



Working together, restoring the river

# ASSEMBLY OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

## Meeting Summary

### General Assembly Meeting

Wednesday, November 17, 2004 from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.  
 Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, Studio A  
 15801 Michigan Ave  
 Dearborn, MI 48126

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

## 1. WELCOME

Mr. Tom Biasell of Farmington Hills, Assembly of Rouge Communities Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Kurt Giberson and Dearborn for hosting the meeting.

### 1A. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum

Mr. Biasell took roll call at the meeting. He asked all attendees to identify themselves and the organization they represented. He noted that prior to the meeting both Farmington and Birmingham indicated they would be unable to attend and they designated consultants to serve in their place.

The following communities were in attendance at the meeting:

Allen Park	Auburn Hills	Beverly Hills	Bingham Farms
Birmingham	Bloomfield Township	Canton Township	Dearborn
Dearborn Heights	Farmington	Farmington Hills	Garden City
Inkster	Lathrup Village	Livonia	Melvindale
Northville	Northville Township	Novi	Oakland County
Redford Township	Rochester Hills	Southfield	Superior Township
Troy	Van Buren Township	Washtenaw County	Wayne
Wayne County	West Bloomfield Twp.	Westland	Ypsilanti Township

The following communities were absent from the meeting.

Bloomfield Hills	Commerce Township	Village of Franklin	City of Plymouth
Pontiac	Romulus	Walled Lake	Wixom

Only Lyon Township has not indicated whether or not they will participate in the Assembly of Rouge Communities.

Mr. Biasell indicated that according to the Memorandum of Agreement a quorum of members must be present to approve items. There were 32 of the 41 eligible communities in attendance at the meeting which was greater than the quorum needed for voting.

### 1B. Approval of September 8, 2004, Assembly Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 8, 2004 Assembly of Rouge Communities meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. There were no modifications to the meeting summary. There was unanimous consensus to approve the minutes.

**1C. Additions or Changes to Draft Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Biasell indicated that an RRAC update would be included as item 5B1 and an update on the PowerPoint presentation for the membership committee would be included as item 5B2.

Washtenaw County made a motion to approve the agenda.

Auburn Hills supported the motion.

The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

**1D. Chair Update of Assembly Activities**

**1D1. MDEQ Contacts**

Mr. Biasell reported the MDEQ contacts for Rouge Watershed communities had been updated. Tricia Huddas is the contact for the Middle 1, Middle 3, Lower 1 and Lower 2 subwatersheds. Christopher Ethridge is the contact for the Upper, Main 1-2, and Main 3-4 subwatersheds.

**1E. Chair Progress Report of ARC Activities: First Eighteen Months**

Mr. Biasell reported on the progress of the ARC. The communities met at the October 2001 retreat to discuss how to continue the restoration of the Rouge River as Federal funding declines. A Drafting Committee was formed and pledged to work together to consider alternatives. In June 2002 a second retreat was held to present the work of the Drafting Committee. The first meeting was held on August 5, 2003 once 20 communities approved conditional membership in the ARC. In the past 18 months the ARC communities have continued to work together to further the watershed restoration goals. Activities have included facilitation of SWAGS, work with Wayne County, representing the membership in discussions with MDEQ, monitoring, public survey, seminar for elected officials, and forming an institutional arrangement. The communities have generated \$300,000 in match in both 2003 and 2004.

Mr. Biasell indicated he felt privileged to work with this group as serve as the first chair of the ARC. He indicated he and Mr. Anulewicz would not be serving as officers in 2005. He thanked the staff support provided by the Rouge Project Office. He offered special thanks to Wayne County for being an advocate and sponsor of the ARC and for supplying matching funds. He thanked all the members of the ARC who worked across community and county lines towards a common goal.

**2. TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**2A. Review of 2003 Income and Expenses**

Mr. Gary Mekjian, Treasurer of the Rouge Assembly, reviewed the report for 2004 income and expenses. All community dues for 2004 have been paid to date. Mr. Mekjian reviewed the 2004 Assembly of Rouge Communities budget status. All items are progressing as expected. Mr. Mekjian thanked the members of the Finance committee, particularly Wayne County, for their support over the last 18 months.

**2B. Questions for the Treasurer/Finance Committee**

There were no questions at this time.

### **3. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **3A. Organization Committee**

The Organization Committee is co-chaired by Kurt Heise, WCDOE, and Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township. Mr. Payne was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Heise gave the Organization Committee report. He thanked Mr. Biasell for his leadership and support during the past 18 months.

#### **3A1. Draft Watershed Alliance Legislation**

The watershed alliance legislation has been sponsored in the Michigan Senate by Bruce Patterson of Canton as Senate Bill 1432. The legislation has broad support from across the state. Senator Patricia Birkholz of Saugatuck was a great help. The first Senate hearing for the bill was held on September 28. On October 6 there was a Senate hearing on the bill with many co-sponsors from both parties and diverse support. On November 3 the Senate unanimously supported bill 1432. On November 10 the bill was approved by the House Committee on Land Use and Environment. The House will reconvene on November 30 and it is hopeful the bill is approved and passed to the Governor for support.

The legislation was promoted to a broad audience at Rouge 2004 in Dearborn on October 15. A Detroit Free Press editorial supporting the legislation was published. The legislation has been endorsed by MDEQ, SEMCOG, and several other groups.

Mr. Heise thanked several people for their support including Kelly Cave, Kelley Cawthorne, Cindy Dingell, and others.

Communities are asked to forward any resolutions of support for the ARC legislation to Amy Ploof at [ploofal@cdm.com](mailto:ploofal@cdm.com).

Mr. Biasell thanked Mr. Arreguin from Governor Granholm's southeast Michigan office for attending the meeting.

#### **3A2. Drafting of Bylaws Re: Passage of Legislation**

The bylaws will distributed for review once a draft has been prepared.

#### **3B. Technical Committee**

The Vice Chair of the Technical Committee, Gary Zorza of Farmington Hills, gave the Technical Committee report.

#### **3B1. IDEP/PEP**

Members of the Technical Committee have been corresponding with MDEQ regarding updates to communities' IDEP and PEPs. Copies of the written correspondence, including a letter to ARC members dated November 12 which summarize a meeting with MDEQ, are included in the meeting packet. Communities are asked to notify Tom Biasell by November 22 if they wish to be included in an ARC letter to MDEQ indicating communities that wish

to have MDEQ review the IDEP and PEP plans as incorporated into their SWPPIs and are unchanged or were revised prior to May 1.

### **3B2. Alternative IDEP Analyses**

Ms. Kelly Cave reported that MDEQ has issued guidance for communities in preparing their Illicit Discharge Elimination plans (IDEP). There are several concerns with the guidance regarding the language on IDEP recommendations versus requirements, responsibility for activities, and acceptable alternatives. The guidance also emphasizes streamwalks, while the experiences of Rouge River Watershed communities have shown alternate methods to be more cost-effective. The Executive Committee assigned reviewing and responding to the guidance and developing an alternative program to the Technical Committee. A sub-committee of the Technical Committee is working to develop an alternative plan using monitoring data to justify not completing a streamwalk every five years. The alternative plan will utilize monitoring data to prioritize efforts with the limited resources available. MDEQ indicated they were willing to accept an alternative.

### **3B3. Other Information Items/Questions**

There were no questions at this time.

### **3C. Public Involvement and Education**

The Chair of the Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Committee, Mr. James Anulewicz, gave the PIE Committee Report. Mr. Anulewicz indicated he is proud to have been part of the process of forming the ARC and it is good to see communities and counties coming together to improve the environment. He complimented Kelly Cave, Kurt Heise, Tom Biasell, and Jack Bails for their work. He also complemented Jennifer Lawson for becoming Vice-Chair of the PIE committee. The 2004 accomplishments of the PIE committee was distributed.

#### **3C1. Status of Joint Public Survey**

Ms. Amy Mangus, SEMCOG, presented the results of the SE Michigan Partners for Clean Water survey. Topics covered by the survey included people's perception and attitude, knowledge, current actions, and their willingness to change. The results in the Rouge River Watershed were consistent with past surveys. The results indicated that residents are concerned with the quality of the river, they use the resource, there are gaps in understanding connections between actions and water quality, and there is a willingness to take action.

#### **3C2. Status of Catalog of Public Information Materials**

The PIE Committee has been compiling a catalog of public information materials. Communities are asked to return their completed public education support materials survey to SEMCOG as soon as possible.

#### **3C4. Other Information Items/Questions**

There were no questions at this time.

### **3D. Finance Committee**

Mr. Gary Mekjian, Treasurer, gave the Finance Committee report.

**3D1. Amendment to 2004 Budget**

Mr. Mekjian presented a proposed amendment to the 2004 budget (See Appendix A) that was approved by the Executive Committee. The adjustments included changes to the monitoring budget and special projects budget. Kelly Cave reported the unexpended dues and matching grant funds were rolled over. Private donations were received for the elected officials event and were matched with grant funds.

Oakland County made a motion to approve the budget amendment.

Dearborn Heights seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**3D3. Amendment to Fiduciary Agreement with Wayne County**

Wayne County prepared amendment #1 to the fiduciary agreement between Wayne County and the ARC. The fiduciary agreement allows Wayne County to match the dues collected by the ARC with federal funds. There were no objections, so the Chair will sign fiduciary agreement amendment.

**4. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**4A. Recommendations**

The members of the nominating committee were Tom Biasell, Jim Anulewicz, Michelle Bononi, Kurt Heise, and Phil Sanzica. Their recommendation was summarized in a letter dated October 13, 2004. Their recommendations for ARC officers are as follows:

Chair: Robert Beckley, Livonia

Vice-Chair: Gary Mekjian of West Bloomfield Township

Treasurer: Kurt Giberson, City of Dearborn

**4B. Open Nominations**

No other nominations were received in advance. No other nominations were offered at the meeting.

**4C. Election of ARC 2005 Officers**

Wayne made a motion to elect Robert Beckley, Livonia as Chair of the ARC.

Wayne County seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Beverly Hills made a motion to elect Gary Mekjian, West Bloomfield Township as Vice-Chair of the ARC.

Washtenaw County seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Melvindale made a motion to elect Kurt Giberson, Dearborn as Treasurer of the ARC.

Auburn Hills seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The change over to the new officers will happen at the next ARC meeting.

## **5. OTHER ISSUES/ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS**

### **5A. WCDOE UPDATE**

Rouge 2004 was a great success with over 200 people in attendance. Congressmen Dingell and Conyers attended the event.

Three positive recent articles on the Rouge from downriver newspapers were distributed.

Grant 6 is closing December 31, 2004. There are still over 40 active projects that need to be completed prior to the due date. WC will not be able to offer extensions.

### **5B1. RRAC UPDATE**

Meghan Bonfiglio gave the RRAC update. An RRAC meeting was held on September 29, 2004. At that meeting the group saw a presentation on the Rouge monitoring program and the PIE Committee was reinstated. The next RRAC meeting is 12/15/2004.

### **5B2. POWERPOINT PRESENTATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

A PowerPoint presentation for elected officials is under development and will be made available for presentation to boards or councils. The presentation will explain the new legislation.

## **6. DETENTION POND MAINTENANCE PRESENTATION**

Mr. Tim Faas presented a detention pond maintenance 101 video for homeowner associations prepared by Canton Township. The video was shown to all in attendance.

## **7. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

Bill Craig, a member of RRAC, indicated he was pleased by the progress of the Assembly of Rouge Communities and thought the Watershed Alliance would assist communities in working towards the goals of the RAP.

## **8. MEETING SCHEDULE**

### **A. TRANSITION MEETING FOR EXISTING AND NEW OFFICERS.**

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A transition meeting for the existing and new officers will be set for December. The committee chairs and other assignments will remain until the first meeting is called by the new officers.

**9. ADJOURN**

Mr. Biasell adjourned the meeting.

*Appendix A*  
**Rouge River Watershed Local Management Assembly**  
**Amendment to 2004 Budget**  
**Approved by Full Assembly: November 17, 2004**

<b>Activity</b>		<b>Approved 2004 Budget</b>	<b>Recommended Adjustment to 2004 Budget</b>	<b>Recommended Amended 2004 Budget</b>
Monitoring	USGS (1)	\$135,000	-\$3,520	\$131,480
	Labs (2)	\$18,000	-\$5,900	\$12,100
	RPO (3)	\$325,000	\$17,886	\$342,886
Subtotal: Monitoring		\$478,000	\$8,466	\$486,466
Public Involvement and Education	RPO	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
	SEMCOG	\$11,000	\$0	\$11,000
	RPO	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
	RPO	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Subtotal: Public Involvement and Education		\$47,500	\$0	\$47,500
Rouge Assembly Staff Support	RPO	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
	RPO	\$5,200	\$0	\$5,200
Subtotal: Rouge Assembly Staff Support		\$80,200	\$0	\$80,200
Subwatershed Support Services	RPO	\$91,000	\$0	\$91,000
Subtotal: Subwatershed Support Services		\$91,000	\$0	\$91,000
Special Projects	Watershed 2004 Reception (4)	\$5,000	-\$5,000	\$0
	Seminar for Elected Officials (5)	\$10,000	-\$7,114	\$2,886
Subtotal: Special Projects		\$15,000	-\$12,114	\$2,886
Total of All Budgeted Items		\$711,700	-\$3,648	\$708,052
Contingency (6)		\$157,554	\$5,970	\$163,524
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$869,254</b>	<b>\$2,322</b>	<b>\$871,576</b>

Rationale for Adjustment of Individual Line Items:

(1) The contract with USGS was amended in 2003 to eliminate 1 monitoring site; the approved 2004 budget did not reflect this contract amendment.



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- (2) The amount expended for this line item is expected to be less than the budgeted amount.
- (3) See attached "Request for 2004 Budget Amendment: IDEP Support" submitted by the Technical Committee and supported by the Finance Committee.
- (4) The reception at the Watershed 2004 conference did not occur.
- (5) The actual amount expended for this event was less than the original budget. In addition, private donations assisted with the costs for this event.
- (6) The contingency increase is due to the cumulative reductions associated with notes 1 - 5 (\$3,648) and to the increase in non-federal funds (private donations) matched with grant funds (\$2,322).

*Appendix B*  
**Assembly of Rouge Communities**  
**2005 Budget**  
**Approved by Full Assembly: 17 November 2004 (1)**

Assembly 2005 Budget Items		Approved 2005 Budget	Proposed Staff
<b>Organization Committee</b>			
OC1	Administration Services (9 months)	\$ 62,000	To be hired by ARC
OC2	Staff Support (3 months)	\$ 18,000	RPO
OC3	Subwatershed Advisory Group Facilitation	\$ 81,000	RPO
<i>Organization Committee Total</i>		\$ 161,000	
<b>Public Education and Involvement Committee</b>			
PIE1	Public Education Committee Support	\$ 30,000	RPO
PIE2	Assembly Newsletter	\$ 5,000	RPO
PIE3	SEMCOG Coordination with PIE	\$ 8,000	SEMCOG
PIE4	Assembly PIE Subgrant	\$ -	
PIE4.1	Public Education Workshop for Community Staff	\$ 10,000	RPO & Expenses
PIE4.2	Detention Pond Maintenance Workshop	\$ 11,000	RPO & Expenses
PIE4.3	Creating "Measuring Our Success" Posters	\$ 36,490	RPO
PIE4.4	MSU Work Shop on OSDS	\$ 3,000	RPO
PIE4.5	Printing Tip Cards	\$ 8,000	SEMCOG
PIE4.6	Printing Banners	\$ 4,200	SEMCOG
<i>PIE Committee Total</i>		\$ 115,690	
<b>Technical Committee</b>			
TC1	Baseline Sampling Program	\$ 314,000	RPO
TC2	Rouge Data Dissemination	\$ 19,000	RPO
TC3	Lab Services	\$ 12,000	Paragon/RTI
TC4	Measuring Our Success Poster and Report	\$ -	RPO
TC5	Continuous Monitoring	\$ 136,840	USGS
TC6	Wiley-Seelbach Ecological Flow Target Updates	\$ -	RPO
<i>Technical Committee Total</i>		\$ 481,840	
Total Amount Requested by All Committees		\$ 758,530	
Unallocated/Contingency		\$ -	

**Required Change in Membership Dues**

**0%**

NOTES:

- 1) The Executive Committee voted to recommend this budget to the Full Assembly on October 13, 2004. For Task PIE4, the amount \$72,690 was allocated for to be determined tasks. On November 11, 2004 the PIE Committee proposed allocation of the monies into the tasks shown as PIE4.1 - PIE4.6. This allocation has not been reviewed/approved by the Executive Committee.
- 2) The Round VI subgrant awarded for PIE activities will fund items in *italics* (\$67,345 federal share, \$134,690 total project costs). Wayne County will hold the balance of the funding for this subgrant (\$57,665 federal share, \$115,310 total project costs) for a minimum of 6 months to allow for further definition of PIE activities by the PIE subcommittee.
- 3) Includes the recommended Amendment to the 2004 Budget (dated Oct. 13, 2004)
- 4) Provides for same level of service as in 2004 for tasks OC1, OC2, PIE1, PIE2, TC1, TC3, TC5  
Provides reduced level of service for OC3. Higher/new level of service for PIE3, PIE4, TC2.
- 5) Source of funds (assumed) for 2005 budget:

2005 Dues from Communities	\$	297,503.00
2005 Rouge Project Grant	\$	297,503.00
Rollover Budget from 2004	\$	<u>163,524.00</u>
	\$	758,530.00