

**Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC)
Draft Meeting Summary
December 10, 2018**



Attendees:

Attended?	Name	Attended?	Names
Y	Ashley Allen, HRC	N	Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills
Y	Paulina Appel, Livonia	N	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
N	John Beisel, Farmington Hills	N	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
Y	Jeff Braunscheidel, MDNR	Y	Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge
Y	Bill Craig, Vice Chair and SPAC representative	Y	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
N	Trisha Gabriel, Livonia	N	Jennifer Tewkesbury, MDNR AOC Coordinator
Y	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	Marie McCormick, Friends of the Rouge		

Introductions

Introductions were completed.

Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from October 12, 2018 was reviewed and approved. The motion to approve the summary was made by J. Garrison and seconded by H. Rice and passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business.

SPAC Report

B. Craig reported that he attended the November SPAC Business Meeting at the Great Lakes Commission in Ann Arbor. It was also attended by J. Tewkesbury and D. Ballnik. The GLC reported that their website has documents that can be copied and shared with legislatures such as the Assessing the Investment Fact Sheet dated September 2018. GLRI was discussed at the meeting as well saying that it is an environmental restoration cleanup program, not an economic development program.

B. Craig reviewed the PAC grants sharing that the current grant ends in February with a close out of March 31, 2019 but allows for extension and possibly additional funds to July 31, 2019. There was some discussions about whether additional funds would be allowed on the grant, John and Bill to check with Jen to confirm. The next grant program will start in April, allowing overlap for continuity. The RFP for this next grant is anticipated to be available in February.

B. Craig reported that the EPA GLRI Action Plan III for 2020-2024 includes the Rouge River AOC.

B. Craig informed the council that he will be attending the Great Lakes Public Forum June 17-19, 2019 in Milwaukee along with the AOC Conference September 11-12, 2019 in Cleveland.

B. Craig discussed the possibility of using drones in some of the RRAC projects. The Office of Great Lakes and Brian Egen produced a 3-minute video of drone footage for the Raisin River in the City of Monroe using a PAC grant. The video is on the City's website. The group discussed the potential of using this for some of our projects and it is good outreach and will draw attention to some of these large and exciting projects.

B. Craig reported that the Business Meeting also included a presentation on Sustainable Funding for Michigan Watersheds. In addition, the SPAC election of the Vice Chair was Horst Schmidt from the Torch Lake AOC was completed. The Roles and Responsibilities document will be done by the OGL and the SPAC Bylaws sub-committee was assigned additional revisions with a vote on the final draft to come later. B. Craig said he brought photos from the recent Henry Ford Estate Fishway site visit and shared those at the meeting. The meeting also included general discussions of wetland and infrastructure/sewer bills being presented to the Government.

B. Craig stated that the SPAC Business Meeting ended with a summary of the upcoming meetings including a Legislative Meeting in March in Lansing along with the Summer Business meeting in July at Torch Lake and the Fall Business Meeting in October in the Raisin River. There was also a site visit to the USGS lab along with a group social dinner at Zingerman's.

B. Craig requested that Chris add the meeting summaries to the RRAC website for others to review in more detail.

MDNR Update

J. Tewkesbury was not in attendance. J. O'Meara reported that the NOAA Partnership grant is out and the ARC is expected to apply again with the Friends of the Detroit River with anticipation that funding will eventually fall to the ARC projects through this grant.

EPA Update

R. Ellison was not in attendance. J. O'Meara to follow-up with R. Ellison to get an update for the next meeting.

Existing Grants Update

2018 GLC PAC support Grant – Fish Community Survey

S. Petrella reported that they have surveyed 20 sites and anticipate the final report being done in January.

2018 GLC PAC support Grant – Habitat Project Descriptions

J. O'Meara reported that staff continue to flush out the next round of project descriptions.

Wayne County Invasives

N. Mullett distributed the progress report submitted to EPA and reported that he is scheduling one more committee meeting potentially for 12/20/18.

Wayne County EPA Habitat Grant – HFE Fishway/Oxbow Phase 3 Implementation/Nankin Lake

N. Mullett handed out the EPA progress report to the group along with two GLRI writeups that have been added to the GLRI website. C. O’Meara stated that these have been added to the ARC website and will add links to the RRAC website as will.

J. O’Meara reported that the construction at the Henry Ford Estate is waiting for the ground to freeze some to make activities easier for the heavy trucks. He expects the connection of the fishway to be completed in the winter or spring 2019.

J. O’Meara reported that the Oxbow excavation is moving along and that the connection to the river will be completed in the spring 2019.

J. O’Meara reported that the data collected at Nankin is being processed and the concepts will be developed in January/February 2019. It is expected that the RFP for construction will be on the street in Fall 2019 with construction to begin in 2020.

USDA Forest Service Grant

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

ARC Rouge AOC Habitat Restoration – Tamarack Creek/Johnson Creek

J. O’Meara reported that a meeting was held with MDOT to discuss options for Tamarack Creek. He stated that most of the data collection field work is done with base maps being developed. ARC Staff met with J. Wineka to determine the status of Tamarack as a County Drain- it is not a drain but it may be worth investigating as then future maintenance could be assessed.

J. O’Meara reported that the data collection field work at Johnson Creek is complete and the base maps are being developed. ARC Staff have submitted a revision to the EPA to include the removal of the wall in the current grant, EPA is currently reviewing the revision.

With the design of Tamarack and Johnson Creek being done through the EPA funding, it is hoped that the funding for the implementation will also be done through a future EPA grant possibly in 2019/2020.

New Business

Northville Downs Project

M. McCormick, FOTR, gave a brief description of a potential daylighting project that a developer has presented to FOTR in hopes of raising money for River daylighting on the 49-acre parcel at the former Northville Downs raceway with the project anticipated to state in 2020/2021. Currently the Rouge River runs underneath the raceway. M. McCormick stated that Northville’s Master Plan includes daylighting the river. FOTR has been asked to assist with the fundraising efforts with a total project cost of \$4M to daylight the river with the developer providing \$2M as match and a request of the other \$2M to be raised through grants or other sources. They are also looking for a fiduciary to receive potential grant funds. Marie has brought this to the RRAC to see if there is any possibility of including this project on the BUI list or having it as an alternate project. The Council discussed some possible funding options with J. Braunscheidel suggesting that they look at the new combined grants that the MDNR is going to be offering in 2019. J. Braunscheidel stated that this type of project, daylighting specifically, would be a high priority.

J. O’Meara said he would talk to J. Tewkesbury about what RRACs options are to either add projects or subtracting/replacing projects on our current BUI list. Both this project and the project previously

presented by the City of Livonia are projects to consider adding to the BUI list as new or replacements. These projects could possibly be funded by other outside grants even if they are not added to the RRAC list.

Comments

Members

J. O'Meara reminded the group that the next RRAC meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at Wayne County's offices in Wayne. He asked that everyone provide their wish list of what they would like to see in the RRAC's next grant application for PAC funding to him by January 18, 2019 for discussion at the meeting on the 24th.

B. Craig expressed his concern with Wayne County and the selling of park property. He stated that he was interviewed about the potential selling of parkland where he stated he was concerned because what happens to the land is important to our habitat projects.

S. Petrella stated that the FOTR Winter Stonefly Search is scheduled for January 26, 2019.

Adjourn

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