

James W. Ridgway, P.E.
Executive Director



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 Community 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

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES
May 13, 2015, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farms

1. Welcome (Brandy Siedlaczek, Chair)

a. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum - Roll call was taken. The 21 members listed below were in attendance, which was sufficient for a quorum.

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

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 10, 2014 Meeting Summary

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to approve the November 10, 2014 meeting summary. It was seconded by Charles Markus, Bloomfield Twp., 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. Executive Director Report

a. Grant Status Report

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

ONGOING GRANTS

NOAA Habitat Restoration Grant – Oxbow Phase III Design

Grant is complete. The MDEQ permit was received and the final report developed and submitted.

Emerald Ash Borer U.S. Forestry/GLRI 2011

Complete, final report accepted.

2014 Area of Concern/Public Advisory Committee Grant

ARC staff and Wayne County staff are in the final stages of completing a list of projects needed to remove the Habitat Beneficial Use Impairments. Currently, there are 20 projects totaling \$20 Million. A few more projects will be added. Project descriptions need to be submitted by May 29th for potential inclusion on the list. Once finalized, the list and descriptions will be provided to MDEQ and EPA to aid with prioritizing funding in the Great Lakes.

HOW Federal Grant Writing (Freshwater Futures)

Grant is complete. ARC needs to notify HOW on the outcome of the NOAA Oxbow grant submitted when notified.

FOTR-ARC Merger Investigation

FOTR was awarded a grant from the Erb Family Foundation in the amount of \$110,000 to explore merging with the ARC. This award was \$35,000 less than the request. The ARC is a partner on this project and is receiving \$23,560 from the grant. The goal of this exploratory action is to determine and implement the necessary steps to either a) merge FOTR and ARC into a new nonprofit organization or b) merge services in a manner that will serve both the local municipalities and watershed residents on the matters of storm water permit compliance, watershed restoration, environmental education, and public outreach. A Reorganization Investigation Committee (RIC) was formed by members of the ARC and FOTR and three meetings have taken place.

Collaborative Invasive Species Control in Rouge and Detroit River AOC

Wayne County was awarded an EPA for a grant in the amount of \$634,736 to establish and begin implementing an effective management program to address invasive species in the Rouge River and Detroit River Areas of Concern. Containment, eradication, control and mitigation will occur at priority locations. Multi-species assessment and mapping of invasive species will be performed, prioritization tools and criteria used and action taken to control invasive species. Wayne County is currently developing the QAPP and IAAs with the ARC and other partners.

OUTSTANDING GRANT APPLICATIONS

SAW Grant: Monitoring and Stormwater Management Planning

The ARC is on track to receive SAW funding in October 2015. The grant totaled \$1,741,667 plus \$358,333 in match. About 27% of the match has already been earned or is in the 2014 budget. The grant covers collaborative plan development and ecosystem monitoring to support to reapplication of the MS4 permits. More specifically, the grant covers:

- Development of a collaborative Public participation plan,
- Development of a collaborative Public education plan,
- Development and implementation of a public attitudes survey,
- Development of a collaborative illicit discharge elimination plan,
- Community specific ordinance review for compliance with the IDEP Ordinance requirements,
- Development of a collaborative total maximum daily load plan,
- Ecosystem monitoring including water quality (dissolved oxygen, E. coli, phosphorus and sediment), macroinvertebrates, and flow,
- Site-specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) development for municipal facilities that impact stormwater quality, and
- Development of a stormwater funding framework in collaboration with the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds.

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

The ARC submitted a design grant to NOAA in February 2015 and anticipates hearing on potential funding in June 2015.

NOAA GLRI Habitat Restoration: Oxbow Implementation

The ARC submitted a construction grant to NOAA in February 2015 and anticipates hearing on potential funding in June 2015. This project would implement the designs developed under the NOAA design grant.

US Forestry Service 2014 Tree Grant

The ARC received award of a \$100,000 grant from the US Forestry Service to purchase and plant an estimated 680 trees. No match is required. ARC Staff are in the process of starrup the grant with IAA for interested communities. The following eleven (11) members expressed interest in participating in this grant (no specific trees numbers designated): Wayne County, Bingham Farms, Bloomfield Twp., Canton, Farmington Hills, Inkster, Livonia, Oak Park, Plymouth, Plymouth Twp., and Southfield. ARC staff will email members to verify that there are no other communities interested in participating in the grant.

OTHER GRANTS WITH ARC INVOLVEMENT, BUT LEAD BY OTHERS

Collaborative GI Retrofits in the Watershed

Wayne County was not awarded this grant to construct green infrastructure best management practices at over 60 project sites within the Rouge River watershed.

b. USFS 2014 Grant Administration Process

John O'Meara reviewed the process developed for the second forest service grant that the ARC received. 15 members expressed interest in receiving trees through the grant. If other communities would like trees, they need to inform ARC staff by June 5, 2015. Communities will be polled as to how many trees they would like. ARC staff will attempt to fill all requests, otherwise, the 680 trees will be divided amongst the communities showing interest.

The process for this Tree Grant will be as follows:

- The ARC member will enter into IAA with ARC for a specified number of trees.
- Trees selected should be native to the Michigan region. A list of the communities' selected tree types shall be submitted to ARC staff for approval prior to purchase.
- Trees are to be 1.5-2.5" caliper for native deciduous trees and 6'-8' B&B tall for Evergreens
- Trees must have at least a one year warranty.
- A community will be reimbursed for each tree at \$125/tree. Example: total community trees 10 x \$125= \$1,250 reimbursed.
- Trees can be purchased and installed on ARC Member's own schedule.
- The ARC member will select, order, plant, and care the trees. Community will also be required to locate trees, provide a GIS map of tree locations and provide a short one page summary of their tree "project" to the ARC. The summary shall include the total number and type of trees actually planted. Community can either use their own contactor or contract for the services.
- All member work needs to be completed no later than June 30, 2016.
- The ARC member will be reimbursed by the ARC 50% of their contract amount upon delivery of trees and the remaining amount upon the ARC's confirmation of the tree installations based on the provided map.
- ARC staff will spot check maps, provide grant coordination, and prepare the final report to the US Forestry Service.

The process is simple, straight forward and will eliminate the confusion that developed under the last tree grant. Members will sign up for a certain amount of trees, know how much money they will get, handle the work themselves (hopefully with their existing nursery contractors), turn in a map/one page summary and be done.

c. Status of the FOTR/ARC Merger Investigation

Jim Ridgway, ARC Staff, gave a brief overview of the progress of the merger investigations. He stated that ARC members have expressed that permit activities are a very important aspect if a new organization is considered. The merger group is looking at a new business model along with what the new board would look like. The merger investigation will be looking for substantial input by members as it moves forward. He stated that the group would come to the ARC asking for direction by the end of 2015.

d. MS4 Permit and SAW Grant Funding

Jim Ridgway, ARC Staff, reviewed some of the ongoing activities in regards to the MS4 Permit. He stated that recently the judge asked that the MDEQ "work something out" and that the MDEQ reluctantly agreed. He anticipates that discussions, including the

participation by Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office and other members, may continue with the contested case. Some communities continue to argue that the permit violates the Headlee Amendment and that you can't raise taxes without a vote. Some communities contend that Headlee takes precedent over a state mandated order or a federal requirement. Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, requested that members let her know if your community was planning to continue the contested case or not.

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

a. 2015 Member Dues

Bob Belair, Treasurer, reported that the all ARC dues invoices have been sent out and we are receiving payments from members.

b. A/R and A/P Reports

Bob Belair, Treasurer, reviewed the accounts receivable and accounts payables reports.

c. 2015 Budget Amendments

FC1 - FOTR/ARC Merger

Annette DeMaria reviewed the budget amendment FC1 which adds \$23,560 in grant funds which Friends of the Rouge received from the ERB Family Foundation and Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan to investigate the reorganization of FOTR and the ARC. ARC officers and staff will participate in meetings and assist FOTR in the recommendation and approval for or against merging services based on mission alignment and the results of facilitated process. A merger committee will work with a third-party consultant to explore the options via facilitated meetings over the course of approximately six months. If merger is approved, this outcome will also include identification of programs, organizational structure (i.e. board and staff), staffing needs of new organization, and funding sources.

FC2 – SAW Grant (Pending Grant Award)

Annette DeMaria reviewed amendment FC2. The ARC is expected to receive a SAW grant in late 2015 to support development of member stormwater permit applications, as well as conduct ecosystem monitoring and develop a framework to finance stormwater projects at the local level. Twenty-nine ARC members need to reapply for stormwater permit coverage by April 1, 2016. An additional nine members have already applied for permit coverage because their primary watershed is outside of the Rouge River. Given the time it will take to complete the permit applications, the ED proposes to begin development of ARC members' stormwater permit applications in May 2015. Given that the ARC is not yet in contract with MDEQ, this work will be done by the responsible parties (ECT, Wayne County and FOTR) at the risk of non-payment if the grant funding does not come to fruition.

The ecosystem monitoring and financing framework tasks will also assist members with permit compliance. The monitoring data will be used to 1) direct IDEP efforts, and 2) demonstrate effectiveness of permit activities. The financing task will set up communities so they can pursue a stormwater utility to funding permit-required activities.

Annette informed the ARC that Tasks 1-4 will be started now and Tasks 5-6 will be done next year.

FC3 – Wayne County GL Invasive Species Collaboration

John O’Meara, ARC Staff, informed the Full ARC that Wayne County received an EPA GLRI Grant for invasive species control. The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) was a partner entity in the grant application. The ARC will participate as a member of a Project Coordination Committee (PCC) with a total award of \$20,165. The ARC will review and provide comment and/or content as required. The ARC will provide the training materials, based on guidance from the PCC, for training of SCA student workers, volunteers, and local community staff this effort. ARC staff will hold two training sessions in the field to orient volunteers and SCA personnel on how to identify the invasive species. The ARC will be responsible for reporting project activities on a quarterly basis to Wayne County for inclusion in Wayne County’s Great Lake Accountability System (GLAS) reporting. Through the ARC’s public education and technical committees information regarding project status as well as ISC information disseminated to ARC members and made available to the general public. The ARC will assist Wayne County with the content for the webpages and presenting the project outcomes to the Public Education Committee and the Full ARC membership.

The motion was made by Kathryn Hagaman, Bingham Farms, to approve the 2015 budget amendments FC1, FC2 as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, and passed unanimously.

d. 2013 ECT Contract Amendment

Bob Belair, Treasurer, reviewed the ECT Contract Amendments that would add Appendix H - FOTR/ARC Merger (total compensation is \$23,560), Appendix G - SAW Grant (total compensation is \$1,043,739) upon grant award and Appendix I - Wayne County Great Lakes Invasive Species Collaboration (total compensation is \$20,165) projects to the contract.

The motion was made by Tim Faas, Canton Twp., to approve the 2013 ECT Contract Amendments adding Appendix G, Appendix H and Appendix I as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Gary Mekjian, Farmington Hills, and passed unanimously.

e. ECT Contract Rates

John O’Meara reviewed the proposed rate revisions to ECT’s 2013 Contract for future work (i.e. work not currently under existing Contract). ECT proposes to replace the current cost plus fixed fee contract with a standard rate schedule (unless a specific future fiduciary requires a cost plus fixed fee). The basis for the request are: 1) the federally funded Rouge Project no longer provides funding for the ARC and therefore the (costly) requirements are no longer required, and; 2) ECT’s overhead rate used in the existing contract is over 10 years old, and; 3) a rate schedule is simpler and is used in the vast majority of our industrial and municipal clients.

The motion was made by Charles Markus, Bloomfield Twp., to approve the revised ECT 2013 contract rates as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Gary Mekjian, Farmington Hills, and passed unanimously.

f. 2016 Budget Preparation Schedule

Bob Belair, Treasurer, reviewed the 2016 Budget Preparation Schedule and informed the members that the Finance Committee expects to receive the 2016 Budget Recommendations in early September.

4. Standing Committee Reports

a. Organization Committee (Kelly Cave, Chair)

Noel Mullett, Wayne County, reported on behalf of Kelly Cave that the Organization Committee has not met in 2015.

b. PIE Committee

Charles Markus, PIE Committee Chair, reported that the PIE committee has not met in 2015 but anticipate working with FOTR on upcoming workshops and surveying members on some new public education pieces before the end of the year.

c. Technical Committee (Karen Mondora, Chair)

Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, reported that the Technical Committee is working with some members to address concerns with the MS4 permit, specifically item 7-mapping, 10-discharge point 5-year sampling, 18-IDEP, 36-post construction runoff, 87 & 88-TMDLs and 59-BMP tracking. Heather Rice, Washtenaw County, added item 36-infiltration. The possibility of having to renegotiate every time was discussed and that fact that they could be decided on a case-by-case basis.

5. Report from Cooperating Partners

Friends of the Rouge

Aimee LaLonde-Norman, FOTR, informed the Full ARC that Rouge Rescue is scheduled for May 30. The Winter Stonefly Search was held on Valentine's Day and was attended by 80 volunteers. The Spring Bug Hunt was held in April with 130 volunteers. Upcoming fundraisers include a kayak raffle and the Rouge Brew Cruise.

Rouge River Advisory Council

Bill Craig stated that the RRAC continues to work on the habitat project list for the Rouge River AOC. This includes projects that can be accomplished and are feasible within the Rouge Watershed. He said the main channel of the Rouge will take many years to improve, however the lower old channel by Zugg Island is showing that progress is being made. EPA is very dedicated to this areas and once this is improved then they can focus on the main channel.

6. Report from Counties

Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw had no items to add.

7. Opportunity for Public Comment

Andrew Bahrou, MDEQ, encouraged members to become part of the MS4 implementation team committee where they can use this forum to address some of your concerns. He also offered to meet individually with the ARC to discuss their specific concerns. He encourage communities to prioritize their efforts and to focus on what is most important to each community. He also stated that he is available to assist with planning the SAW activities.

Tim Faas, Canton, added that they will be hosting a meeting on June 4 regarding the permit and to contact his office if you would like to attend.

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

- The November 10, 2014 meeting summary was approved.
- The 2015 Budget Amendment adding the FOTR/ARC Merger, SAW Grant and the Wayne County GL Invasive species Collaboration was approved.
- The 2013 ECT ED Services Contract Amendment to add the FOTR/ARC Merger, SAW Grant and the Wayne County GL Invasive species Collaboration was approved.
- The 2015 ECT Contract rates were approved.

9. Upcoming Meeting Schedule (C. O’Meara)

None scheduled at this time.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Adjourn

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tim Faas, Canton, and passed unanimously.