

**Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC)**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**June 6, 2018**

**Attendees:**

Attended?	Name	Attended?	Names
Y	Paulina Appel, Livonia	Y	Marie McCormick, Friends of the Rouge
N	Alice Bailey, Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC)	N	Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills
Y	Dan Ballnik, Chair	Y	Noel Mullett, Wayne County Dept. of Public Services
Y	John Beisel, Farmington Hills	Y	Rob Myllyoja, Stantec
Y	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	N	Heather Rice, Washtenaw County Water Resource Commissioners Office
Y	Annette DeMaria, ARC	N	Devan Rosturfer, SEMCOG
N	Rose Ellison, EPA Representative	N	Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield
Y	Jacy Garrison, Oakland County Water Resources Commissioners Office	Y	Jennifer Tewkesbury, MDEQ Coordinator
N	Orin Gelderloos, U-M Dearborn	N	Dean Tuomari, Citizen
N	Kevin Goodwin, MDEQ	N	Sue Thompson, WCDPS-WQMD
N	Barb Goryca, Dearborn citizen	Y	Barb Matthews, HRC
		Y	Bob Miller, FOTR

**Introductions**

Introductions were completed.

**Meeting Summary**

The meeting summary from February 1, 2018 was reviewed and approved. The motion to approve the summary was made by B. Craig and seconded by J. Garrison and passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

B. Craig asked that ARC staff send out the letter of support for the FOTR monitoring grant application be sent out to the council.

**SPAC Report**

B. Craig reported that Paul Seelbach has a class, Sustaining Community Vivaly Across MI AOCs, at the University of Michigan. In partnership with the Office of the Great Lakes, two students interviewed PAC members on March 17 including Sally Petella, Noel Mullett and Bill Craig at the Livonia Public Library. Questions on capacity, struggles, strengths, effectiveness and sustainability. A tour was given and a follow-up interview is scheduled for June 7.

B. Craig, Sally Petrella and Maria McCormick in addition to ECT staff attended the Lower Rouge River Old Channel public meeting on March 28 in which the project was explained to attendees.

B. Craig, D. Ballnik and ECT representatives attended the Great Lakes Areas of Concern Conference on May 16-17 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The conference covered AOC success stories, completing management action lists, long-term stewardship and maintenance of restoration projects. In addition, they talked about life after delisting, life after warranty and life after PAC.

B. Craig stated that the summer SPAC meeting is scheduled for June 27-28 in Frankenmuth.

### **MDNR Update**

J. Tewkesbury reported that there has been a push by EPA to get final lists of things to get done to delist. There were several questions and things related to the bigger issues including the concrete channel. The State is collaborating with Chris Korleski at GLNPO. The letter will include a general statement on the sediment removal and the concrete channel. The letter does not include the CSO issue and beach closings still occurring after CSOs are addressed. J. Tewkesbury said they are still discussing this with the EPA and will work with communities to develop a local criteria to include GI projects. Rose Ellison is understanding and working with DNR on the sediment issue and the need for a legacy partner for the non-federal sponsor.

J. Tewkesbury also stated that the GLRI action plan does include the Rouge River.

### **EPA Update**

J. Tewkesbury reported on behalf of Rose Ellison that the EPA is planning a public meeting on the Lower Old Channel work is moving forward. Wayne County attorneys have determined that Wayne County Roads owns the channel and they are in the process of getting permission to do the project along with permits. They are working with USGS to do the baseline work for design.

### **Existing Grants Update**

#### 2017 GLC PAC support Grant

J. O'Meara reported that the ARC has received an extension for the 2017 GLC PAC grant through 8/15/18 because the fish survey was slowed down because of the bad spring weather.

Bob Muller gave a presentation on the results of the fish survey for the council.

J. O'Meara reported that ARC staff and Wayne County are working on detailing and completing the next batch of projects that will be in the grant format and ready for funding. We are also updating the cost list. R. Myllyoja added that there is an update to the LTU project as well.

#### Wayne County Invasives

N. Mullett handed out the grant progress reports show some metrics on the project which exceeded the number of events but met the total acres.

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

N. Mullett reported that the projects are making progress with all procurement done until construction. Both the Oxbow and Fishway are on the Wayne County agenda and are expected to pass.

#### USDA Forest Service Grant

J. O'Meara reported that the Forest Service grant is ongoing.

#### EPA Direct Funding

The design engineering for the restoration of Tamarack Creek/wetland and habitat restoration on Johnson Creek at Fish Hatchery Park is expected to begin in July. These two priority projects were considered the next one that would have significant impact on the removal of the BUIs in the Rouge AOC.

#### PAC Support Grant 2018

ARC Staff submitted the 2018 grant which would start July 1 and go through February 2019 and continues the fish surveys along with preparing more of the habitat projects.

**Other Projects of Note**

ARC Staff are looking for other ideas for projects.

B. Craig initiated discussion on incorporating the habitat project list into the Report Card. Additional discussion included adding a 5-year update with an executive summary to the Report Card under the 2018 PAC Support Grant. J. O'Meara to draft a supplemental proposal to include this.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Comments**Members

B. Craig thanked Bob Muller for his work and presentation.

**Adjourn**

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting by M. Boote and seconded by B. Craig. The motion passed.