

James W. Ridgway, P.E.
Executive Director



Working together, restoring the river

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES
August 26, 2015, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
U of M – Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center

- 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

1. Welcome (Jill Rickard, Vice-Chair)

a. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum - Roll call was taken. The 23 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	N	Oak Park	N
Birmingham	Y	Orchard Lake	Y
Bloomfield Hills	N	Plymouth	N
Bloomfield Twp.	Y	Plymouth Twp.	Y
Canton Twp.	Y	Redford Twp.	N
Commerce Twp.	Y	Rochester Hills	N
Dearborn Heights	Y	Romulus	N
Farmington	Y	Southfield	N
Farmington Hills	Y	Troy	N
Franklin	Y	University of Michigan-Dearborn	y
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	Y
Northville Twp.	Y	Wixom	N

b. Introduction of ARC guests

Jill Rickard, Vice-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 May 13, 2015 Meeting Summary

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to approve the May 13, 2015 meeting summary. It was seconded by Jacy Garrison, 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

e. Fishing the Rouge River Signs

Michelle Bruneau, Project Manager & Health Educator at the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services gave a brief overview of the Fishing the Rouge River signs that are available to ARC member communities for free.

2. Executive Director Report

a. Status of the FOTR/ARC Merger Investigation

Annette DeMaria gave a summary of the FOTR/ARC Merger Investigation. This was only a progress report and presented the best alternatives after brainstorming. The merger committee asked for input and guidance from the Full ARC. The organizational options included two parallel nonprofits with shared Executive Director or a new merged organization. A new merged organization (like a watershed council) would allow for the cost associated with the Collaborative Plans, allow for up to 1,000 additional hours for MS4 services but still be consistent with current ARC dues. A new merged organization would allow for more full time employees, less administrative costs and more programming budget. It would have access to a volunteer network, access to private donors and business money, have governance via serving on the board and a greater benefit to the watershed. The scope of a new merged organization includes monitoring, 95% of public education efforts, 80-95% of IDEP efforts, assistance with biannual reports and regional collaboration. There was concern by some communities that it would be difficult to convince their councils to approve the dues to a new nonprofit organization without being able to direct it like the ARC. ARC Staff did say that in talking to some other watershed councils they develop a contract with their municipality members that details the services that they will be receiving from the watershed council.

b. Grant Status Report

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

ONGOING GRANTS

2014 Area of Concern/Public Advisory Committee Grant

This grant is complete. The primary outputs are the Draft Habitat Project List (which is on the RRAC website) and the Frog and Toad Assessment Report.

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. The ARC signed an IAA with Wayne County and returned it to them for finalizing.

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 have worked with the communities to establish the number of trees with each interested member. IAAs have been sent to each ARC member that was interested for finalization. Communities will complete their tree work by June 2016 and the ARC will finalize the grant reporting next summer.

OUTSTANDING GRANT APPLICATIONS

SAW Grant: Monitoring and Stormwater Management Planning

The ARC anticipates receiving SAW funding in October 2015. The grant totaled \$1,741,667 plus \$358,333 in match. It is anticipated that some of the match has already been earned or is in the 2014 budget. The grant covers development of member MS4 permit applications, monitoring, and stormwater funding planning efforts. ARC Staff has met with two communities and began development of their applications.

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

The ARC submitted a design grant to NOAA in February 2015. NOAA has informed the ARC that they will receive funding for this project. ARC is working with NOAA on the agreement at this time. Work is anticipated to begin this September. J. O'Meara gave a presentation on the details and history of this project.

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 will not be funded by NOAA this funding cycle. NOAA funds were cut in half by EPA this year so less money to droll out. ARC will reapply during the next cycle in February.

2015 Rouge River Public Advisory Council (RRAC) Support

The ARC submitted an application to the Great Lakes Commission to continue facilitation of the RRAC. The requested budget was \$16,545 for 12 months with no match. The decision has been delayed due to funding delays.

c. MS4 Permit Update

Jim Ridgway talked about the discussions related to detention ponds and the release rate on redevelopments and developments. Annette DeMaria reported that ARC staff have started doing the initial permit work which will be covered under the SAW funding which includes permit application items 1-87. ARC Staff have talked to several communities and will be contacting the rest to meet with them to discuss their processes. A. DeMaria stated that drafting and adopting the post construction control requirements will not be done by the ARC. The communities are responsible for this part of the permit application however, ARC staff will provide example ordinances from within the region and nationally.

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

a. 2015 Membership Dues

Bob Belair reported that all dues invoices have been sent and we continue to receive checks.

b. A/R and A/P Reports

Bob Belair reviewed the accounts receivable and accounts payables reports.

c. 2015 Budget Amendment

FC4 – NOAA3 Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Design (Pending Grant Award)

John O’Meara reviewed the FC4 Amendment. He stated that it is anticipated to be awarded and work started before the next meeting and this is why it is being added now instead of waiting for the final award. This will only be added once ARC Staff receives the final award documentation. The ARC applied for a NOAA grant for design of the Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration in February 2015. NOAA has notified the ARC that it has been selected to receive funding for this work. NOAA has all of the grant documentation ready to send to the ARC for finalization once EPA has provided NOAA with their current year allocation of GLRI Funds. The total compensation for this scope of services is \$350,000. The ARC will be reimbursed by NOAA for 100% of this cost with no match requirement. The design, once implemented, would positively impact 50 main and 108 tributary river miles for fish migration to the Great Lakes system for the first time in over a century. This amendment adds the NOAA Rouge River AOC - Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage and Habitat (total award is \$350,000) budget line to the 2015 ARC Budget with funding anticipated for 2015 activities in the amount of \$75,000. The remaining amount of \$275,000 will be budgeted in the 2016 budget.

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to approve the 2015 Budget Amendment adding the NOAA3 Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Design upon grant award as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Wayne Domine, Bloomfield Twp. and passed unanimously.

d. 2013 ECT Contract Amendment

Appendix J-NOAA3

Bob Belair reviewed the ECT contract amendment adding Appendix J – NOAA3 HFE Dam Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Design. John O’Meara, ARC Staff, reviewed the ECT contract amendment to the scope of services for the Executive Director Services Contract adding Appendix J which upon award increases the contract amount by \$285,000 for the NOAA grant the ARC is expected to receive for the Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Design project.

The motion was made by Wayne Domine, Bloomfield Twp., to recommend to approve the 2013 ECT Contract Amendment adding Appendix J, NOAA3 Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Design upon grant award, as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, and passed unanimously. The process that the ARC follows for procurement was discussed. ARC Staff informed the group that both NOAA and EPA have approved the procurement process that the ARC uses.

2013 ECT Contract Extension

Bob Belair reviewed the contract extension request by ECT which extends the 2013 contract to December 31, 2016, and allow for the potential of two additional one-year extensions as stated in ECT’s current contract with the ARC.

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to approve the 2013 ECT Contract Extension. The motion was seconded by Tim Faas, Canton, and passed unanimously.

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 and has nothing to report.

b. **PIE Committee**

Chris O'Meara reported on behalf of Charles Markus, PIE Committee Chair, that the PIE committee has not met in 2015 but anticipates 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 informed the group that the ARC continues its IDEP activities. The IAA with Wayne County has been signed and they are looking at hot spots that need further investigation. We are still waiting on the IAA from Oakland County.

5. **Report from Cooperating Partners**

Friends of the Rouge

Aimee LaLonde-Norman, FOTR, informed the Full ARC about the upcoming workshop for riparian land owner workshops in September and October which is jointly sponsored by the ARC and FOTR. Upcoming FOTR events include Kayak and Canoe trips and the Fall Bug Hunt on October 17.

Aimee LaLonde-Norman informed the ARC that FOTR has partnered with Keep Growing Detroit and the Sierra Club to install 45 rain gardens over the next three years in the City of Detroit. This 3-year project, Rain Gardens to the Rescue, is funded by the Erb Family Foundation. She also informed the ARC that they are a sub-grantee involved with Wayne County's GLRI invasive species project. FOTR's responsibilities include coordinating with the Student Conservation Association, organizing invasive species removal projects, training, and tracking volunteer time. GLRI project funds will also support Rouge Rescue efforts that target invasive species removal over the next couple of years. FOTR has also been awarded a NPS grant through MDEQ for rain garden education and installation in Johnson and Tonquish creeks. They expect to finalize a contract with MDEQ and work to begin in the fall.

Rouge River Advisory Council

Bill Craig stated that the RRAC had nothing new to report.

SEMCOG

Devan Rostarfer report that SEMCOG will be hosting GI/Target setting workshops which include rewriting codes to work with green infrastructure. There will also be a tour of several green infrastructure projects.

6. **Report from Counties**

Jacy Garrison, Oakland County, reported that they will be hosting the 3rd annual stormwater conference on October 9.

Heather Rice, Washtenaw County, reported that the IDEP training is full and they are taking names for a wait list.

Wayne County had nothing to report.

7. Report from MDEQ

Andrew Bahrou, MDEQ, gave an introduction to the MiWaters website and reviewed what can be reported using the online application.

The question was asked, do the post construction requirements apply to combined sewers? Andrew Bahrou stated that no, they have different requirements. Andrew Bahrou gave the City of Detroit as an example of a city investing in green infrastructure and that a large portion of the city is not under a combined sewer. DWSD has developed post construction standards. Jim Ridgway stated that communities are curious as to what will be required for CSOs.

Andrew Bahrou offered to provide a permit application training workshop and could host a training in the winter or spring with small groups or one-on-one. He informed the group that a future workshop is being scheduled possibly at SEMCOG, a community or hotel and would be a half day measure-by-measure review.

8. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

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

- The May 13, 2015 meeting summary was approved.
- The 2015 Budget Amendment adding the NOAA3 Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Design was approved.
- The 2013 ECT ED Services Contract Amendment to add the NOAA3 was approved.
- The ECT request to extend the 2013 ECT Contract to December 31, 2016 was approved.

10. Other Business

Chris O'Meara reported that the next Full ARC meeting has been scheduled for November 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center located at 4135 Washtenaw Avenue in Ann Arbor.

11. Adjourn

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Wayne Domine, Bloomfield Township, and passed unanimously.