

Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC)
Draft Meeting Summary
August 27, 2019



Attendees:

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

Introductions

Introductions were completed. Guest included Shawn Duke and Tim McAlister, CARDNO and Kyle Pettibore, Alison Rentschler and Evan Madden with UofM SEAS.

Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from January 24, 2019 was reviewed and approved. The motion to approve the summary was made by B. Craig and seconded by N. Mullett and passed unanimously.

AOC Course at UM SEAS Presentation

UofM SEAS students gave a brief presentation about the class objectives and scope of work. The class is working with the Office of the Great Lakes on how the AOC program is progressing and the process. They will be meeting with all agencies and then will be making recommendations to the OGL of what they can do better in the "last bucket AOCs." They will be looking at how the State can facilitate success. RRAC members are also invited to attend the final class to hear what they findings are from the students in April 2020.

Old Business

There was no old business.

SPAC Report

B. Craig reported that the SPAC spring 2019 business meeting was held on May 15-16 in Muskegon and was attended by Dan Ballnik and Jen Tewkesbury. Dan added that the movie completed on the success of the Muskegon project was very well done. There were updates given by GLRI, GLC, EGLE and the AOCs. Bill reported that the 2019/2020 cycle for PAC support grants was not determined and potentially on hold.

B. Craig reported that the SPAC summer 2019 business meeting was held on July 16-17 at the Great Lakes Research Center at Michigan Tech in Houghton. He and Jen Tewkesbury attended the meeting. There were updates given by GLC, EGLE and the AOCs. It was reported that the PAC support grants were still not determined. He reported that there was a presentation on the Torch Lake progress and there were site visits offered at the meeting. There was also a presentation on the benefits to the use of drones to document project progress in addition to the costs and the target audience. There was also discussion on the emerging issues and delisting.

B. Craig informed the council on the upcoming 2019 Great Lakes AOC Conference set for September 10-11 in Cleveland Ohio. Bill reported that he will attend in addition to Dan and Sally. In addition, the MSPAC business meeting and legislative briefing is set for October 22-23 in Lansing.

EGLE Update

J. Tewkesbury reported that the reorganization of MDEQ to EGLE is complete. She reported that the AOC LAMP is now in the water resource division and that the financial aspect is still getting figured out. She informed the council that the workplan has been submitted to EPA, but at this time there is no PAC support grants ready. J. O'Meara added that our hope is that they will be offered in the fall which may allow for the support to include a fall bug hunt or winter stonefly in addition to the project sheets and RRAC support. Jen added that there may be the potential for a 2 1/2-year grant period. Sally stated that she would prepare text for J. O'Meara to use for the proposal when it comes out. J. O'Meara also stated that regardless of grant funding the RRAC plans to meet again this fall.

Drone Documentation Support

J. Tewkesbury stated that the state may be willing to document with drone footage, however it would require approval. She did not know if there would be a charge for this type of service. D. Ballnik stated that this type of footage would be beneficial, for example footage of the mouth of the river etc.

EPA Update

J. Tewkesbury reported on behalf of R. Ellison who was not in attendance. She reported that the LRROC clean-up has progressed with the installation of the wall which is expected to be completed in the next week or so. Honeywell is the lead on this. The wall is along the former Detroit Tar and Coke site as well as Ferris Marine. It is about 3,000' long and 85' deep with a 30' deep anchor wall 150' from the shoreline. The walls are tied together with tie rods that are buried about 8-15' deep. The function of the wall is to keep the shoreline stable for dredging. Currently USEPA and USACE are working on the clean-up phase. The dredging contractor is pulling up debris and tearing out old wooden shoreline structures so they can dredge. Debris removal probably will be done in 1-3 weeks. After that the dredging will start. They have brought up 13 cars and there may be a few more, along with a lot of woody debris. The cars have been inspected by the state police and will be scrapped. This debris removal is causing sheening on the water surface from disturbing the sediments. The sheen is being controlled with containment and sorbent boom and removed when there is enough buildup to vac up. There are also 4 real time water quality monitors in the river near the work area. Both the boom and monitors will be in the water for the duration of the project. Jen added that they may have to shut down the project if the turbidity doesn't stay down.

D. Ballnik asked if they are doing any drone work with this project. Jen said she would check but photos are for sure being taken to document the work.

J. Tewkesbury reported on the concrete channel progress, reporting that they are done with access and wetland assessments. They are moving forward with design and remedial investigations. Jen reported that the ownership is under Wayne County Roads.

J. Tewkesbury also informed the council that she believes Rose is moving to the Ann Arbor office.

Existing Grants Update

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

N. Mullett reported that work at the fishway was stopped due to issues with heavy spring rains. He reported that a plan to restore the fishway is in place and that they are negotiating with contractors to initiate the plan within the year. N. Mullett reported that the oxbow at The Henry Ford is substantially complete with minor vegetative work left. S. Petrella reported that they hope to sample the oxbow in September. N. Mullett reported that the design and permits are being completed for Nankin and that the bid documents are expected to be ready for fall or winter with construction most likely to begin in spring 2020.

USDA Forest Service Grant

J. O'Meara reported that the Forest Service grant is wrapping up with some communities planting trees and submitting their reports this spring. J. O'Meara reported that the ARC submitted a proposal for the next round of funding to continue this type of work.

ARC Rouge AOC Habitat Restoration – Tamarack Creek/Johnson Creek

J. O'Meara reported that the permits for Johnson Creek were submitted to the state in September. The work may be bid in the fall or 2020. J. O'Meara reported that the Tamarack Creek work is a little behind because of additional data gathering and working with property owners. J. O'Meara informed the council that more information can be found on the EPA's website where they have added writeups on these projects.

NOAA Partnership

J. O'Meara reported that this grant was awarded to Friends of the Detroit River. He reported that the first two projects in this grant are in the Detroit River and then the rest of the funds will go to the other partners, including the ARC, to fund projects.

Other Projects of Note

J. O'Meara reported that the ARC is 99% sure that they will be receiving EPA funding for the construction of the Tamarack Creek/Johnson Creek projects. He also reported that he is working with EPA on funding for the Seeley Creek Habitat Restoration project and that he is hopeful this will be awarded to the ARC in the fall.

J. Tewkesbury asked that John forward her what we hope to be our next group of projects under the BUI removal list so that we are ready if additional funding becomes available.

OGL-PAC Support Grant Activities/Ideas

J. O'Meara asked the group to continue to suggest items to be included in the next funding request under the PAC Support Grant. Forward any ideas to J. O'Meara. Items suggested previously include:

- More project descriptions
- Continue fish monitoring
- Maybe add other benthic monitoring
- Maybe ARC GIS story board (online/website)
- Update to the Report Card (Bill)
- Five Year Vision updated (Noel)
- Funding and timing to include vision and report card in the Rouge Water School events (Noel)

New Business

S. Petrella invited all to attend the Rouge Burn anniversary planned for October 10 at 4:00 p.m. at MPC. In addition, there will be a press conference on October 9.

J. O'Meara invited all to attend the Great Lakes Restoration Celebration on October 18 hosted by the ARC at The Henry Ford. The event is free to attend and is sponsored by ECT, SEMCOG and The Henry Ford.

Comments

CARDNO representatives invited council members to attend a project tour of the Clinton River.

S. Petrella informed the council of the Water School scheduled for September 26-27 for local units of government.

UMSEAS students thanked the council for their continued participate and welcomed any comments or questions.

Adjourn

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting by J. Garrison and seconded by D. Tuomari. The motion passed.