

**Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC)
Draft Meeting Summary
October 12, 2018**

Attendees:

Attended?	Name	Attended?	Names
Y	Ashley Allen, HRC	N	Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills
Y	Paulina Appel, Livonia	Y	Doug Moore, Livonia
N	Alice Bailey, Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC)	Y	Noel Mullett, Wayne County Dept. of Public Services
Y	Dan Ballnik, Chair	N	Rob Myllyoja, Stantec
Y	John Beisel, Farmington Hills	Y (phone)	Caitlin Nigrelli, EPA Liaison Sea Grant
N	Marty Boote, ARC	Y	Chris O'Meara, ARC
N	Cory Borton, Bloomfield Twp.	Y	John O'Meara, ARC
N	Jeff Braunscheidel, MDNR	Y	Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge
Y	Bill Craig, Vice Chair and SPAC representative	Y (phone)	Heather Rice, Washtenaw County Water Resource Commissioners Office
Y	Annette DeMaria, ARC	N	Devan Rosturfer, SEMCOG
N	Rose Ellison, EPA Representative	Y	Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield
Y	Trisha Gabriel, Livonia	Y	Jennifer Tewkesbury, MDNR AOC Coordinator
N	Jacy Garrison, Oakland County Water Resources Commissioners Office	N	Dean Tuomari, Citizen
N	Orin Gelderloos, U-M Dearborn	N	Sue Thompson, WCDPS-WQMD
N	Kevin Goodwin, MDEQ	N	Barb Matthews, HRC
N	Barb Goryca, Dearborn citizen		
Y (phone)	Marie McCormick, Friends of the Rouge		

Introductions

Introductions were completed.

Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from June 6, 2018 was reviewed and approved. The motion to approve the summary was made by B. Craig and seconded by B. Siedlaczek and passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business.

SPAC Report

B. Craig reported that Paul Seelbach has a class, Sustaining Community Vitally Across MI AOCs, at the University of Michigan and on June 28, U of M provided feedback from Seelbach class. There was a presentation on the U of M Masters Thesis project Sustaining Local Engagement and Leadership within Michigan AOCs. There was discussion on the GLRI Action Plan III Public Engagement meetings, 2018 AOC Conference, Great Lakes revitalization, and APPROVED Action Plan lists.

B. Craig reported on the June 27 -28, 2018 Summer Business Meeting that was held at Zehnder's Restaurant, in Frankenmuth. On June 27 the election of Chair and Vice-chair were done with Mary Bohling extended as Chair one year and Jamie McCarthy as VC for one year. A new travel reimbursement policy was announced and there were revisions to the roles and responsibilities portion of Bylaws for input from PACs. The revision of the Bylaws will be up for vote at the next meeting. There were updates from OGL, EPA and GLC along with PAC reports. In addition, B. Craig attended the site visit at the Frankenmuth Dam project. J. Tewkesbury added that the OGL will review the findings in the U of M document and use it as a way to support the PACs and she will report on it at a future meeting.

B. Craig stated he can continue serving as the SPAC Representation and N. Mullett will serve as the SPAC Alternate.

MDNR Update

J. Tewkesbury reported that her office has recently been involved in a state audit for the last six months. She stated that she continues to look for additional funding for the Rouge. She has a federal partners meeting in November and will go through each of the BUIs and look at options. She expects more funds coming to the Rouge in 2020/21. She also stated that the management letter went to EPA along with the list of habitat projects.

J. Tewkesbury also stated that beach closings is a long-term goal for Michigan.

EPA Update

J. Tewkesbury gave an update on the Lower Rouge sediment clean-up, noting that the Army Corp of Engineers (ACE) has prepared a press release which is available on the RRAC website. She said that they expect the wall installation to be done by the end of the year and ACE will be doing the dredging with the sediment going to a ACE facility. She also informed the group that silt curtains will be in place to keep dirt at bay. B. Craig asked if the AOC was mentioned in the press release and C. Nigrelli, Liaison to the USEPA-GLNPO with the Sea Grant stated that the AOC was mentioned in the press release. DeMaria asked for an update on what other communities have been doing and what the plan is on the regulatory side. J. Tewkesbury responded that they are keeping the funds flowing and that by 2022 all management actions should be complete. There is a federal sponsor and all funds are expected to be in the pipeline by 2022.

There was an oil spill in 2002 that as a result of the damage assessment, Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducting projects on the Hamburg Marsh and Gibraltar Wetland.

Existing Grants Update

2018 GLC PAC support Grant – Fish Community Survey

S. Petrella reported that they have surveyed 20 sites since August 16 as they were waiting for the QAPP to be approved. They have had a few weather delays because of rain and expect to be finished by October. They continue to see Round Goby. They have started to also survey lakes in Oakland County and actually found 14 pug nose shiners (previous surveys only found 1). They were informed that lake white fish were present in Walnut Lake. She also reported that they found an old dam which is open now at the CSO at 7 Mile but that the fish community is bad at this location.

S. Petrella also informed the group that FOTR has received funding for the fall bug hunt and the winter stonefly search.

2018 GLC PAC support Grant – Habitat Project Descriptions

J. O'Meara reviewed the updated project lists with funding needs and project dates. He also stated that under our current grant we will be updating the Fordson Island project write-up will be a focus. In addition, projects that fall within the available dollars which will be easy to get to J. Tewkesbury if funds become available.

FDR/ARC NOAA Regional Partnership

There was a discussion on either extending the timeframe for the partnership or apply for the funding again as the Rouge will receive funds through this effort eventually. The motion to continue the regional partnership with the Detroit AOC should it roll-over or be readvertised was made by B. Craig and seconded by N. Mullett and passed unanimously.

Wayne County Invasives

N. Mullett reported that the FOTR work continues and that the progress report will be shared with the group. He stated that Wayne County had both Newburgh and Wilcox lakes treated this summer and had some phragmites work performed between Newburgh and Wilcox Lake. He is also hoping to have one more committee meeting.

Wayne County EPA Habitat Grant – HFE Fishway and Oxbow Phase 3 Implementation

J. O'Meara reported that the Henry Ford Estate Fishway is 20% complete even with the highway dispute which caused a slowdown in construction. D. Ballnik requested a copy of the plant species being used for the Fishway and Oxbow projects.

J. O'Meara reported that the Oxbow Phase 3 is moving forward as well and the ARC is hoping to host an event in the future with Senator Stabenow to celebrate the completion of the multi-phased project.

Nankin Lake Restoration

J. O'Meara reported that the design is anticipated to be done over the winter for permitting with construction anticipated in the fall of 2019.

USDA Forest Service Grant

J. O'Meara reported that the Forest Service grant is ongoing with some communities planting trees this fall with the rest being completed in the spring of 2019.

ARC Rouge AOC Habitat Restoration

The design engineering for the restoration of Tamarack Creek/wetland and habitat restoration on Johnson Creek at Fish Hatchery Park began this summer. Johnson Creek was drained for emergency wall repair and it was determined that taking the wall out would benefit habitat because there is concrete along the channel. J. O'Meara reported that they have met with both Northville and Northville Twp. to review the options which will require additional funds. J. O'Meara is preparing this request which will need EPA approval. RRAC and J. Tewkesbury will be kept in the loop on the request.

Other Projects of Note

J. O'Meara informed the group that EPA asked WC to think about that if the Oxbow/Henry Ford Estate Fishway/Nankin have a surplus of funds what potential project(s) would they consider doing. The project would need to stay in Wayne County and be spent by 2021. Projects to consider would be other design projects like Wilcox.

New Business

D. Ballnik discussed a report on the Economic Impacts of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and possibly doing something similar with the economic impacts in the Rouge watershed showing the return on the investments. This is something we could possibly do now or in a future PAC grant. Other cities like Muskegon have done similar reports.

D. Moore, Livonia, gave the group a brief presentation on a potential future project which would convert a stormwater area to a naturalized system in Bell Creek. J. Tewkesbury suggested that the project be considered as a replacement project on the BUI list of projects and that it be prepared as a phased project which covers the entire site – that way if funds are available in different amounts it will be easier to use if it is phased and can fit what funds are available. RRAC members said they would support any grant application that Livonia may apply for to cover this project.

Comments

Members

FOTR reported that they have moved their offices to the PARC in Plymouth and that they are having a shower on October 25 from 4-7pm with food and drinks. Other things they are working on include the water trail, a chainsaw training on October 27 from 9-2 and they will be attending the Micore inland lakes conference. S. Petrella also talked briefly about the invasive species, red swamp crayfish, which has been found in both Novi and Farmington Hills.

Two RRAC meetings have been scheduled for December 10, 2018 and January 24, 2019 both at 1:00 p.m. at Wayne County's offices in Wayne.

Adjourn

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting by B. Craig and seconded by S. Petrella. The motion passed.