



Working together, restoring the river

DRAFT MEETING NOTES
ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES
March 1, 2007
Ford Community & Performing Arts Center
Studio A, 15801 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, Michigan

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

1. Welcome – Kurt Giberson, ARC Chair

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

The following were in attendance:

Auburn Hills	Beverly Hill	Bingham Farms	Birmingham
Bloomfield Twp.	Canton Twp.	Dearborn	Farmington
Farmington Hills	Garden City	Lathrup Village	Livonia
Melvindale	Northville Twp.	Oakland County	Plymouth Twp.
Rochester Hills	Romulus	Southfield	Troy
Van Buren Twp.	Walled Lake	Wayne	Wayne County

The following were not in attendance:

Allen Park	Bloomfield Hills	Commerce Twp.	Dearborn Hgts.
Franklin	Inkster	Northville	Novi
Oak Park	Orchard Lake	Plymouth	Pontiac
Redford Twp.	Superior Twp.	Washtenaw County	WCAA
W. Bloomfield Twp.	Westland	Wixom	Ypsilanti Twp.

- b. **Approval of December 6, 2006 Meeting Minutes.** - A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes, it was seconded, and passed unanimously.
- c. **Additions or changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda.** – ARC Chair Kurt Giberson presented to Jack Bails a Resolution of Appreciation and Service to the ARC. Jack Bails was recognized for all of his ongoing support and facilitation to the ARC, including all of his assistance in helping form the ARC. Kurt also recognized Colleen Hughes for all of her support to the group too. A motion was made to support the Resolution of Appreciation, seconded by Jim Anulewicz and passed unanimously.
- d. **Chair’s Report.** – Presentation by SEMCOG at the January 25, Executive Committee meeting. Kurt Giberson summarized Chuck Hersey’s discussion at the Executive Committee meeting regarding the Bolt Decision. Proposed legislation is being formulated that provides a mechanism by which cities can create a storm water fee and property owners may receive credit against the fee based on beneficial storm water practices.

2. Treasurer’s/Finance Committee Report (Tim Faas)

- a. **Status of Alliance 2006 Invoice Payments** – All members have paid their 2006 dues and Wayne County will soon send out invoices for 2007 dues.

- b. **2006 Budget/Expenditures Status Report** – Treasurer Faas reported that there were still a few outstanding expenditures from 2006, but projected that the ARC would come in under budget with approximately \$56,000 remaining.
- c. **2007 Budget Amendment Requests** – Treasurer Faas proposed some ED budget amendments across the different tasks without an increase in the overall budget. A motion was made by Romulus and seconded by Livonia to approve the proposed 2007 budget amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Executive Director Services Committee Report (Dan Swallow)

Mr. Swallow recognized the committee of Tom Biasell, Tim Faas, Wayne Domine, Kurt Giberson & Gary Mekjian for completing the task of selecting an Executive Director. Proposals were received by HRC with Bill Stone as the Executive Director, ECT with Jim Ridgway as the Executive Director, OHM with Jim Murray as the Executive Director and Kelly Cave with support from ECT.

The committee initially recommended awarding the project to Kelly Cave with ECT's support. Kelly's experience and knowledge with Rouge Watershed issues and her demonstrated leadership skills with Wayne County and the ARC clearly made her the optimal choice as the Executive Director. However, Wayne County provided her with opportunities for her career that included additional responsibilities and challenges within the County and she elected to stay with Wayne County. She will still have an active leadership role within the ARC through Wayne County. Thus, the committee then made an ultimate recommendation to hire ECT with Jim Ridgway as the Executive Director. On January 25, 2007 the Executive Committee approved the recommendation. Chair Giberson pointed out that although the Bylaws indicate that the Executive Committee will appoint the Executive Director it is important to get concurrence from the full ARC and solicited discussion on the topic. Lathrup Village moved to endorse the selection of Jim Ridgway and ECT as the Executive Director, Melvindale supported the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Giberson asked Jim Ridgway if he'd like to say a few words. Mr. Ridgway expressed enthusiasm in serving this organization stating that he will make himself available to the membership at any time and that he was thrilled to be a part of the ARC as a model for regional cooperation.

4. Rouge Program Office Report (Kelly Cave)

- a. **Round VIII Sub-Grant Program** – Kelly Cave presented a memo summarizing another round of subgrants, reporting that \$300,000 has been set aside to support 2008 ARC activities. The remainder of approximately \$2 million will be split into two additional grant rounds: 8a for CSO/SSO projects and 8b for Storm Water and Watershed Management projects. Ms. Cave asked if the Technical Committee would once again review the Request for Proposals (RFP). Technical Committee. Vice Chair Gary Zorza indicated that the Committee would conduct the review. Wayne County will e-mail Mr. Zorza the draft RFP for input by the Technical Committee. Comments will be due to Ms. Cave by Friday March 9, 2007. Ms. Cave reminded the ARC of the grant eligibility policy approved by the ARC stating that in order to receive grant funds, a community must be an ARC member. Chair Giberson asked for clarification as to whether the ARC would be eligible as an applicant and Ms. Cave said there was no reason why the ARC wasn't eligible.
- b. **SWPPI Permit Update** – In 2006, the Technical and PIE committees developed templates of the IDEP/PEP/SWPPI and coordinated review with the MDEQ. SWPPIs were technically approved by the MDEQ; however, revisions are due by November 2007 consistent with the annual report date. The MDEQ has indicated that they would like to offer individual meetings with each community.

SEMCOG and MDEQ have had meetings regarding the ongoing Phase II permit revision and the process. Amy Mangus indicated that they are willing to host a meeting to share information about the permit revisions and get input to provide back to MDEQ. The permit is likely to be more prescriptive and the MDEQ is disappointed at the level of commitment across the state. If you are interested in participating in the committee with SEMCOG, please email Amy Mangus.

Hae-Jin Yoon from the MDEQ indicated that TMDLs may be incorporated into the new Phase II permit.

Gary Zorza attended the Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) recent meeting in which Dave Drullinger indicated that the MDEQ will offer flexibility to those with the watershed permits. The Technical Committee did receive positive comments on the draft report that compares IDEP implementation alternatives.

The Phase II permit period begins April 1, 2008. Communities are required to re-apply by October 1, 2007. The MDEQ indicated that there will be a mechanism in place to work with the MDEQ if the draft permit is not yet available for review by October 1, 2007.

Overall, comments were more supportive of having the Executive Director with the Executive Committee work with the MDEQ as opposed to the MDEQ meeting with each individual community.

5. Standing Committee Reports

a. Organization Committee (Heise/Payne – Co-Chairs)

- i. **New Organizational Committee Members (Jim Anulewicz, Tom Biasell and Dan Swallow)** – A motion was made by Auburn Hills and seconded by Livonia to approve the new members to the Organizational Committee. The motion passed unanimously.
- ii. **ARC Assessments to County Members:** Oakland County asked whether the Organizational Committee had yet met to discuss how assessments to the counties might be determined in the future. Mr. Heise reported that the Organizational Committee had not yet met and is waiting for a proposal from Oakland County as requested at a previous Executive Committee meeting. Oakland County suggested the Executive Committee give a deadline for receipt of the proposal.

b. Public Involvement and Education Committee (PIE) (Chair Jennifer Lawson, Troy)

Progress Report – Chair Lawson reported the committee's last meeting was in January and Kevin Buford is no longer the Vice Chair. There are four upcoming OSDS (Septic System) workshops in March. 3/8 in Livonia; 3/15 in Van Buren Township; 3/22 Farmington Hills; and 3/29 Bloomfield Township.

c. Technical Committee (Vice Chair, Gary Zorza, Farmington Hills)

Progress Report - Vice Chair Zorza reported that members of the Technical Committee were invited to a SWPPI permit revision planning meeting being held by the MDEQ to review findings of the work the Technical Committee completed that compared alternative IDEP approaches. Mr. Zorza and representatives of the Technical Committee met with the MDEQ and presented a summary of the report that stressed the importance of flexibility with the IDEP program particularly for watershed-based permits.

6. Opportunity for Public Comment (Giberson)

- a. Kathy Milberg (FOTR) introduced herself as the new Executive Director of Friends of the Rouge. She mentioned the upcoming FOTR Roast of Tim O'Brien of Ford Motor Company scheduled on 4/18/07.

- b. Amy Mangus (SEMCOG) SEMCOG has a Request for Proposals out for development of a statewide Low Impact Development manual. Proposals are due March 14, 2007.
- c. Jim Anulewicz: The first task of the Executive Director should be to evaluate the organization and what are the most important issues. Determine short and long-term goals within a short period of time.
- d. Kelly Cave - It's grant appropriation time and Wayne County has applied for funding for next year. It's important to keep the Rouge project on the list for grant appropriations. Wayne County has also updated its Storm Water Ordinance requirements. A workshop will be held on March 23, 2007 to discuss the changes in the ordinance. A very notable highlight of the improvements in the Rouge River was demonstrated by a trout catch along the Lower Rouge River in western Wayne County.
- e. Shawn Keenan: A Sustainable Stormwater Management Workshop is being held in Troy on April 19, 2007.
- f. Jill Rickard: Jill mentioned that the group should consider using the grant funds to update all the Rouge Watershed Management Plans to meet the EPA Section 319 requirements. This comment will be referred to the Grants Subcommittee.

7. Summary of Actions of Full Alliance (Giberson)

- a. Adoption of December 6, 2006 minutes
- b. Resolution of Appreciation to Jack Bails, ARC Facilitator
- c. Endorsement of ECT and Jim Ridgway as Executive Director
- d. 2007 Budget Amendment approval
- e. Approved 3 new members to the Organizational Committee

8. Upcoming Meeting Schedule (Giberson)

Finance Committee	May 3, 2007	Wayne County DOE	Commerce Court, Wayne	1:30 p.m.
PIE Committee	April 26, 2007	Canton Township	Administration Building	1:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn