

James W. Ridgway, P.E. Executive Director

Auburn Hills

Beverly Hills

Bingham Farms

Birmingham

Bloomfield Hills

Bloomfield Twp.

Canton Twp.

Commerce Twp.

Dearborn

Dearborn Heights

Farmington

Farmington Hills

Franklin

Garden City

Henry Ford Community

College

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

Michigan-Dearborn

Van Buren Twp.

Walled Lake

University of

Washtenaw County

Wayne

Wayne County

Wayne County Airport

Authority

Westland

Wixom

#### **Cooperating Partners:**

Cranbrook Institute of Science Friends of the Rouge Rouge River Advisory Council

Southeastern Oakland

County Water Authority

Wayne State University

# MEETING SUMMARY ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

March 28, 2013, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn

- 1. Welcome (Kevin Buford, Chair)
  - **a. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum** Roll call was taken. The 29 members listed below were in attendance, which was sufficient for a quorum.

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

## b. Introduction of ARC guests

Kevin Buford asked all guests in attendance to introduce themselves.

# c. Additions or Changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda

The item "IDEP Training Plan" was added to the agenda under 5.c - Standing Committee Reports, Technical Committee.

# d. Approval of November 7, 2012 Meeting Summary

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to approve the November 7, 2012 meeting summary. It was seconded by Jeff Mueller, Lathrup Village, and passed unanimously.

Kevin Buford announced the resolution prepared for Chuck Hersey as he retires. He thanked Chuck for his advocacy which has assisted the ARC in accomplishing its

objectives. The Alliance of Rouge Communities extends its gratitude to Chuck Hersey and wishes him all the best in retirement.

# 2. Sewer Funding Law

Chuck Hersey, SEMCOG, gave a summary of the Sewer Funding Bills which includes a state operated grant program and a state operated and managed load program in addition to the separate federal SRF program. The approximate funding is \$454 million with the maximum possible being \$654 million with the intent to spend these funds over the next 5-7 years depending on demand. He explained that the grant program purposed will incentivize up front activities that improve efficiency and reduce long term costs. The state-operated loan program would be free of federal red tape associated with SRF programs. Eligible projects are similar to those in conventional SRF but would have to emanate from an asset management plan. He stated that MDEQ has formed a small workgroup to help develop and implement the State grant and loan programs. There will not be a competitive application process with point scoring systems. Rather, priority will largely be based on the order in which applications are received. He informed the ARC that SEMCOG will be holding information workshops on these programs once enough details are available. The MDEQ has indicated it will take 6-9 months to get the program up and running. The handouts shared at the Full ARC meeting are included at the end of this meeting summary.

# 3. Treasurers/Finance Committee Report (Brandy Siedlaczek, Treasurer)

## a. 2013 A/R and A/P Reports

Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield, reviewed the A/R and A/P reports. The receivables report shows the first round of dues along with the last Rouge Grant reimbursement request for 2012. She stated that the payables are all in the review process and are being scheduled for payment.

#### b. 2013 Budget Amendment

Brandy Siedlaczek reviewed the Organization Committee Amendment 1 which adds a task to develop a Stormwater Financing White Paper that gives the financing options for ARC members after the Rouge Project funding is gone in June 2014. Executive Director staff will develop a white paper that describes the steps and data requirements for implementing the short-listed funding options. Based on direction from the Organization Committee in late 2012, ED staff will focus on the establishment of 1) stormwater utilities at the local level that will stand up to the Headlee Amendment and 2) Inter- or Intra-County Drainage Districts. The white paper will cover funding the ARC and funding storm sewer maintenance activities. The paper will include:

- The results of a survey regarding how members are currently paying for stormwater efforts,
- The real community costs associated with storm system maintenance and permit compliance based on input from a few select communities,
- A description of ARC-provided compliance services and costs,
- The cost of complying with the new and old permits,
- A description of the two funding options and implementation steps,
- A table showing the pros and cons for each option, and
- Recommendations for future steps that the ARC should undertake.

This request requires no budget increase to the overall 2013 ARC budget. The white paper is in draft form now and the Organization Committee hopes to have a final draft in June.

Kevin Buford expressed that the Executive Committee requested a more detailed paper and the Executive Director staff continues to be improving the white paper. Jim Wineka asked if the state preferred a storm water utility? No clear preference was known. Chuck Hersey stated that they have various opinions and stated that once a community has asset management they may move forward appropriately.

Jim Ridgway stated that storm water is perceived as being free. The big change is getting people to understand the role of stormwater, how it impacts individuals, and what it costs to prevent flooding and comply with regulations.

There was some discussion regarding whether similar reports were created under the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project. Annette DeMaria, ARC Staff, informed the ARC that this paper was reviewed as part of the white paper initially prepared to support funding illicit connections. Jim Ridgway express the importance of having this paper available to public works officials when presenting to councils when seeking funding for stormwater activities (including how to fund the ARC activities after the Rouge grant is gone).

The motion was made by Don Rohraff, Livonia, to approve the 2013 Budget Amendment (Organization Committee Amendment 1) as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Hagaman, Bingham Farms and passed unanimously.

## c. 2013 ECT Contract Amendment

Brandy Siedlaczek reviewed the contract amendment to the scope of services for the Executive Director Services, Appendix A (revised) with ECT. This amendment increases the total compensation for the scope of services by \$12,600 to fund the development of the Stormwater Financing White Paper. This budget is being transferred from the Technical Committee IDEP task.

The motion was made by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, to approve the 2013 ECT ED Services Contract Amendment as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Don Rohraff, Livonia, and passed unanimously.

## 4. Executive Director Report

# a. Grant Status Report

#### **GLRI 1 (Transforming the Rouge):**

This grant project was extended to June 30, 2013 to allow us to spend the remaining grant funding. The funding will be used to add 10 additional acres of grow zones, bringing the total to 35 acres of grow zones; complete additional post-construction monitoring events and monitor the Lola Valley (Wayne County Parks) re-seeding. Additionally, FOTR had grant funds remaining from the Erb grant which paid for an additional sampling event, the Winter Stonefly Search, which was held on January 26, 2013. ARC staff has begun writing the final report for this project

# GLRI 2 (Danvers Pond Dam Removal, Farmington Hills):

This project is complete and the final report was approved by EPA-GLNPO.

# NOAA Fisheries Grant - Wayne Road Dam Removal:

This project is substantially complete, with monitoring activities being conducted currently. Grant activities are slated to be complete June 30, 2013.

#### **CMI Water Quality Monitoring Grant:**

We have completed 5 rounds of dry weather sampling on Pebble Creek which crosses West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills and Southfield. These results indicate that the highest E. coli levels in the Creek are at Orchard Lake Rd (Geomean of 573 verses less than 250 at the other locations). Two more rounds of sampling will be completed in spring 2013. If the results are consistent, then field staff will walk the Creek between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

# U.S. Forestry/GLRI 2011:

The Fall, 2012 planting (436 trees) was completed and verified by the end of 2012. The ARC will plant 729 trees this spring (including an additional 347 trees purchased with unused funds)

# Public Advisory Council/Great Lakes Commission:

ARC staff has facilitated three meetings of the Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC), formerly the Rouge RAP Advisory Council. The RRAC website has been designed. Work continues on the Lower Rouge Delisting Strategy based on current projects and planned projects along the Lower Rouge. Additionally, an update to the Rouge River Report Card is underway.

## **Erb Foundation Capacity Building for the Alliance of Rouge Communities:**

The Private Partners are currently reviewing the draft proposal and will supply letters of support. In March, we will submit a draft application to the EPA to conduct monitoring and assessment of the sediment in the Lower Rouge Main Channel. We are requesting approx. \$830,000 from EPA and proposing to supply \$450,000 in non-federal funds which are being provided by DTE, Ford, Marathon, MDEQ and Erb Foundation. The goal of this project is to determine remediation options for mitigating the ecosystem impacts caused by the contaminated sediments. This will be accomplished by conducting Utility, Bathymetric, Shoreline/In River Structure, Sediment Transport, Streambank and Habitat Assessments, Sediment Sampling /Analyses, Completion of a Feasibility Study, and Public Outreach. We anticipate that there may be some negotiation with the EPA before the application is approved. Once approved, the ARC will secure agreements from DTE, Ford and Marathon for the matching funds and enter into an agreement with EPA.

## **Outstanding Grant Applications**

#### **NOAA Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Regional Partnership Grant:**

The ARC, RRAC and the Detroit River AOC and several partners, applied for this grant which funds Area of Concern activities for fish and wildlife habitat related projects over three-year period. If successful, the ARC could be responsible for overseeing up to \$3 Million in projects in the Rouge and Detroit AOCs over a three-year period.

## **NOAA Habitat Restoration Grant:**

The ARC applied for \$250,000 design grant to design Phase III of the Oxbow at The Henry Ford (Greenfield Village) in Dearborn, which would connect the Oxbow to the channelized portion of the Rouge River.

# U.S. Forest Service/GLRI Mitigate Emerald Ash Borer Impacts Grant:

The ARC has applied for \$250,000 to replace 1,835 trees in 12 ARC member communities and Wayne County. This is similar to the grant received by the ARC in 2011.

#### **2013** Area of Concern/Public Advisory Committee Grant:

The ARC has applied for \$41,000 to complete three tasks: Facilitation of the Rouge Advisory Committee; Creation of project profile sheets on the Rouge AOC Priority Projects to remove Beneficial Use Impairments, and Creation of promotional fact sheets on the ARC's GLRI projects to show the storm water and habitat-related benefits of each project (Danvers Pond Dam, Wayne Road Dam, Transforming the Rouge, 2011 U.S. Forest Service grant).

#### b. Legacy Project Update

Jim Ridgway reported that Marathon sent a letter stating that they will be providing their support and that they are committed to the project. ARC staff anticipates similar letters from DTE and Ford. This support will serve as match to the project. ARC staff continues to meet with GLNPO and things continue to look hopeful for the project to move forward.

#### c. Clarification on ARC Position on new NPDES Storm Water Permit

ADW sent a letter recently to the Governor expressing their concerns. The ARC has not prepared anything formally. The Executive Committee discussed the letter and the position of the ARC. They asked the Executive Director staff to bring this topic to the Full ARC for direction. Jim Ridgway reviewed the ADW letter and stated that the ARC has various options to them and asked the membership to express what they believe is the ARC's concerns. The ARC could 1) monitor the permit requirements, 2) send a letter agreeing with the ADW's position or 3) craft our own position letter.

Some concerns expressed by members included funding the permit requirements and whether the list of requirements is too long or appropriate. Kathryn Hagaman, Bingham Farms, stated that she liked the ADW letter. However, we have spent a lot of money to get Headlee through the courts, if the feds say you have to do it then the state can say you have to do it. Jim Murray, Dearborn, stated that if it is federally mandated then Headlee does not apply and he would rather deal with Lansing and not the feds. Jim Wineka, Oakland County, expressed his concern is how do we fund these requirements. There was discussion about what was once considered good practices has now become requirements, when does it become a violation? Should the ARC ask for clarifications on violations? Noel Mullett, Wayne County, stated that the letter from the ARC should ask about flexibility--what might be good for one community might not fit another. It was also suggested that communities have their legal counsel review the ARC's letter prior to sending. Jim Ridgway restated that the majority of members believe that the ARC should send its own position letter and that the Executive Director staff will begin drafting the letter.

#### 5. Standing Committee Reports

**a.** Organization Committee (Annette DeMaria reported for Kelly Cave, Co-Chair) Bylaws

Annette DeMaria reported that the Bylaws have been approved by 22 communities which is more than enough to pass the revised ARC Bylaws. It was requested that the membership be notified on this development via email and those communities that have not approved the amended Bylaws should still get their respective council/board approval. There was a request to do a poll of the remaining communities to see if they will be approving the Bylaws or not.

# Ban on Texting While Driving Policy

Annette DeMaria reviewed the draft Ban on Texting While Driving Policy that was developed to follow-up the requests from last year's A133 Audit. The new policies were developed by the ARC to incorporate some of the requirements under federal grants.

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to approve the Ban on Texting While Driving Policy as developed by the Organization Committee. The motion was seconded by James Gallogly, Northville, and passed unanimously.

#### Strategic Plan

Annette DeMaria reviewed the revised Strategic Plan which included updates to the mission, vision and goals and brings the document up to date.

The motion was made by Jim Murray, Dearborn, to approve the revised Strategic Plan as presented by the Organization Committee. The motion was seconded by Bob Belair, Canton Twp., and was approved. Let it be noted that Auburn Hills was opposed to the approval of the Strategic Plan because it does not address the issue for those communities that are in more than one watershed as it pertains to the storm water permitting goals.

## **b. PIE Committee** (Brandy Siedlaczek, Chair)

Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield, reported that the PIE Committee held its first meeting on March 7, 2013 in Southfield. Michelle Arquette-Palermo from the Clinton River Watershed Council discussed the Collaborative PEP they have developed that was recently approved by MDEQ. The PIE Committee will be working on a Collaborative PEP this year.

The ARC and Friends of the Rouge presented its first homeowner's native plant gardening workshop on March 12 at Cranbrook. About 30 people attended. Another workshop is planned for tonight in Canton Township. Two more will be in April in Farmington Hills and Henry Ford Community College.

Brandy Siedlaczek reported that the following Rain Barrel Sales are scheduled:

- June 1 in Bloomfield Township
- June 15-16 at Canton Township's Liberty Fest
- September in Novi

The following Septic System Maintenance Workshops are scheduled:

- May 6: Southfield
- May 8: Farmington Hills

Brandy Siedlaczek reported that the next PIE meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2013, the location has not been decided yet.

c. Technical Committee (Annette DeMaria reported for Karen Mondora, Chair) Annette DeMaria shared with the membership the draft IDEP Training Plan. The goal of the plan is to provide training to the southeast Michigan region focused on illicit discharge elimination and storm water pollution prevention. There are three main objectives of this plan. The first objective is to establish a framework that shares responsibility and costs of training on a regional basis. The second objective is to be efficient by maximizing class size not duplicating efforts and spreading the costs over the region. The third objective is to make it unnecessary to charge a fee for the training. Partners in this effort include Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties, SEMCOG, the ARC and ADW. The IDEP Training Plan is included at the end of this meeting summary.

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to approve the IDEP Training Plan as developed by the Technical Committee. The motion was seconded by Don Rohraff, Livonia, and passed unanimously.

Annette DeMaria reported that the IDEP training has been condensed to a half-day session which should make it easier for some to attend. Training is tentatively planned for late September.

Annette DeMaria reported that both Wayne County and Oakland County are preparing their IDEP scope of work for this year.

Annette DeMaria stated that the MDEQ is requesting nominations for target areas for inclusion in the next 319 Grant announcement and asked that any member forward their recommendations to her.

# 6. Report from Cooperating Partners

## Friends of the Rouge

Friends of the Rouge announced that their office moved to another building at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Their address and emails have changed and most people should have received that information. Upcoming events include native gardening workshops and the spring bug hunt.

## 7. Report from WCDPS

Noel Mullett, Wayne County, report on behalf of Kelly Cave that they are working on the 2012 progress report and asked that any success stories or photos be forwarded to them to include in the report. He also reported that Wayne County will be having a Household Hazardous Waste event on April 13 in Redford Twp.

# 8. Opportunity for Public Comment

Alan Gigliotti, Henry Ford Community College, shared an invitation to hear the CEO of The Nature Conservancy at Inforum 51st Annual Meeting. The invitation will be emailed out to the ARC after the meeting.

Andrew Bahrou, MDEQ, added to Annette's request for target areas for the 319 grants stating that they value the ARC's input. He also said that in regards to the Collaborative PEP and IDEP his door is open if he can assist in streamlining these efforts. He also stated that he has looked at the application for the old permit versus the new permit and agreed that the application is very overwhelming and agrees that organizationally it has problems. He stated that he is open to presentations or meetings on the new permit and that he would like to be part of the solution.

# 9. Summary of Actions of Full Alliance (Chris O'Meara, ARC staff)

- The November 7, 2012 meeting summary was accepted.
- The 2013 Budget Amendment to OC1 was approved.
- The 2013 ECT ED Services Appendix A contract amendment was approved.
- The Ban on Texting While Driving Policy was approved.
- The ARC Strategic Plan was approved.
- The IDEP Training Plan was approved.

# **10.** Upcoming Meeting Schedule (C. O'Meara)

- Organization Committee Meeting, April 23, 1:30 p.m., Farmington Hills
- PIE Meeting, May 23, at 1:30 at Annette's house: 4360 Squirrel Road, Bloomfield Twp. (demonstration of green infrastructure techniques).
- PIE Meeting, July 11, Beverly Hills

#### 11. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Don Rohraff, Livonia, and seconded by Jeff Mueller, Lathrup Village. The motion passed unanimously.

# Alliance of Rouge Communities Attendance List

Meeting Date: 3/08/13

Name		Community	Attended	Initials
		Redford Township		
Appel	Lisa	Cranbrook Institute of Science		
Balint	John	Pontiac		
Ball	Zachare	ECT/Henry Ford Community Colle		
Ballnik	Dan	RRAC Chairperson		
Barnes	Jack	Garden City		
Baumgarten	Matt	Lathrup Village		
Belair	Bob	Canton Township	N.	FUB
Beri	Jim	Melvindale		
Beyer	Lori	Washtenaw County Road Commis		
Borton	Cory	For Birmingham	M	CB
Bradley	Cassie	Friends of the Rouge		
Buford	Kevin	Westland	N K	C.C.B
Buiten	Mike	Wayne		
Casari		Northville Township	<b>X</b> 7	4<
Cave	Kelly	WCDPS		/
Craig	Bill	RRAC	V	WHC
Cravens		Bloomfield Hills		
Cureton	Lloyd	Walled Lake		
Davis	Paul	Rochester Hills		
Dean	Lillian	SOCWA		
DeMaria	Annette	ECT	D	AD
Domine	Wayne	Bloomfield Township		
Drabczyk	Laura	University of Michigan-Dearborn		
El-Gharib	Ramzi	Wayne		
Eudy		Farmington		00
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Meeting Date: 3/28/13

		Meeting Date.		
Name		Community	Attended	Initials
Faas	Tim	Canton Township		
Fellrath	Patrick	Plymouth Township		DOF
Fortura	Rocco	Oak Park		
Gallogly	James	Northville	$\times$ $\mathscr{G}$	P.L.
Garrison	Jacy 	Oakland County		
Gigliotti	Allen	Henry Ford Community College	$\times$	TAG.
Gruzwalski	Laura	Bloomfield Hills		
Gruzwalski	Laura	Village of Beverly Hills	H	Ing
Gruzwalski	Laura	Birmingham		
Gruzwalski	Laura	Troy		
Hagaman	Kathryn	Bingham Farms		KAH
Hanna	Karen	Friends of the Rouge		
Howell	Michael	Wixom	$\bowtie$	
James	Jay	Commerce Township		
Keenan	Shawn	Auburn Hills	M S	
Ketai	Don	Bingham Farms		
Kramarz	Kristina	Dearborn Heights		
Macdonald	Tom	Van Buren Twp.		
Marshall	Ellen	SOCWA		
McCallum	Gerry	Orchard Lake Village		
McClary	Darwin	Garden City		
McCusker	Benny	Westland		
McGill	Lisa	Walled Lake		
Mekjian	Gary	Farmington Hills		
Melchert	Ron	Auburn Hills		
Meszler	Tom	Village of Beverly Hills		1
Mondora	Karen	Farmington Hills		KM
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Meeting Date: 3/28//3

Name		Community	Attended	Initials
Moore	Roger	Rochester Hills		1niiais 14
	Roger		-	- <u>JM</u>
Mueller 	Jeff	Lathrup Village	- 14	-311/
Mullett 	Noel	WCDPS		7010
Murray — — — — — —	Jim	Dearborn	_1/2	-( <del> </del>
Nash 	Jim 	Oakland County		
Nowicki	Anthony	Wixom		
Olsztyn	Olivia	Bloomfield Township		
O'Meara	Paul	Birmingham		
Ostling	Eric	Orchard Lake Village		
Paletko		Dearborn Heights		
Petrella	Sally	FOTR		
	Evan	Washtenaw County Water Resour		
 Putala	Vicki	Farmington		
Puuri	Steve	Washtenaw County Road Commis		
Radtke	Jana	Plymouth Township		
Rice	Heather	Washtenaw County Water Resour		ARD)
Ridgway	Jim	ECT		
Rohraff	Don	Livonia	Ø	DR
Ross	Cyndi	FOTR		
Scappaticci	Roberto	Romulus		
Schultz	Leigh	Southfield		
Selmi	John	Redford Township	X	9
Shermetaro	Gary	Oak Park		
Siedlaczek	Brandy	Southfield		BS
Sincock	Paul	Plymouth		
Smrtka	Barb	Farmington Hills		
Snapp	Robert	Cranbrook		

Meeting Date: 3/28//3

Name		Community	Attended	Initials
St. Henry	Paul	Livonia		
Staup	Aaron	Novi		
Striz	Stacy	Melvindale		
Sullivan	Amy	Village of Franklin	$\Sigma$	as
Sullivan	Patrick	Northville		
Taylor	Jim	Van Buren Twp.	Image: section of the later and the later an	A
Tuomari	Dean	WCDPS		
Vandette	Steven	Troy		
Wagoner	Bryan	Wayne County Airport Authority		
Wayne	Adam	Novi	$\overline{\mathbb{X}}$	AW
Wilson	Tom	Romulus		
Wineka	Jim	Oakland County	V	Jans
Witte	Eric	Dearborn		
Zoner	Tom	Commerce Township		

Meeting Date: 3/28//3

Name	Community	Attended	Initials
SIM GRECO	LEURY FORD CC	_ 7	
DAN Brocks WA	ADETRIM Dearbo	chi c	<u> </u>
Brad Knight  Andrew Buhrou  JUSTIN SAARINEN	RCOC MI-DEQ UM-D		BK AB her ou
C'harles Markus	_ Bloomfield Twy		401710
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