

James W. Ridgway, P.E.
Executive Director



Working together, restoring the river

MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES
March 17, 2016, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Summit on the Park, Canton

- Auburn Hills
- Beverly Hills
- Bingham Farms
- Birmingham
- Bloomfield Hills
- Bloomfield Twp.
- Canton Twp.
- Commerce Twp.
- Dearborn Heights
- Farmington
- Farmington Hills
- Franklin
- Garden City
- Henry Ford College
- 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
- Troy
- University of Michigan-Dearborn
- Van Buren Twp.
- Walled Lake
- Washtenaw County
- Wayne
- Wayne County
- Wayne County Airport Authority
- Westland
- Wixom

1. Welcome (Brandy Siedlaczek, Chair)

a. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum - Roll call was taken. The 24 members listed below were in attendance, which was sufficient for a quorum.

ARC Member	Attended Y/N	ARC Member	Attended Y/N
Auburn Hills	N	Novi	Y
Beverly Hills	N	Oakland County	Y
Bingham Farms	Y	Oak Park	N
Birmingham	Y	Orchard Lake	Y
Bloomfield Hills	Y	Plymouth	N
Bloomfield Twp.	Y	Plymouth Twp.	Y
Canton Twp.	Y	Redford Twp.	Y
Commerce Twp.	N	Rochester Hills	Y
Dearborn Heights	N	Romulus	Y
Farmington	Y	Southfield	Y
Farmington Hills	Y	Troy	Y
Franklin	N	University of Michigan-Dearborn	N
Garden City	N	Van Buren Twp.	N
Henry Ford College	Y	Walled Lake	Y
Inkster	N	Washtenaw County	N
Lathrup Village	N	Wayne	Y
Livonia	Y	Wayne County	Y
Melvindale	Y	Wayne County Airport Authority	N
Northville	N	Westland	Y
Northville Twp.	N	Wixom	Y

b. Introduction of ARC guests

Brandy Siedlaczek, Chair, asked all guests in attendance to introduce themselves.

c. Additions or Changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the draft agenda.

d. Approval of November 18, 2015 Meeting Summary

The motion was made by Kathryn Hagaman, Bingham Farms, to approve the November 18, 2015 meeting summary. It was seconded by Bob Belair, Canton, and passed unanimously.

Cooperating Partners:

- Cranbrook Institute of Science
- Friends of the Rouge
- Rouge River Advisory Council
- Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority
- The Henry Ford
- Wayne State University

2. Resolution: FOTR/ARC Merger Investigation

Bob Belair, Canton, reviewed the resolution that is being presented to the Full ARC. He reviewed the information that has been presented to the members over the last several meetings. Kathryn Hagaman, Bingham Farms, asked what the response was from the private funders of FOTR. Jim Ridgway responded, stating that the private funders were supportive of the merger. Jim also explained that the communities can expect the same services in support of the MS4 permits.

The resolution in support of the new non-profit entity was read. The motion was made by Kathryn Hagaman, Bingham Farms, for ARC staff to proceed with preparing the documents and support information to consummate the merger of the ARC and the FOTR into a single, new non-profit entity that will continue the activities of both entities. The motion was seconded by Jacy Garrison, Oakland County. The ayes were: Bingham Farms, Birmingham, Bloomfield Twp., Bloomfield Hills, Canton Twp., Farmington, Farmington Hills, Henry Ford College, Livonia, Melvindale, Novi, Oakland County, Orchard Lake, Plymouth Twp., Redford Twp., Rochester Hills, Romulus, Troy, Walled Lake, Washtenaw County (via email), Wayne, Wayne County, Westland and Wixom. There was no naves. Absent were: Auburn Hills, Beverly Hills, Commerce Twp., Dearborn Heights, Franklin, Garden City, Inkster, Lathrup Village, Northville, Northville Twp., Plymouth, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Van Buren Twp., Wayne County Airport Authority. Southfield abstained because of conflict of interest being that Brandy Siedlaczek is a FOTR board member.

3. Executive Director Report

a. Grant Status Report

John O'Meara, ARC Staff, gave the grant project status report.

ONGOING GRANTS:

2015 Rouge River Public Advisory Council (RRAC) Support

The ARC submitted an application to the Great Lakes Commission to continue facilitation of the RRAC. Development of the final Rouge Habitat List through the Habitat Subcommittee meetings has been completed. The full RRAC at its membership meeting on February 22, 2016 approved the list as final for submittal to MDEQ.

FOTR-ARC Merger Investigation

FOTR and the ARC were awarded a grant from the Erb Family Foundation and the Community Foundation in the amount of \$110,000 to explore merging the organizations. The Reorganization Investigation Committee (RIC) has developed a recommendation that included merging the two organizations. The FOTR Board has approved this recommendation and it will go to their membership for approval in April 2016 pending ARC Board approval in March. There is a draft schedule and scope of the transition process that has been prepared by the RIC.

Collaborative Invasive Species Control in Rouge and Detroit River AOC

The ARC has been attending the work group meetings and working on handouts for some of the trainings. Noel Mullett reported that they have started the bid process with their next meeting scheduled for April and work beginning in August with efforts at Newburgh Lake, phragmites control in Rouge and Detroit AOCs, activities occurring during Rouge Rescue by FOTR and work days and presentations with Friends of Detroit River.

US Forestry Service 2014 Tree Grant

All communities have executed the IAA with the ARC. Approximately 75% of the communities have had their proposed trees approved. One community has planted their trees and asked for their initial 50% reimbursement. ARC needs communities to make sure they are securing, planting, locating their trees this spring and providing their project summaries by June 2016. The ARC will finalize the grant reporting this summer for grant closure in August 2016.

SAW Grant: Monitoring and Stormwater Management Planning

The ARC received the SAW funding grant agreement last week and returned for execution November 10, 2015. The grant covers development of member MS4 permit applications, monitoring, and stormwater funding planning efforts. ARC staff are on track to meet to April 1 permit deadline. Communities have received their draft applications for review. The collaborative PEP, IDEP, PPP and TMDL plans have either gone or will be going out to the full membership for comment.

NOAA GLRI Habitat Restoration: Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage (Design)

ARC has held monthly Project Partners (NOAA, ARC, Wayne County, RRAC, MDEQ, USACE, National Park Service, and Henry Ford Estate) calls to update and receive feedback. Geotechnical field analysis, wetland delineation, topographic surveys, and T&E database work has been completed. Review of the Corp model has been concluded. Based on this review restructuring of the model was needed and developed.

PENDING GRANT APPLICATIONS:

NOAA Regional Partnership

The ARC joined a partnership with Friends of Detroit River (FDR) and the Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) to submit a NOAA Regional partnership grant in February 2016. FDR is listed as the fiduciary with the ARC as a major supporting member. The grant is for conducting listed habitat projects within the two AOCs over the next three years. It is anticipated that knowledge of award will occur in May/June 2016, with award in September 2016.

John O'Meara also stated that the next round of PAC support grants would be out within the next few weeks and the ARC will be applying for continued support of the Rouge River Advisory Council.

b. Call for Projects

John O'Meara asked if any members have projects in mind that ARC Staff can begin to research funding mechanisms.

4. Treasurers/Finance Committee Report (Bob Belair, Treasurer)

a. 2015 Membership Dues

Bob Belair reported that all 2015 dues have been received.

b. A/R and A/P Reports

Bob Belair reviewed the accounts receivable and accounts payables reports.

5. Standing Committee Reports

a. Organization Committee (Kelly Cave, Chair)

Chris O'Meara, ARC Staff, reported on behalf of Kelly Cave that the Organization Committee has nothing to report.

b. PIE Committee

Charles Markus, PIE Committee Chair, reported that the PIE committee is planning to host or coordinate with FOTR on various workshops including septic systems, turf maintenance, native plantings and pollinator gardens. She also informed the Full ARC that billboards will be shown in the watershed with tips for FOG, Rouge Rescue, pet waste, and fertilizer in 2016. The planned seasonal posters are being drafted and will be distributed in May or early June starting with the spring and summer posters.

c. Technical Committee

Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, reported the ARC Staff continue to work with the Technical Committee on the collaborative IDEP and TMDL plans. The committee is also working on the county work plans for their 2016 IDEP activities. The next Technical Committee meeting is also being scheduled.

6. Report from Cooperating Partners

Cranbrook Institute of Science

Michele Arquette-Palermo offered their facilities to host upcoming ARC events.

Friends of the Rouge

Sally Petrella reported that the GLRI invasive species activities continue. She reported that the Spring Bug Hunt was a success along with the Winter Stonefly Search. Frog and Toad surveys have begun. She reviewed the AOC conference that was held in Dearborn. She reminded the Full ARC that the 30th annual Rouge Rescue is scheduled for May 21, 2016. Lastly Sally informed the Full ARC that Aimee LaLonde-Norman has resigned as FOTR Executive Director and that they are currently looking for her replacement.

Rouge River Advisory Council

Bill Craig stated that RRAC and the Habitat Subcommittee have finalized the Rouge River list of projects to remove the habitat BUIs and have submitted it to the MDEQ and EPA.

7. Report from Counties

Noel Mullett, Wayne County, informed the Full ARC that they will be hosting a HHW event on April 23, 2016.

Jacy Garrison, Oakland County, reported that they continue to update their stormwater standards and hope to have them available by June. They also anticipate meeting with Wayne County and MDEQ for review and feedback. They will then receive comment from developers and contractors. Any questions should be forwarded to Jim Wineka.

Jacy also stated that they will be hosting this year's IDEP training and anticipate it being held in Waterford in October with seating for around 85 participants.

8. Report from MDEQ

Andrew Bahrou, MDEQ, reminded the ARC members that progress reports are due March 31 and there are no extensions. He asked the members let him know if you will not be in on time so he knows. He encouraged all communities preparing MS4

applications for the April 1 deadline to prepare their certifier agreements and get them in to MDEQ. He encouraged any member contact him if they have any questions.

Andrew Bahrou stated that SEMCOG is coordinating an industrial stormwater recertification.

Andrew reported that he visited some project sites that were funded with 319 dollars including FOTR rain gardens in Johnson and Tonquish Creek at municipal, residential and school sites. He reminded members that the next round of 319 project ideas are due in July.

9. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

10. Summary of Actions of Full Alliance (Chris O’Meara, ARC staff)

- The November 18, 2016 meeting summary was approved.
- The Resolution authorizing ARC staff to proceed with preparing the documents and support information to consummate the merger of the ARC and the FOTR into a single, new non-profit entity that will continue the activities of both entities was approved.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjourn

The motion was made by Kathryn Hagaman, Bingham Farms, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Noel Mullett, Wayne County, and passed unanimously.