

Rouge River Remedial Action Plan Advisory Council



**September 18, 2012
Farmington Hills City Hall
Meeting Summary**

Attendance

X	Dan Ballnik, Chair	X	Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield
X	Noel Mullet, Vice-chair	X	Don Carpenter, Lawrence Tech University
X	Bill Craig, SPAC representative	X	Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills
X	Jennifer Tewkesbury, MDEQ Coordinator	X	Laura Gruzwaliski, Hubbell Roth and Clark, Inc.
	Amy Mangus, SEMCOG	X	Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge
X	Annette DeMaria, ARC		Zachare Ball, Alliance of Rouge Communities
	Barb Goryca		

I. Progress on June 2012 Meeting's Next Steps

- The Upper Rouge Delisting Strategy was transmitted to MDEQ and EPA.
- A letter to the Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC) was sent expressing the RRAC's support of a new Environmental Bond Initiative for the state.
- Letters of support were sent to all state legislatures within the watershed expressing the RRAC's support of House bills 5673-5676 and Senate bills 1155-1158 which allow for grants and loans for environmental projects.

II. Bylaws Revision (see Handout A)

- There was a brief discussion regarding if educational institutions and nonprofits were included in the "general public" category of the Membership Section. Responding for the Work Group, Bill stated that they were included in this category. The By Laws were unanimously adopted as presented.

III. Nominating Committee

- Noel asked for a volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee. Brandy agreed to work with Noel and Bill on nominating officers (Chair, Vice-chair, and SPAC Representative) for the December election.
- Bill stated that he would be glad to continue his role as SPAC Rep.
- The duties of the Chair and Vice-chair were described as follows:
 - i. Participate in 3-4 RRAC meetings/year plus work group meetings.
 - ii. Organize the business of the RRAC.
 - iii. Oversee the SPAC support grant work plan and deliverables.
 - iv. Plan for next year's SPAC support grant.

IV. Website Design

The group provided several comments on the website including the following:

- Provide a link to documents like the by-laws and vision.
- Add a membership list and a how to become a member link.
- Under Reports:
 - Order the reports from most recent to oldest, but keep the RAPs and Report Cards together like you have them.

- Add the 2008 Fish & Wildlife Delisting Report – Noel can provide, if Zach doesn't have it.
- Add the 2012 MDEQ Statewide Aesthetics Assessment.
- Under Partners, add WCDPS, EPA GLNPO, and MDEQ. Also, SEMCOG is misspelled.
- Under Related Links, add the State-wide delisting guidance.
- Add an acronyms page.

The group also requested that the color of the logo be changed from red to green or blue. The new logo would be used on all future transmittals. These requests will be addressed by ARC staff.

Dan requested inclusion of the Ford Field Park streambank restoration project on the website. Dan will obtain a summary of the project and pictures and provide them to ARC staff.

V. **Five Year Vision Revision (see Handout B)**

- After some discuss, a few edits to the 5 Year Vision were agreed upon. These revisions were:
 1. Under Major Projects, bullet 2: Add “if determined beneficial to the Area of Concern” to the end of the sentence. Rationale: Sally was concerned that there might be a negative impact on the river from aquatic invasive species if a fish passage is installed at the Henry Ford Estate dam.
 2. Under Wastewater System Improvements, bullet 1: Spell-out MDEQ.
 3. Under Institutional, bullet 3: Change “understand” to “encourage”.
 4. Under Municipal Stormwater Permits, bullet 1: Delete the last part of the sentences after “i.e. Rouge River”. Rationale: Bill was concerned how the last portion of the sentence would be perceived by the public.
- The Vision was unanimously adopted with the edits described above.
- It was agreed that the Vision will be reviewed annually and updated, as needed.

VI. **Status of Projects**

- Report Card:
 - Noel will schedule a work group meeting in the next month to begin development of the Report Card.
- Transforming the Rouge/Danvers Pond/Wayne Road Dam/Lower Channel Great Lake Legacy Act:
 - **Handout C** was provided by ARC staff, which described the status of each of these projects. Each project sponsor discussed their projects in more detail.
 - For Transforming the Rouge, WC has hired a contractor to do grow zone management in WC Parks. This includes prescribed burns and spraying.
- Emerald Ash Borer Tree Grant:
 - 2,000+ trees will be installed throughout the watershed this fall at locations to be determined by the municipalities. Some municipalities will be using these trees to supplement their street tree program. The unit price was lower than anticipated, so more trees could be purchased with this grant.
- Wayne Road Dam Debris Removal:
 - Sally reported that woody debris has been cleared from the river between Commerce Court and Wayne Road. On October 3rd, Detroit Zoo staff will help clear large urban debris from the same section of river.
- Lawrence Tech University (LTU):
 - LTU is conducting invasive species management on campus using excavation, spraying and burning techniques to remove Phragmites and other invasives from 2 acres of land.
 - Don requested feedback on stormwater management educational posters that LTU is installing on their campus.

- Fordson Island:
 - Sally reported that Fordson Island debris removal is wrapping up, and some of the collected debris will be used for an art sculpture.
- Henry Ford Estate Fish Passage:
 - Jennifer announced that the Army Corp only has funding to conduct 30% of the design for the project. This is a concern; especially since NOAA funding was denied to the AOC because Army Corp was to complete the design.
 - Sally voiced her concern that the planned fish passage may expose the Lower Rouge to the Round Goby, an invasive fish that has been found downstream of the dam. Annette explained that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are charged with considering the spread of invasives when dam modifications are made. Jennifer offered to have Army Corp present at an upcoming RRAC meeting.
- SEMCOG Green Streets:
 - Noel reported that 2 of the 8 sites that were designed will be constructed. Green infrastructure installation will occur at Morton Taylor Road in Canton and at Ecorse Road Blvd in Van Buren Twp.

VII. September RRAC Mtg Advice/Appreciation Item

- A letter of appreciation to the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) will be drafted by Noel and provided to the group for comment.

VIII. SPAC Fall Meeting Report

- Bill and Jennifer reported that the Fall SPAC meeting will be held in Kalamazoo at a location and date to be determined. Given that a few small AOCs will be delisted soon, the focus of the meeting will be life after delisting – how to rebrand a former area of concern.
- Mary Bohling received the RRAC letter of support and this will be discussed at the SPAC meeting.
- The EPA has divided many of the AOCs into tiers for the purposes of delisting. For Michigan, these tiers are as follows:

Tier 1 (by end of 2012)	Tier 2 (by end of 2014)	Tier 3 (by end of 2016)
White Lake	Manistique	Detroit River
Raisin River	St. Clair River	
	Deer Lake	

IX. September AOC Meeting Report

- Bill and Jennifer attended the AOC meeting in Cleveland. Bill attended many of the breakout sessions. He met with Anne Vaara of the Clinton River Watershed Council and discussed an invitation to the next Clinton River AOC meeting.
- Jennifer provided a copy of the Statewide Aesthetics Assessment report. John Riley, the author of the report, offered to present the findings for the Rouge at an upcoming RRAC meeting.
- Jennifer announced that NOAA will be releasing a Request for Projects (RFP) in early November. The RFP will likely be focused on habitat projects.

X. GLNPO/DEQ Meeting Update

- EPA met with the MDEQ Office of the Great Lakes to discuss the AOCs. EPA is funding an effort to organize the Rouge delisting projects into a web format. This could include mapping the projects, prioritizing the projects and providing the status of the BUIs. ECT was

contracted by EPA to perform this effort. Other AOCs will be addressed as well outside of the Rouge effort.

- MDEQ discussed with EPA SPAC's concern about how AOC projects will be funded. This topic will be addressed at the Fall SPAC meeting.
- MDEQ requested that EPA supply an active liaison for the Rouge and Clinton AOCs.
- EPA staff offered to present at an upcoming RRAC meeting to explain their budgeting process.

XI. Other New Business

- Dan requested that a representative from Oakland County Water Resources Office be contacted to participate in future RRAC meetings. Jacy Garrison and Jim Wineka's names were suggested points of contact.
- There are two fisheries-related grants on the street. Noel contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss monitoring in the Rouge to determine the long-term effectiveness of the dam removal projects. It was determined that this would not be a good fit for this grant. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service offered to visit the watershed and brainstorm about possible grant project ideas. The other grant will be evaluated by ARC staff.
- The Michigan Water and Environment Association (MWEA) have requested project abstracts for their June 2013 meeting. ARC staff will work with the project sponsors to submit abstracts for the dam removals and Transforming the Rouge. Abstracts are due October 19th.

XII. Next RRAC Meeting

- December 11, 2012 at 1:30 at UM Dearborn. Sally will make the meeting room arrangements.
- Meeting topics will include the officer elections and a possible presentation on the Henry Ford Estate Fish Passage project or the Statewide Aesthetics Assessment.

Motion to adjourn at 3:25 pm.

Subsequent to the meeting, several participants visited the Danver Pond Dam Removal Project that is nearing completion along Pebble Creek within the Main ½ Rouge Subwatershed.

ROUGE RIVER REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN ADVISORY COUNCIL BYLAWS

(As adopted by the RRAC on July, 1993 and amended on August 16, 1995, September 15, 1995, February 17, 1999, June 30, 2004, September 18, 2012)

Mission and Objectives

The mission and objectives of the Rouge River Remedial Action Plan Advisory Council (RRAC) are as follows:

Mission:

The mission of the RRAC is to assist in the attainment of the goals of the Rouge River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) by enhancing public awareness and education concerning RAP issues, providing a mechanism for the participation of all interested parties, seeking broad-based support for the RAP update, assisting in implementation of the Rouge RAP, and independently evaluating progress toward the goal of restoring designated uses and delisting the Rouge River watershed as an Area of Concern.

Objectives:

To attain this mission, the RRAC will fulfill the following objectives:

- Provide a watershed-wide forum for coordination and communication on all RAP related issues;
- Communicate with the general public and represented interest groups;
- Keep all Rouge communities and the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) informed about RAP activities;
- Assist in planning and implementation activities, as appropriate;
- Work with Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC);
- Participate in the ARC, as appropriate;
- Sponsor or assist with public education and outreach activities, as appropriate; and
- Ensure long-term continuity with the RAP process.

Members

Members and ex-officio members of the RRAC shall be appointed by the RRAC. It is the intent that the RRAC represent the diverse stakeholders concerned with the Rouge River. The membership should include representatives of the general public, governmental agencies, and the business community.

Voting

In general, the RRAC shall make decisions and give its advice based on the consensus of the members present at the meeting. In the event that consensus cannot be reached, or at the request of any member of RRAC, a vote can be taken of the members present at the meeting. Decisions will be based on a majority of the members present and voting at the meeting. In addition, voting by email will be allowed. Decisions via email will be based on the majority of the members responding to the email. Any documents produced by RRAC will have the provisions for inclusion of dissenting opinions by any members.

Each RRAC member shall have one vote. Ex-officio members shall be non-voting members.

Parliamentary Procedures

The RRAC shall use Roberts Rules of Order to guide RRAC deliberations except as noted in these bylaws.

Officers

A Chairperson and Vice-chairperson shall be elected by the RRAC. The Vice-chairperson shall serve as chair in the chairperson's absence. The term of office for each position shall be two years. The Chair will appoint a SPAC representative.

Term of Office

The term of office for all positions shall begin in January.

Runoff Election

If votes are split among more than two candidates for a single position, and none of the candidates receives a simple majority of the votes, then there shall be a runoff election for the top two vote getters.

Meetings and Resources

The RRAC will meet, as needed. It is recognized that the functioning of RRAC requires staff support from participating members.

Committees

The RRAC may form committees to advise the RRAC on specific issues. The chair of the RRAC shall appoint the chairperson for each committee. Committee members need not be members of the RRAC.

Nominating Committee

RRAC shall have a standing Nominating Committee consisting of members of the RRAC designated by the Chair of the RRAC and shall include the Vice-chairperson, SPAC representative, and one member at large. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for presenting nominations for filling of vacancies on the RRAC and committee chairs, as needed.

Amendment of Bylaws

The bylaws of the RRAC may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the meeting. All members must be notified of the proposed change at least 10 days prior to the vote of the RRAC.

Handout B

Rouge River Area of Concern Five Year Vision



Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Status

Based on new information gathered by stakeholders, the following BUIs will be removed:

- Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption
- Fish Tumors and Other Deformities
- Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations

Major Projects

- Wayne Road and Danvers Pond dam removals will be recognized as significant and successful projects.
- Fish Passage at the Henry Ford Estate Dam will be in the planning and design phases, if determined beneficial to the Area of Concern (AOC).
- The Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) Lower Rouge River Old Channel project will be in the final stages of sediment removal.
- The GLLA Lower Rouge River Main Channel project will be in the final stages of the remedial investigation feasibility study.
- Funding for concrete channel reduction and side channel green infrastructure (wetland) projects will be secured and out to bid.

Wastewater System Improvements

- As part of its Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)-approved combined sewer overflow (CSO) control plan, the City of Detroit will be implementing its CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) within the watershed. The Puritan First Flush Facility will be built and operating.
- Wayne County's Rouge Valley and Oakland County's Evergreen-Farmington short-term corrective action plans (STCAPs) will be completed with noticeable water quality improvements being realized.
- Local community CSO/sanitary sewer overflow corrective action plans will be clearly established and underway.

Financial

- Rouge River Watershed communities and counties will be utilizing storm water utility funds to sustain and expand their collaborative public education plan (PEP), illicit discharge elimination plan (IDEP) and green infrastructure (GI) activities. This includes adequate resources to sustain Friends of the Rouge's (FOTR's) Rouge Education Project, Rouge Rescue, and Volunteer Environmental Monitoring (Benthics and Amphibians) programs.
- Sanitary sewer funds will also be routinely used by the communities and the counties for green infrastructure projects to minimize the storm water inflow to combined or sanitary sewer system.
- MS4 Permit Compliance Activities will be state revolving fund and nonpoint source (319) grant eligible.
- A new State of Michigan Environmental Bond will be funded.
- Stakeholders will continue to pursue grant funding and local sources of match funding.

Institutional

- The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) will be expanding and continuing to diversify its membership base.
- RRAC's affiliation with ARC will continue.
- The MDEQ and U.S. EPA will encourage the relationship between the ARC and RRAC whose common goals are restoration of the watershed.

Municipal Stormwater Permits

- The municipal storm water permitting program will provide adequate flexibility for both the regulators and the regulated entities to be able to focus their efforts on restoring the resource (i.e. the Rouge River).
- The MDEQ/EPA will allow collaborative efforts that fulfill IDEP, PEP and other municipal storm water permit requirements while also remaining eligible for state and federal grants.



Ongoing ARC AOC Grant Projects Status

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

GLRI 1 (Transforming the Rouge)

- Valley Woods Wetland (Southfield): The area has been planted and re-seeded, and hydrologically it is doing what it is supposed to (holding water.) Another herbicide application is planned. *Planted mid July*
- Rouge Park and Eliza Howell Park Grow Zones (Detroit Parks): These grow zone areas have been seeded and are thriving. Signage will be installed this year, or in the spring. *Brandy*
- Lola Valley (Wayne County Parks) will be re-seeded this fall, as the seeding this spring was not successful due to the drought conditions. The two other Wayne County Parks projects: Inkster Basin and Venoy Park along the Lower Rouge are doing well. *Noel*
- The Fall Bug Hunt will be conducted on Saturday, October 20, 2012.
- The next semi-annual report is due to GLNPO on October 30, 2012.
- A request is being made to EPA/GLNPO to extend this grant to June 30, 201~~2~~³ to allow us to spend all of the money – to add 10 more acres to the grow zones, bringing the total to 35 acres of grow zones; to complete additional post-construction monitoring events and to monitor the Lola Valley (Wayne County Parks) re-seeding.

GLRI 2 (Danvers Pond Dam Removal, Farmington Hills)

- Danvers Pond Dam has been removed and the stream has been reconstructed. *Karen M*
- Plants have been installed, and seeding of the project area is occurring this week. *live stakes in Nov.*

NOAA Fisheries Grant - Wayne Road Dam Removal:

- Wayne Road Dam has been removed. *Noel*
- The rock riffle that goes under the bridge is being constructed.

Public Advisory Council/Great Lakes Commission: The website is being designed. Work will begin on the Lower Rouge Delisting Strategy based on current projects and planned projects along the Lower Rouge.

Erb Foundation Capacity Building for the Alliance of Rouge Communities: The ARC received a \$150,000 capacity building grant from the Erb Family Foundation to supply operational support for the ARC to secure and facilitate assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study to address contaminated sediment in the lower portion of the Main Branch of the Rouge River.

Erb grant:

- ECT team has had several communications with EPA regarding what we could use as acceptable match for the proposal to evaluate the sediment in the Lower Rouge Main Channel.
- ECT team is working with the private and municipal partners to firm up eligible match commitments.

Outstanding Grant Applications:

NOAA Fisheries Grant/GLRI: The ARC in partnership with Wayne County, UM-D and the Henry Ford Estate submitted a \$350,000 grant application to NOAA for a grant to pay for the design of a fish passage at Henry Ford Estate Dam. The ARC was not awarded this grant.