indicated whether or not they will participate in the Assembly of Rouge Communities.

According to the Memorandum of Agreement a quorum of members must be present to approve items. There were 23 of the 41 eligible communities in attendance at the meeting that was greater than the quorum needed.

1B. Approval of November 17, 2004, Assembly Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the November 17, 2004 Assembly of Rouge Communities meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. There were no modifications to the meeting summary. There was unanimous consensus to approve the minutes.

1C. Additions or Changes to Draft Meeting Agenda

No additions or changes were offered for the draft meeting agenda.

1D. Chair's Report

Mr. Beckley delivered the Chair's report.

1Di. Formation of Ad Hoc Transition Committee

Mr. Beckley reported an ad hoc Transition Committee was formed to transition from the 2003-04 officers to the 2005-06 officers and to begin work on the by-laws for the formation of the Alliance of Rouge Communities. Members of the Transition Committee included members of the Organization/Membership Committee, representatives of the three counties, current and past officers, and Tim Faas of Canton Township.

1Dii. Ceremonial Signing of Watershed Alliance Law

Approximately 15 representatives from the Rouge River Watershed participated in a ceremonial bill signing with Governor Granholm for the Watershed Alliance Law. There were approximately 40 people in attendance at the signing. Mr. Beckley thanked Mr. Larry Arreguin from the Governor's Southeast Michigan office for his assistance in arranging the bill signing.

1Diii. Recognition of Outgoing Officers

Three resolutions were prepared to recognize the contribution of the first officers of the Assembly of Rouge Communities: Mr. Thomas Biasell (Farmington Hills) - Chair, Mr. James Anulewicz (Plymouth Township) - Vice-Chair, and Mr. Gary Mekjian (West Bloomfield Township) - Treasurer.

Oakland County made a motion to approve the resolutions to recognize the outgoing officers. Redford Township seconded the motion.
The motions carried unanimously.

IDiv. Resignation of Gary Mekjian and Appointment of Nominating Committee to fill Vacant Officer Position

Mr. Gary Mekjian of West Bloomfield Township was elected as 2005-2006 Vice-Chair of the ARC. Mr. Mekjian resigned his position in West Bloomfield Township to take a position in Lincoln Park, outside of the Rouge River Watershed, and therefore resigned as ARC Vice-Chair. Mr. Mekjian was invited to attend the meeting and he has asked to continue to be noticed of future ARC mailings. The Nominating Committee was asked by the Chair to meet to develop nominations for Vice-Chair of the ARC.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee's recommendation for the Vice-Chair of the ARC is Wayne Domine of Bloomfield Township.

2A. Additional Nominations from Assembly Members

There were no additional nominations from ARC members.

Wayne County made a motion to elect Wayne Domine of Bloomfield Township as Vice-Chair of the Assembly of Rouge Communities.

Bingham Farms seconded the nomination.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

3A. Review of 2003 Income and Expenses

Mr. Kurt Giberson, Treasurer of the ARC, reviewed the report for 2004 income and expenses. All community dues for 2004 have been paid to date. There have been no fiscal year 2005 billings to date.

3B. Questions for the Treasurer/Finance Committee

There were no questions at this time.

4. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

4A. Status Committee Chairs for Technical and PIE Committees

The interim committee chairs will continue on for at least 2 months. The current committee structure will be left in place. According to the terms of the by-laws committee chairs must be members of the Executive Committee.

4B. Solicitation of Members for Organization / Membership Committee

Mr. Beckley and Mr. Giberson will not continue as members of the Organization Committee as they are now Officers of the ARC. There are 8 current members of the Organization Committee.

Tim Faas of Canton Township was recommended for the Organization/Membership Committee.

Melvindale made a motion to approve Tim Faas as a member of the Organization/Membership Committee.

Livonia seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Harvey, City Manager of Garden City, was recommended for the Organization/Membership Committee.

Wayne County made a motion to approved Dave Harvey as a member of the Organization/Membership Committee.

Oakland County seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kurt Heise, Wayne County, will contact Mr. Harvey regarding joining the ARC Organization/Membership Committee.

4C. Updates from the Standing Committees

4Ci. PIE

Ms. Zachare Ball, staff support to the ARC PIE Committee, reported on the recent activities of the PIE Committee.

4Cii. Technical

Mr. Gary Zorza, Vice-Chair of the ARC Technical Committee, had no report.

4Ciii. Organization/Membership

Mr. Kurt Heise, co-Chair of the Organization Membership Committee, reported this committee has been working on possible sources of insurance for the ARC and membership criteria for public organizations other than counties and communities.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT ON ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

5A. Proposed Transition Schedule

The purpose of this meeting was to provide the draft bylaws to ARC members for review and comment. Comments from this meeting will be incorporated and sent to all members for a 30-day review period. Depending on the comments received, the ad hoc Transition Committee will revise the bylaws or the Full Assembly will reconvene to consider the revisions. April 10 is the target date to send Alliance bylaws to eligible members for adoption. Once the by-laws have been adopted by at least twenty eligible primary members, the first meeting of the Alliance will be called. **[Note: subsequent to the meeting, the date for comments on the Draft Alliance bylaws was extended to April 15]**

5B. DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED ALLIANCE BYLAWS

Several communities offered comments on the by-laws.

A change from the original memorandum of agreement that was used to establish the Assembly is that communities must have both a resolution of adoption by their respective governing body and pay their dues to participate in the Alliance.

Dues are at the same level as last year, they may change in the future depending on the availability of federal funds and different communities/agencies becoming associate members.

If the Alliance is formed under the proposed bylaws, any dues paid to the Assembly will be transferred to the Alliance.

The voting shares for any member under the proposed bylaws is limited to 15% of the total.

The counties had a concern with the budget cycle. Jack Bails explained that the current draft contains provisions for determining any county assessments by August 1, of each year.

Washtenaw County raised a concern with a supermajority being able to control the budget and expenditure of funds. Jack Bails and Michelle Bononi will work on language to address this concern and present suggested revisions to the ad hoc Transition Committee for review. The Main 1-2 voting scheme developed for official actions of that subwatershed was offered as a possible solution to the concerns raised by Washtenaw County.

In response to a question for the basis of limiting the counties to 12% of the total voting shares, Bails explained that it was a percentage offered as a compromise by the original Drafting Committee when the Assembly memorandum of agreement was proposed.

Communities are asked to review the by-laws provided in the meeting packet. Comments on the by-laws should be forwarded to Jack Bails at jbails@pscinc.com or Amy Ploof at ploofal@cdm.com.

A letter transmitting the by-laws and the final appendix (a sample resolution of adoption), will be forwarded to all eligible members following the 30-day review period.

All potential primary members were invited to the meeting. Ms. Sarah Lyle, Director of Environmental Affairs for the City of Detroit, indicated that Detroit has worked with the Rouge Watershed communities in the past as part of the Rouge Project and would like to continue working together in the future.

By a show of hands the ARC members indicated they were comfortable with the proposed schedule for moving forward.

5C. CONSENSUS TO PROCEED WITH TRANSITION

Wayne County made a motion to affirm that the Assembly MOA 2005 adopted budget, officers, and policies shall remain in place until the Alliance is formed.

The City of Wayne seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kelly Cave reported that the Wayne County Commission and CEO have approved the fiduciary agreement. Wayne County will send out the invoices.

Mr. Beckley noted that communities' payment of their 2005 assessment does not indicate endorsement of the Alliance. All communities that pay their Assembly 2005 dues will be provided the same services through December 31, 2005 regardless of whether or not an Alliance is established, and, if established, a communities decision to join or not.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR RESOLUTION

6A. Resolution Encouraging Businesses to Support Friends of the Rouge

An Executive Committee meeting was held on January 12. At that meeting the Executive Committee recommended the Full Assembly consider a resolution encouraging businesses to support the Friends of the Rouge. The group discussed the resolution. There were no motions for amendment. The motion was approved unanimously.

6B. A Second Resolution Concerning Community Support of FOR

A second resolution concerning community support for the Friends of the Rouge was discussed at length. The Executive Committee had not recommended adoption. No motion for adoption of the second resolution was made by a member.

7. OTHER ISSUES/ITEMS

Amy Mangus of SEMCOG reported there were materials available from the Public Outreach Campaign.

Bob Belair of Canton reported the Detention Basin video shown at the last ARC meeting was available to members along with a brochure. Please contact Canton for additional copies or for an electronic version of the brochure.

Meghan Bonfiglio of Bloomfield Township is the ARC representative to RRAC and reported the RRAC is updating the Rouge Report Card. The next RRAC meeting will be March 23 at the University of Michigan-EIC.

Melvindale asked for clarification on the roles of the ad hoc Transition Committee and the Organization Committee. Mr. Beckley indicated the Transition Committee was needed for the officers to transition over their activities and to keep the legislation moving forward. Mr. Heise indicated if the Transition Committee had not met we would not have by-laws to review at this point. Mr. Beckley indicated the Transition Committee was formed to keep things moving and was not meant to be exclusionary. Melvindale thanked Mr. Beckley for the clarification and indicated that the number of communities at the table was amazing and that trust is necessary for it to work.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Larry Arreguin of Governor Granholm's Southeast Michigan Office thanked the members of the ARC for pushing through the Alliance legislation and for developing an innovative approach.

Mr. Beckley thanked Mr. Arreguin for his support and for his assistance in the ceremonial signing for the Watershed Alliance.

Mr. Heise thanked SEMCOG for attending the meeting and indicated he would like to work with SEMCOG to introduce the Alliance legislation to other watersheds.

9. MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting date for the Full Assembly will be dependent on the comments received on the draft Alliance bylaws. If a meeting is necessary to deal with comments, it will likely be held in late May. If the comments received are routine the meeting will likely be held in late June or early July.

10. ADJOURN

Mr. Beckley adjourned the meeting at 3:15.



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RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

THOMAS BIASELL

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

WHEREAS Thomas Biasell served as the first Chair of the Assembly of Rouge Communities during 2003-2004 as a representative of the City of Farmington Hills

WHEREAS his voluntary efforts serving as Chair of the Assembly and Chair of its Technical Committee were instrumental in the first successful two years of the Assembly of Rouge Communities

WHEREAS, as the leader of the Assembly of Rouge Communities, he represented the interests of the Assembly members at numerous meetings with outside organizations where he advocated for the goals of the membership

WHEREAS Tom's leadership guided the Assembly through the difficult process of establishing the foundation for an effective partnership of Rouge River watershed communities

WHEREAS his guidance and assistance in developing a consensus for a permanent watershed organization lead to the successful passage of the new Watershed Alliance law, Act 517, P.A. 2004

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of Rouge Communities wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Tom Biasell for his leadership, and extensive contribution of time to the Assembly of Rouge Communities during its first two years of operation, and in guiding the process that will lead to the formation of permanent alliance of local agencies committed to improved management of the Rouge River

Adopted unanimously at the February 22, 2005, meeting of the Assembly of Rouge Communities

Robert Beckley (Livonia)
Chair, Assembly of
Rouge Communities

Kurt Giberson (Dearborn)
Treasurer, Assembly of
Rouge Communities



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RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

JAMES D. ANULEWICZ

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

WHEREAS James D. Anulewicz served as the first Vice Chair of the Assembly of Rouge Communities during 2003-2004 as a representative of the Plymouth Township

WHEREAS his voluntary efforts serving as Vice Chair of the Assembly, and Chair of its Public Information and Education Committee were instrumental in the successful first two years of the Assembly of Rouge Communities

WHEREAS, as part of the leadership team of Assembly of Rouge Communities officers, he represented the interests of the Assembly members at numerous meetings where he effectively advocated on behalf of the Assembly members.

WHEREAS Jim's leadership and support for the passage of the new Watershed Alliance statute, Act 517, P.A. 2004 helped lay the foundation for a permanent organization of local public agencies that will strengthen the role of local government in the management of the state's waters

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of Rouge Communities wishes to express its sincere gratitude to James D. Anulewicz for his leadership, and extensive contribution of time to the Assembly of Rouge Communities and in guiding the process that will lead to the formation of permanent alliance of local agencies committed to improved management of the Rouge River

Adopted unanimously at the February 22, 2005, meeting of the Assembly of Rouge Communities

Robert Beckley (Livonia)
Chair, Assembly of
Rouge Communities

Kurt Giberson (Dearborn)
Treasurer, Assembly of
Rouge Communities



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RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

GARY MEKJIAN

Allen Park
Auburn Hills
Beverly Hills
Bingham Farms
Birmingham
Bloomfield Hills
Bloomfield
Township
Canton Township
Commerce
Township
Dearborn
Dearborn Heights
Farmington
Farmington Hills
Franklin
Garden City
Inkster
Lathrup Village
Livonia
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Redford Township
Rochester Hills
Romulus
Southfield
Superior Township
Troy
Van Buren
Township Walled
Lake
Washtenaw County
Wayne
Wayne County

***WHEREAS** Gary Mekjian served as the first Treasurer of the Assembly of Rouge Communities during 2003-2004 as a representative of West Bloomfield Township*

***WHEREAS** his voluntary efforts serving as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee contributed significantly to the success of the Assembly of Rouge Communities in the management of its funds*

***WHEREAS**, as one of the first three elected officers of the Assembly of Rouge Communities, he was part of the leadership team that established broad support for the Assembly and its activities*

***WHEREAS** Gary's leadership abilities were recognized by his peers when he was elected Assembly Vice Chair for 2005–2006*

***WHEREAS** Gary has announced his departure from West Bloomfield Township to accept a new position outside of the Rouge River watershed*

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Assembly of Rouge Communities wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Gary Mekjian for his support, guidance, and contributions to the Assembly of Rouge Communities during its first two formative years of operation and in helping to lay the foundation for its continuing future success; and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Assembly of Rouge Communities collectively and individually offers its best wishes to Gary as he departs as Vice Chair of the Assembly to take on new water management challenges in Lincoln Park with well deserved pride for what he has accomplished and contributed to the protection and enhancement of the Rouge River.*

Adopted unanimously at the February 22, 2005, meeting of the Assembly of Rouge Communities

Robert Beckley (Livonia)
Chair, Assembly of
Rouge Communities

Kurt Giberson (Dearborn)
Treasurer, Assembly of
Rouge Communities



Working together restoring the river

RESOLUTION

Encouraging Businesses to Support Friends of the Rouge

Allen Park
Auburn Hills
Beverly Hills
Bingham Farms
Birmingham
Bloomfield Hills
Bloomfield Township
Canton Township
Commerce Township
Dearborn
Dearborn Heights
Farmington
Farmington Hills
Franklin
Garden City
Inkster
Lathrup Village
Livonia
Melvindale
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Walled Lake
Washtenaw County
Wayne
Wayne County
West Bloomfield Twp.
Westland
Wixom
Ypsilanti Township

WHEREAS the Assembly of Rouge Communities supports the mission and activities of the Friends of the Rouge; and

WHEREAS, FOTR provides programs and activities such as Rouge Rescue/River Day, Rouge Education Project, frog and toad survey, benthic invertebrate monitoring, riparian corridor management, storm drain stenciling, and the watch frog program, all of which assist communities in meeting General Storm Water Permit obligations; and

WHEREAS Businesses in the Rouge River watershed have an important role in improving and maintaining water quality and are encouraged to participate in local environmental initiatives to enhance environmental quality through such programs as the ISO certifications;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Assembly of Rouge Communities encourages all businesses within the watershed to support Friends of the Rouge in their mission of education and stewardship of the Rouge River watershed.

This resolution was recommended for consideration by the Public Involvement and Education Committee.

This resolution was recommended at the January 25, 2004 Executive Committee meeting for consideration by the Full Assembly.

This resolution was approved unanimously at the February 22, 2005 Full Assembly meeting.