



Annette DeMaria, P.E., PMP
Executive Director

Auburn Hills
Beverly Hills
Bingham Farms
Birmingham
Bloomfield Hills
Bloomfield Twp.
Canton Twp.
Commerce Twp.
Dearborn Heights
Farmington
Farmington Hills
Franklin
Garden City
Henry Ford College
Inkster
Lathrup Village
Livonia
Melvindale
Northville
Northville Twp.
Novi
Oak Park
Oakland County
Orchard Lake
Plymouth
Plymouth Twp.
Redford Twp.
Rochester Hills
Romulus
Southfield
Troy
University of
Michigan-Dearborn
Van Buren Twp.
Walled Lake
Washtenaw County
Wayne
Wayne County
Wayne County
Airport Authority
West Bloomfield Twp.
Westland
Wixom

Cooperating Partners:

Cranbrook Institute of Science
Friends of the Rouge
Great Lakes Water Authority
Rouge River Advisory Council
SEMCOG
Southeastern Oakland
County Water Authority
The Henry Ford

DRAFT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

September 15, 2020, 1:30 p.m. - Online

1. Welcome – Doug Moore, Chair

2. Roll Call of Members

ECT took roll call of members and others in attendance. A quorum was present.

ARC Executive Committee			Attended Meeting
Officers			
Chair	Doug Moore	Livonia	Y
Vice-Chair	Charles Markus	Bloomfield Twp.	Y
Treasurer	Kate Richardson	Novi	Y
Past Chair & Interim Treasurer	Brandy Siedlaczek	Southfield	Y
Counties			
Oakland Co. – Rep.	Jim Nash	OCWRC	N
Oakland Co. – Alt.	Jim Wineka, Jacy Garrison	OCWRC	Y-JG, N-JW
Washtenaw Co.- Rep.	Evan Pratt	WCWRC	N
Washtenaw Co.- Alt.	Heather Rice	WCWRC	Y
Wayne Co. - Rep.	Noel Mullett	WCDPS	N
Wayne Co. - Alt.	Vacant	WCDPS	
SWAGs			
Main 1 & 2 - Rep.	Brandy Siedlaczek	Southfield	Y
Main 1 & 2 - Alt.	Olivia Olsztyn-Budry	Bloomfield Township	N
Main 3 & 4 - Rep.	Paul Horen	Redford Township	Y
Main 3 & 4 - Alt.	Vacant		
Upper - Rep.	Karen Mondora	Farmington Hills	Y
Upper - Alt.	Trisha Gabriel	Livonia	Y
Middle 1 - Rep.	Bob Belair	Northville Township	N
Middle 1 - Alt.	Kate Richardson	Novi	Y
Middle 3 - Rep.	Ramzi El-Gharib	Westland	N
Middle 3 - Alt.	Invitation sent Kristina Kramarz	Dearborn Heights	N
Lower 1 - Rep.	Brad Lear	Canton Township	N
Lower 1 - Alt.	Vacant		
Lower 2 - Rep.	Mike Buiten	Wayne	Y
Lower 2 - Alt.	Jerome Bivins	Inkster	Y
Lower 2 - Alt.	Kathy Hood	Romulus	N

Others Present: Annette DeMaria, John O’Meara, Chris O’Meara, Tennille Newsome, Emily Levine, ECT Staff

3. Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda

Annette DeMaria requested that the PIE and Technical Committee reports be delayed until the Full ARC meeting on 9/24/20. The Committee agreed.

4. Executive Director Report (ARC Staff)

a. MS4 Permit Update

Annette DeMaria received an updated from EGLE this week and four of the township permits are issued for communities who used the Rouge as their prime watershed. The communities are Redford Township, Plymouth Township, Bloomfield Township and Northville Township. Marty Hedges is checking the status on West Bloomfield and Canton.

Annette mentioned EGLE has been doing desktop and onsite audits of the permits. They are focused on three permit elements: 1) IDEP, 2) Construction Stormwater Management and 3) Good Housekeeping/Pollution Prevention. Attending the audits are not part of ECT's scope of work, but if help is needed, please reach out to ARC staff for guidance.

b. Grant Report

John O'Meara reported the following:

SAW Grant: Monitoring and Stormwater Management Planning

- ARC's final reimbursement request was approved, direct deposit received, and grant closed.

EPA Wayne County Rouge AOC Habitat Projects

- **Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage**
 - Work has been completed on the site less a few repairs, some punch list items, site restoration, and vegetation maintenance. Lowering of the water control structure will not take place for at least one year.
- **Oxbow Phase III Implementation**
 - Work completed. Replacement of a few trees to occur in October.

EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Design- Tamarack/Fish Hatchery (\$583,220)– The ARC received a grant from EPA for design engineering for the restoration of Tamarack Creek/wetland and habitat restoration on Johnson Creek at Fish Hatchery Park. These two priority projects were considered the next one that would have significant impact on the removal of the BUIs in the Rouge AOC.

- **Tamarack Wetland and Creek Restoration**
 - Property owners' meetings & authorizations
 - MDOT Permit
 - 99% design completed
 - EGLE permit application submitted
 - Technical specs drafted
 - Anticipated bidding Jan 2021
- **Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Restoration**
 - Project was bid in April 2020 and awarded in June 2020

EPA Rouge River AOC Seeley Creek Habitat Restoration (\$815,000)

The ARC has received from EPA of award of the grant for Seeley Creek in Farmington Hills.

- Vegetation mapping, data processing, and proposed conditions modeling conducted in May 2020
- Design started and base map generation occurred in June 2020
- Design progressed, including stream structure layout, bankfull bench layout, and invasive species treatment layout in July 2020

- EGLE/ USACE permit application was started and design drawings progressed in August 2020

EGLE Rouge River AOC PAC Support (\$75,000)

EGLE awarded a grant to the ARC to continue coordination role for RRAC and development of the AOC habitat list project narratives. Also included in this grant are fish surveys in 2020/2021 and fall macroinvertebrate surveys in 2020/2021 to be completed by FOTR.

- FOTR QAPP For Benthic and Fish Monitoring approved
- FOTR fish survey in July 2020
- Update 3 Project Narratives
- Update AOC habitat project funding listing
- RRAC meeting held June 3, 2020
- Plan RRAC meeting for September 29, 2020

Wayne County EPA Rouge River AOC Wayne County Parks Habitat Restoration Design (\$731,000)

Wayne County received a GLRI grant to complete the design on 5 AOC habitat projects located within Wayne County Parks. Wayne County has initiated an IAA with the ARC to complete this work.

- QAPP approved by EPA
- Topo and Tree surveys completed for Riverview, Bell Creek, Lola, and Sherwood
- Wetland & Desktop T&E surveys completed for Riverview, Bell Creek, Lola, and Sherwood
- Field investigation of Lower Rouge project completed
- Design concepts for all 5 project sites completed
- Grant and IAA time extension Until October 2021

EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat - Colonial & Venoy Restoration (\$1,834,000)

The ARC has received from EPA of award of the grant for the design and implementation of restoration at Colonial Park and Venoy Park in the Wayne County Park system. Anticipated construction summer 2021 for both sites.

- QAPP approved by EPA
- Topo and Tree surveys completed for both sites
- Wetland field surveys in process

GRANTS AWARDED

EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation- Wayne County Parkland (\$4,222,090)

The ARC has received from EPA of award of the grant for the restoration at the 5 Wayne County parkland sites (Lower Rouge River, Riverview, Bell Creek, Lola, and Sherwood) in the Wayne County Park system. This is the implementation of the designs being developed under the ARC's design work for Wayne County.

- QAPP will be developed in September/October 2020
- Lower Rouge & Sherwood construction 2021
- Bell and Lola construction 2022
- Riverview construction 2023

SUBMITTED GRANTS

GLRI USDA Forest Service – Reducing Runoff in the Rouge River AOC (\$261,780)

- Expect award notice in September with start date of October 2020
- Reduce runoff program area – project will intercept a total of 1.3 million gallons annual runoff by planting of 895 trees and installation of 2.9 acres of green infrastructure, throughout the Rouge River Watershed in 17 communities and across 3 counties. In addition to tree installation, green infrastructure will be installed in the form of rain gardens, bio retention installation and expansion, and native plant grow zone areas.

5. Standing Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee (Richardson, Treasurer/C. O'Meara) A/P, A/R Report & Profit/Loss Report

Kate Richardson reviewed the A/R, A/P and profit/loss reports.

2020 Membership Dues

Kate Richardson reported Bloomfield Hills has not paid dues yet and the ARC will follow up.

Ratify E-mail Votes from 8/7/20- 24 yay and 0 nay votes, passed

Chris O'Meara reviewed the email votes from August 7 which need to be ratified per the ARC By-Laws as follows:

1. 2020 ARC Budget Amendment FC4: Adding the new grant EPA7 line item—Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation - Wayne County Parkland \$4.2M total award, added \$30k to 2020 budget
2. 2020 ECT Contract Amendment: Adding Work Order 2020 -5 to ECT's contract to include activities related to the EPA7 Budget Amendment above.

The motion was made by Mike Buiten, City of Wayne to recommend to the Full ARC ratification of the email votes. The motion was seconded by Jerome Bivins, City of Inkster, and passed unanimously.

2020 Budget Amendments & Adjustments

John O'Meara requested a budget amendment for the i Tamarack/Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Park habitat restoration implementation grant. EPA gave the ARC an increase of \$59,840 to do the FEMA analysis on Tamarack after the work is completed. Some additional monies will be for working on property access agreements for Tamarack.

The motion was made by Mike Buiten, City of Wayne to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the 2020 Budget Amendment adding additional EPA grant funds in the amount of \$59,840 to EPA4-Implementation of Tamarack/Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Jerome Bivins, City of Inkster, and passed unanimously.

Annette DeMaria requested a budget amendment for TC1—Annual IDEP Activities. The ARC was made aware of high *E. coli* concentrations in the Lower Rouge starting in the City of Inkster. A budget was put together to screen MS4 outfalls and perform follow-up investigations, starting in the City of Inkster.

The motion was made by Jerome Bivins, City of Inkster to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the 2020 Budget Amendment adding additional TC1 IDEP Activities increasing the budget by \$21,350 for an estimated five days of field work investigations. The motion was seconded by Mike Buiten, City of Wayne, and passed unanimously.

ECT Contract Amendment

John O'Meara reported that the contract amendment for ECT Work Order 2019-4 corresponds to the EPA Grant increase and increases ECT's contract by \$59,840 for a total of \$403,569 and is extended until April 1, 2023 which is the extension of the grant.

Annette DeMaria reported that the contract amendment for ECT Work Order 2020-1 to increase ECT's budget by \$21,350 for the IDEP investigations indicated previously.

The motion was made by Jerome Bivins, City of Inkster to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the ECT contract amendments associated with the 2020 budget amendments for ECT Work Orders 2019-4 and 2020-1. The motion was seconded by Jacy Garrison, Oakland County, and passed unanimously.

2020 dues freeze for 2021 due to COVID

Annette DeMaria suggested a dues freeze for 2021 due to the uncertainties associated with community funding from the state. Annette went through the ARC's 5-year plan and explained that the dues freeze would not affect completion of the plan. It is a difference of \$6,000 on the budget.

Karen Mondora asked how many communities have reached out for this request. Annette reported she had not heard from any, it was more of a suggestion.

Karen asked any other communities if they have any thoughts. Some communities have mentioned that most are already budgeted for the dues increase and none see a problem with keeping the dues increase for 2021.

2021 Budget Recommendations

Chris O'Meara and Annette DeMaria reviewed the proposed 2021 budget recommendations.

The motion was made by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the 2021 Budget Recommendations as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Mike Buiten, City of Wayne, and passed unanimously.

b. Organization Committee

Chris O'Meara in place of Noel Mullett reported that the ARC needs to add a policy for those who are not English proficient and will be completed by the end of the year.

c. Nominating Committee

Chris O'Meara reported that she reached out to the 3 current officers and asked if they were willing to serve next year if no other recommendations were made from the floor. The 2021 Officer Slate is expected to be: Doug Moore – Chair, Kate Richardson – Treasurer, Charles Markus – Vice Chair.

The motion was made by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, to recommend to the Full ARC the 2021-22 officer slate as presented in addition to any others that may volunteer at the Full ARC. The motion was seconded by Brandy Siedlaczek, City of Southfield, and passed unanimously.

6. Report from Counties

Jacy Garrison, Oakland County, informed the Committee that their new MS4 permit is to be public noticed early next week. The post-construction stormwater standards are expected to be approved for implementation in March 2021.

She also stated she sent out information about their 16th annual kids calendar. They are asking for the entries to be submitted online only. She hopes for a lot of participation. All the information for the calendar is oakgov.com/calendarcontest. There are also resources on the site.

She also mentioned they are filming a professional video of the Dirt Doctors program that should be ready by October 2020. She will send out the link at a later date.

Karen Mondora asked if they could receive a final draft of the stormwater standards. Jacy states yes, it will be part of the process. She mentioned if anyone had specific questions, they could email Jim Wineka directly. Annette DeMaria mentioned she would take the lead for that.

Heather Rice with Washtenaw County reported the fall tree and native plant sale pre orders are due this Friday. The pickup for the plants will be socially distanced and on October 2. The rain garden program is continuing with a free online master rain gardener course. Anyone interested can go online at Washtenaw.org/raingardens. She wanted to mention the Friends of the Rouge has their 5 dates for becoming a master gardener which starts September 29.

Chris O'Meara mentioned all activities are on the ARC's website and Facebook page.

7. Other Business

Annette DeMaria mentioned there was suggestions from ARC staff to discuss an update to the Rouge River Management Plan. Some ideas behind the update would be that watershed management plans are more relied on for funding decisions with state and federal agencies. The current plan was completed in 2008. A discussion with EGLE would need to be held to determine constraints on funding any updates (assuming 319 funding was going to be requested to complete the updates).

John O'Meara mentioned that it has been a while since it has been updated and communities have projects that may have the potential for watershed management funding. He also suggested that the update could potentially be an amendment to the existing plan.

Karen Mondora mentioned it was a good idea but is a painful task. Annette DeMaria suggests this topic be further explored by the Technical Committee.

Chris O'Meara reported the new ARC website is live. If anyone has any questions or comments to let her know. There are a lot of new pages toward Public Education.

8. Summary of Executive Committee Actions

- The motion was approved to recommend to the Full ARC ratification of the email votes from 8/7/20.
- The motion was approved to recommend to the Full ARC the 2020 Budget Amendment for EPA grant funds to EPA4-Implementation of Tamarack/Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery.
- The motion was approved to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the 2020 budget amendment to TC1 IDEP Activities.
- The motion was approved to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the ECT contract amendments ECT Work Orders 2019-4 and 2020-1.
- The motion was approved to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the 2021 Budget Recommendations.
- The motion was approved to recommend to the Full ARC the 2021-2022 officer slate.
- The motion was approved to adjourn the September 15, 2020 Executive Meeting.

9. Upcoming Meeting(s)

- Full ARC meeting, September 24, 2020 at 1:30 p.m., virtual

10. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills and seconded by Jerome Bivins, City of Inkster. The motion passed.