

James W. Ridgway, P.E.  
Executive Director



Working together, restoring the river

**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**  
**ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES**  
**November 18, 2015, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center**

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.  
Pontiac  
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  
Westland  
Wixom

**1. Welcome** (Brandy Siedlaczek, Chair)

**a. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum** - Roll call was taken. The 22 members listed below were in attendance, which was sufficient for a quorum.

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

**b. Introduction of ARC guests**

Brandy Siedlaczek, Chair, asked all guests in attendance to introduce themselves.

**c. Additions or Changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda**

There were no additions or changes to the draft agenda.

**d. Approval of May 13, 2015 Meeting Summary**

The motion was made by Tim Faas, Canton, to approve the August 26, 2015 meeting summary. It was seconded by Gary Mekjian, Farmington Hills, and passed unanimously.

Cooperating Partners:

Cranbrook Institute of Science  
Friends of the Rouge  
Rouge River Advisory Council  
Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority  
The Henry Ford  
Wayne State University

**e. Contested Case Presentation**

Elizabeth Kudla Saarela, Johnson, Rosati, Schultz, Joppich, PC, gave a presentation to the Full ARC on the status of petitions on the NPDES Phase II General Permits and its impact on challenges to future permit requirements. The presentation handouts will be available on the ARC website under the "ARC Meeting Information" tab.

**2. Executive Director Report**

**a. Status of the FOTR/ARC Merger Investigation**

Jim Ridgway reported that the investigation continues to move along. The ARC officers are not ready to vote now but will be presenting a vote to the Full ARC in early 2016 to continue the merger process. He stated that the initial plan would be to have the ARC start to ramp down its activities over the next 1 ½ - 2 years while the new organization starts.

**b. Grant Status Report**

John O'Meara, ARC Staff, gave the grant project status report.

**2015 Rouge River Public Advisory Council (RRAC) Support**

The ARC submitted an application to the Great Lakes Commission to continue facilitation of the RRAC. The budget was \$16,545 for 12 months with no match. This project was awarded. The first meeting will be November 24, 2015.

**FOTR-ARC Merger Investigation**

FOTR and the ARC were awarded a grant from the Erb Family Foundation in the amount of \$110,000 to explore merging the organizations. The Reorganization Investigation Committee (RIC) has met several times and are developing a recommendation for the ARC and FOTR boards to consider. The recommendation will outline the financial and non-financial benefits to merging, a draft scope of work, budget, job descriptions, organizational structure, and enabling state legislation under which we would form.

**Collaborative Invasive Species Control in Rouge and Detroit River AOC**

Wayne County was awarded an EPA for a grant in the amount of \$634,736 to establish and begin implementing an effective management program to address invasive species in the Rouge River and Detroit River Areas of Concern. Wayne County has executed the IAA with the ARC. The ARC will begin working with Wayne County of invasive species identification training for 2016.

**US Forestry Service 2014 Tree Grant**

The ARC received award of a \$100,000 grant from the US Forestry Service to purchase and plant an estimated 680 trees. No match is required. A few communities have installed trees this fall with the remaining participating communities installing in spring 2016. Communities will complete their planting, locating, and project summaries by June 2016 and the ARC will finalize the grant reporting next summer.

**SAW Grant: Monitoring and Stormwater Management Planning**

The ARC received the SAW funding grant agreement last week and returned for execution November 10, 2015. The grant covers development of member MS4 permit applications, monitoring, and stormwater funding planning efforts. ARC staff have had initial meetings with each of the communities on the permit process and begun

scheduling community facility inspections. Staff have been working on identifying match (\$355,333 required) for the grant.

**NOAA GLRI Habitat Restoration: Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage (Design)**

ARC and NOAA established the agreement for this project in September. The ARC and NOAA have had an initial kickoff call to review the project. ARC staff have drafted the QAPP and submitted to NOAA for review and approval. Staff have reviewed the previously USACE documents and identified additional data needs for the design. The ARC hosted a Project Partners (NOAA, ARC, Wayne County, RRAC, MDEQ, USACE, National Park Service, and Henry Ford Estate) meeting November 9, 2015 to discuss the project and alternative for design.

**PENDING GRANT APPLICATIONS**

None at this time.

**c. SAW Grant Update**

This item was covered in the Grant Status Report above.

**d. Call for Projects**

Jim Ridgway informed the members that this is a new item that will be included in all Full ARC agendas. ARC Staff encourage members to contact the ARC Staff if they have any project in mind that ARC Staff can begin to look for funding mechanisms.

**3. Treasurers/Finance Committee Report (Bob Belair, Treasurer)**

**a. 2015 Membership Dues**

Bob Belair reported that there are a few communities with outstanding dues and reminders have been sent.

**b. A/R and A/P Reports**

Bob Belair reviewed the accounts receivable and accounts payables reports.

**c. 2015 Budget Amendment 5**

**FC5 – SPAC7 RRAC Facilitation**

John O’Meara reviewed the FC5 Amendment. The ARC has received a \$16,545 grant from the Great Lakes Commission to facilitate the Rouge RAP Advisory Council. The ARC was awarded the funding in September, 2015, with activities beginning on September 25, 2015 and ending March 31, 2016.

RRAC and ARC applied for this grant to fund activities to continue to facilitate RRAC meetings and general business activities in the Rouge River Area of Concern (AOC). These activities include re-establishing a larger active membership list, facilitating RRAC meetings and continuing to support the Rouge RAP Advisory Council website. Additionally, this grant funding will allow ARC staff to provide communications support with MDEQ regarding the Rouge Habitat Restoration Project List which includes a list of priority projects that need to be completed in order to remove the Fish and Wildlife Habitat beneficial use impairment (BUI).

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to approve the 2015 Budget Amendment adding the SPAC7 RRAC Facilitation grant as presented by the Finance

Committee. The motion was seconded by Gary Mekjian, Farmington Hills, and passed unanimously.

**FC6 – PIE2 Public Ed Materials**

Chris O’Meara reviewed this budget amendment. Approximately \$5,000 will not be spent under task FC1 – Accounting/Legal Services. This is because the ARC was not required to have an A133 audit done because the ARC did not expend more than \$500,000 in federal funds. The ARC staff is requesting that \$1,100 of this be transferred to PIE2 to pay for the printing of the FOG brochure (5,000 copies).

The motion was made by Mike Buiten, Wayne, to approve the 2015 Budget Amendment transferring \$1,100 from FC1 to PIE2 to pay for the printing of the new FOG brochure as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, and passed unanimously.

**FC7 – TC1 SAW Grant Monitoring**

John O’Meara reviewed this budget amendment which was discussed earlier in the agenda. Expend \$35,000 (\$20,000 to Wayne County and \$15,000 to FOTR) in unallocated ARC funds and reallocate FOTR 2015 budget of up to \$3,500 from PIE1 and up to \$1,000 from PIE4 to support the 2015 benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring program. FOTR will invoice the ARC \$19,500 and Wayne County \$20,000 for benthic monitoring expenses accrued in 2015. In addition, Wayne County and FOTR will provide backup for potential match for the ARC to use for the SAW grant (WC \$35,000-\$55,000 and FOTR \$20,000).

The motion was made by Jill Rickard, Northville Twp., to approve the 2015 Budget Amendment transferring funds from PIE1 and PIE4 and adding unallocated funds to TC1 to fund Rouge River monitoring activities by FOTR and Wayne County as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Jacy Garrison, Oakland County, and passed unanimously.

**d. 2013 ECT Contract Amendment**

**Appendix K – RRAC Facilitation (SPAC7)**

John O’Meara, ARC Staff, reviewed the ECT contract amendment to the scope of services for the Executive Director Services Contract which adds the grant awarded to the ARC to facilitate the RRAC and finalize the habitat project list.

The motion was made by Heather Rice, Washtenaw County, to approve the 2013 ECT Contract Amendment adding Appendix K, SPAC7, as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, and passed unanimously.

**e. 2016 Budget Recommendations**

Bob Belair, Treasurer, reviewed the budget recommendations for 2016 as presented by the Finance Committee.

Executive Director Services:

- ARC Meetings (OC1a) - Staffing and facilitation of the full ARC (3 meetings); the Executive Committee (3 meetings); the Finance Committee (3 meetings); the Organization Committee (1 meeting); the Technical Committee (up to 2 meetings and

budget support); and the PIE Committee (up to 2 meetings and budget support). This task will also include FOIA requests and activities to meet the Open Meetings Act requirements.

- Financial Services and Reporting (OC1b) – The Executive Director Staff will use Quickbooks for the financial tracking for the ARC including payables and receivables activities.
- Administration and Communication (OC1c) - This task includes communication with ARC members, administration of subcontractors and preparing the 2015 ARC Annual Report. This task also includes the Executive Director serving as the primary liaison and advocate for the Rouge River Watershed.
- Pursuing Grant Opportunities (OC1d) – Executive Director Staff will research and prepare up to 3 grant applications.

#### PIE Committee:

The 2016 PIE budget reflects a slight decrease (\$2,000) in cost from the 2015 budget and is summarized below:

- (PIE 1) The Green Infrastructure Activities – (\$23,500). The Green Schools program has the same budget as previous years. The workshops will have a similar overall budget, but will have a different focus in 2016 and may include Native landscaping & maintenance for homeowners/businesses, riparian/streambank stabilization, backyard habitat and/or garden tour experiences (workshop titles to be determined at a later date).
- (PIE 2) The Public Education Materials task – (\$15,000) This task supports the purchase and distribution of seedlings/plants at local events, such as community events, and HHW collection days. The printing budget will pay for seedling/plant packaging, reprinting of public education materials and printing of four (4) seasonal posters. The PIE would like to have the seedling monies available for plants, not just seedlings.
- (PIE 3) The Website Maintenance – (\$5,500) The task budget remains the same as it was in the 2015 budget and supports design, writing and maintenance fees for the ARC website.
- (PIE 4) New Public Education Campaigns Implementation – (\$13,000) The committee will implement the campaign created in 2015 by the PIE and FOTR that will cover the various pathways of stormwater and will create four (4) seasonal stewardship posters related to stormwater management along with public education billboards and bus signage relating to permit required public education.
- (PIE 5) The Watershed Stewardship and Reporting – (\$1,500) This task supports the annual reporting of monitoring and public education activities conducted by FOTR, which are items that can also be used by ARC members in their stormwater permit reporting.

#### Tech Committee:

The 2016 Technical Committee (TC) budget is \$131,000 which is \$55,500 more than the 2015 budget. The increase is the refunding the FOTR macroinvertebrate task under TC1. TC1 funding was reduced in 2014 and unfunded in 2015 because of budget constraints. Wayne and Oakland County will each provide \$7,500 in matching effort under TC2. The 2016 TC activities are summarized below:

- (TC1) –Rouge River Macroinvertebrate Monitoring – (\$58,500). This is an important indicator for stream habitat and water quality and promotes stewardship within the watershed. It will also serve as match to the SAW grant funding.
- (TC2) - IDEP Activities – (\$72,500 and includes \$15,000 in match provided by Wayne and Oakland County) The task continues field investigations in priority areas and allows for an IDEP Training session provided by SEMCOG. TC2 allows the ARC to address illicit discharges on a watershed-wide basis consistent with the Collaborative IDEP plan.

Note that the ARC's SAW grant will fund additional activities that are typically carried out by the TC. These activities include development of a monitoring plan, finalization of the collaborative IDEP Plan, and conducting other ecosystem monitoring.

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to approve the 2016 ARC Budget as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Mike Buiten, Wayne, and passed unanimously.

#### **4. Standing Committee Reports**

##### **a. Organization Committee** (Kelly Cave, Chair)

Chris O'Meara, ARC Staff, reported on behalf of Kelly Cave that the Organization Committee has nothing to report.

##### **b. PIE Committee**

Meghan Price, ARC Staff, reported on behalf of Charles Markus, PIE Committee Chair, that the PIE committee hosted two riparian homeowner workshops and will be hosting a septic system maintenance workshop in Northville Twp. on December 2. She also informed the Full ARC that billboards will be shown in the watershed with tips for clean water over the next several weeks and into 2016. Chris O'Meara, ARC Staff, also invited members to pick up samples of the pet waste containers that are available to members. She asked that you email her if you would like some for your community.

There was a discussion regarding the possibility of funding for riparian landowners. ARC Staff would include this in their search for funding under the call for projects.

##### **c. Technical Committee**

John O'Meara, ARC Staff, reported on behalf of Karen Mondora, Chair, that the Technical Committee will be doing a survey of the members regarding green infrastructure. There have been some discussions regarding the need for developing a maintenance manual with photos of GI at different stages, bid specs for maintenance, cost estimates, service options that could be done by community staff, contracted out, done by ARC staff or done by an ARC contractor. There was also discussion about developing a cost to fix the current GI projects in the watershed.

#### **5. Report from Cooperating Partners**

##### Friends of the Rouge

Sally Petrella reported that the GLRI invasive species activities are happening. She reported that they had 104 participate in the Fall Bug Hunt and have 48 sites of sampling results. She informed the Full ARC that the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Rouge Rescue is scheduled for May 21, 2016, with a site coordinator meeting the first Tuesday in March.

### Rouge River Advisory Council

Bill Craig stated that the Great Lakes AOC will be having their conference on March 2 and 3, 2016, at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. This conference allows the different AOCs to share their activities and progress. He informed the Full ARC that RRAC and the Habitat Subcommittee have been working on finalizing the Rouge River list of projects to remove the habitat BUIs and expect it to be complete by the conference in March. He stated that the Clinton River AOC has a project list which is complete and they are receiving funding for the projects on the list. He informed the group that RRAC's next meeting is scheduled for November 24 at 9:00 a.m. in Wayne.

#### **6. Report from Counties**

Heather Rice, Washtenaw County, informed the Full ARC that the IDEP training that the county hosted in 2015 was a huge success and a great training.

#### **7. Report from MDEQ**

There was no report by MDEQ.

#### **8. Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

#### **9. Summary of Actions of Full Alliance (Chris O'Meara, ARC staff)**

- The August 26, 2015 meeting summary was approved.
- The 2015 Budget Amendment 5, SPAC7 was approved.
- The 2015 Budget Amendment 6, PIE2 was approved.
- The 2015 Budget Amendment 7, TC1 was approved.
- The 2013 ECT Appendix K contract amendment was approved.
- The 2016 ARC Budget was approved.

#### **10. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **11. Adjourn**

The motion was made by Gary Mekjian, Farmington Hills, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Vandette, Troy, and passed unanimously.

# For Safety Reasons, ALL Meeting Attendees MUST SIGN IN!

*Why? Because this attendance list is used in the event of an emergency evacuation to ensure that everyone is accounted for once the building has been evacuated!*



Event: ARC

Date: 11/18/15

Name
BILL CRAIG
HEATHER RICE
DOUG MOORE
Laura Grayson
Cory Borton
Kara Steeland
Souzan Hanna
MIKE BUTTEN
John Deslippe
Jacy Garrison
Sally Petrella
Shawn Keenan
Nim [Signature]

Name
Brandy Srodek
BOB BELTR
Adam Wayne
John Mear
Jim [Signature]
Angela Pasciolla
Fred Fuller
A J Rickard
Gary Melgion
Meghan Price
Jerome Bilvins
Kevin Roney
PATRICK FELLERATT

**Thanks for helping us keep YOU S-A-F-E!**



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Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name
Kevin Roney
Steve Verdette, Troy
Nicholas Dely Westland

Name

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