

Annette DeMaria, P.E., PMP  
Executive Director



Working together, restoring the river

**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**  
**ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES**

March 30, 2020, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.  
GOTO Meeting

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  
Schoolcraft College  
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

**1. Welcome (Doug Moore, Chair)**

**a. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum** - Roll call was taken. The 31 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	Oakland County	Y
Beverly Hills	Y	Oakland County Road Commission	N
Bingham Farms	Y	Oak Park	Y
Birmingham	Y	Orchard Lake	Y
Bloomfield Hills	N	Plymouth	Y
Bloomfield Twp.	Y	Plymouth Twp.	Y
Canton Twp.	N	Redford Twp.	N
Commerce Twp.	Y	Rochester Hills	Y
Dearborn Heights	N	Romulus	N
Farmington	Y	Schoolcraft College	Y
Farmington Hills	Y	Southfield	Y
Franklin	Y	Troy	Y
Garden City	Y	University of Michigan-Dearborn	N
Henry Ford College	N	Van Buren Twp.	N
Inkster	Y	Walled Lake	Y
Lathrup Village	Y	Washtenaw County	Y
Livonia	Y	Wayne	N
Melvindale	N	Wayne County	Y
Northville	Y	Wayne County Airport Authority	Y
Northville Twp.	Y	West Bloomfield Twp.	Y
Novi	Y	Westland	Y
		Wixom	N

**b.**

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

There were no additions or changes to the agenda. Annette DeMaria informed the Full ARC that all motions would move forward online immediately following the meeting.

**c. Approval of November 20, 2019 Meeting Summary**

The online motion was made by Charles Markus, Bloomfield Twp., to approve the 11/20/19 Full ARC meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield. The online motion passed unanimously with 31 yay votes and 0 nay.

**2. Executive Director Report**

**a. MS4 Permit Update**

Annette DeMaria reported that some of the townships have been issued their Public Notice draft of their new MS4 permit. EGLE is interested in getting them issued. If there are questions on your Public Notice draft when you receive it, reach out to Annette.

Cooperating Partners:

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

A 501(c)(3) Organization – [www.allianceofrougecommunities.com](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com)

46036 Michigan Ave., Suite 126, Canton, MI 48188 – Ph: 734-272-0291 Email: [info@allianceofrougecommunities.com](mailto:info@allianceofrougecommunities.com)

Annette also reported that 27 members progress reports are due March 31, 2020. The ARC reached out to the members after the Covid-19 outbreak and offered to assist with the progress reports. To date ARC staff gave assistance to Walled Lake, Inkster, Novi, Southfield and Northville Township in completing their progress reports. A few members have asked for extensions. In preparation for the progress reports the ARC also had to report on the Collaborative IDEP and PEP plans. ARC staff completed them in mid-March and provided members the links to add into their progress reports. . The reports are available on the ARC's website for those members who are reporting in a different reporting cycle or are not participants in the collaborative plans.

Annette also reported that ARC staff provided some guidance in January for the progress reports and how to navigate MiWaters, as this was the first time submitting them through there.

Annette reported that ARC staff updated all three collaborative plans (Public Ed, IDEP and TMDL) to incorporate Schoolcraft College and Willow Run Airport.

**b. Call for Projects**

Annette asked the members if they had any habitat restoration, green infrastructure, stormwater management or environmental projects that they would like to complete. If so, they should contact ARC staff who can start researching possible funding opportunities.

**c. Grant Status Report**

John O'Meara, ARC Staff reported the following:

**EPA Wayne County Rouge AOC Habitat Projects**

- **Henry Ford Estate DamFish Passage**
  - Work was ongoing until mid February 2020. Work has stopped until May/June 2020 and will finish up by August 1.
- **Oxbow Phase III Implementation**
  - Work completed other than maintenance which will be done through July 2020.

**EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Design- Tamarack/Fish Hatchery**

- **Tamarack Wetland and Creek Restoration**
  - 75% design completed
  - Permitting to be done
  - Anticipated bidding August 2020
- **Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Restoration**
  - Project went out to bid last Wednesday.
  - Project work will begin late May, early June

**EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation - Tamarack/Fish Hatchery**

The ARC has received from EPA the grant for Johnson Creek and Tamarack Implementation. QAPP was submitted to EPA. Anticipate construction of Johnson Creek to start in May/June 2020 and Tamarack Creek in September/October 2020.

### **EPA Rouge River AOC Seeley Creek Habitat Restoration**

- Full design and implementation project
- Design anticipated by August 2020

### **GRANTS AWARDED**

#### **EGLE Rouge River AOC PAC Support**

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.

#### **Wayne County EPA Rouge River AOC Wayne County Parks Habitat Restoration Design project (pending Wayne County Commission)**

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. Work will begin in April 2020.

### **GRANTS SUBMITTED**

#### **EPA Rouge River AOC – Venoy & Colonial Habitat Restoration**

EPA has notified the ARC that it intends to award the ARC a \$1,834,000 GLRI grant: EPA Rouge River AOC – Venoy & Colonial Habitat Restoration. The ARC has currently been asked by EPA to prepare and submit the official grant documentation so that the grant can begin May 15, 2020. This grant will be for the management, design and implementation of 2 Rouge AOC habitat restoration projects. These projects include wetland restoration, reforestation, and installation of fish habitat structures.

### **3. Treasurers/Finance Committee Report**

#### **a. Open ARC Treasurer position**

Brandy Siedlaczek, Interim ARC Treasurer reported that Kate Richardson from the City of Novi volunteered to be the new ARC Treasurer. Per the by-laws, the floor was opened for others interested in the position. There were no other volunteers. Annette provide background as to why a new Treasurer is required. Jill Rickard with Northville Township was the previous Treasurer who has since moved on to a different firm and out of the watershed.

The online motion was made by Charles Markus, Bloomfield Twp., to approve the appointment of Kate Richardson, Novi, as ARC Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield. The online motion passed unanimously with 31 yay votes and 0 nay.

#### **b. 2020 A/R, A/P and Profit/Loss Reports**

Chris O’Meara, ARC staff reported on the accounts receivable report which included any outstanding member dues that went out with the first round of mailing (8 member dues received to date). In addition to the outstanding dues, the SAW Grant is outstanding and waiting on EGLE to release the last reimbursement request that was turned in. Wayne County DOE also shows on the receivables report for a reimbursement request for the Henry Ford Fishway/Oxbow project.

Chris also reported that before staff was required to “Stay at Home” all checks that were received for dues were deposited on Monday, March 23, 2020 and the ARC also paid any outstanding invoices (Friends of the Rouge and ECT).

**c. 2019 Audit**

Chris O’Meara, ARC staff reported that the ARC was able to provide the files to the accountant and they are currently working on the audit for 2019.

**d. 2020 & 2021 Planned 2% Dues Increase**

Chris O’Meara, ARC Staff reviewed the ARC’s current dues and what ARC member dues would be in 2021 for community’s budget planning.

**e. Revision to Accounting Procedures Manual**

Chris O’Meara, ARC Staff reported that the accountant informed the ARC that the federal government was going to be making some changes to the way nonprofits do their recordkeeping. The accountant suggested we make a revision to the Accounting Procedures Manual. The ARC already started to implement these procedures last year. The paragraph to include in the manual was provided by the accountant.

The online motion was made by Charles Markus, Bloomfield Twp., to approve the revision to the Accounting Procedures Manual. The motion was seconded by Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield. The online motion passed unanimously with 31 yay votes and 0 nay.

**f. 2020 Budget Amendments & Adjustments**

Budget Adjustments

Annette DeMaria reported there were some budget adjustments to highlight. The first set of adjustments reflect the previous recommendation from the ARC accountants to breakdown the line items under the Executive Director’s budget into Program Management, Fundraising and Direct Expenses to meet the federal guidelines. The second item was the IDEP investigation. On this line item, Wayne County has agreed to forgo receiving any funding from the ARC to do IDEP training and working on IDEP investigation activities. The budget has been adjusted to reflect that they will not receive a portion and will be providing the work in-kind. This added around \$30,000 into the ARC’s unallocated budget.

Annette also reported that the other adjustments affected multi-year grants and now show the available budget based on the ARC’s fiscal year (Jan-Dec). Instead of the full amount on the budgets for the grants, the budget now reflects what is to be spent in 2020 versus 2021.

Budget Amendment: SPAC11 EGLE RRAC 2020-2021 Support Grant

John O’Meara reviewed the grant that the ARC received to support the activities of the RRAC and for FOTR to do monitoring activities over the next two years. It adds the \$75,000 grant to the ARC budget with no match required. This is 100% reimbursement by EGLE.

The online motion was made by Charles Markus, Bloomfield Twp., to approve adding the new \$75,000 SPAC Grant for RRAC facilitation and FOTR activities to the 2020 budget.

The motion was seconded by Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield. The online motion passed unanimously with 31 yay votes and 0 nay.

Budget Amendment: WCEPA3 Rouge River AOC Wayne County Parks Habitat Restoration Design Project

John O'Meara stated that this grant is a sub-award from Wayne County for the ARC to support Wayne County Parks Habitat Restoration under the EPA grant. He informed the Full ARC that the IAA is currently being reviewed by the Wayne County Commission. The ARC's portion is \$731,000. John anticipates this starting within the next month or two. John asked if there were any questions. Sally from FOTR asked if the Lower Rouge Habitat Restoration was put with the Wayne County Parks project? John confirmed, yes.

The online motion was made by Charles Markus, Bloomfield Twp., to approve adding the new \$731,000 Wayne County EPA Grant for parks habitat restoration design, upon Wayne County Commission IAA award, to the 2020 budget. The motion was seconded by Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield. The online motion passed unanimously with 31 yay votes and 0 nay.

**g. ECT Contract Amendment**

Work Order No. 2020-2 EGLE RRAC Support Grant

John O'Meara reviewed the contract amendment that adds the work order to ECT's contract for the EGLE PAC Support Grant for the RRAC facilitation and preparation of the habitat project descriptions.

The online motion was made by Charles Markus, Bloomfield Twp., to approve the ECT Contract Amendment adding Work Order No. 2020-2 for the SPAC Grant in the amount of \$31,000. The motion was seconded by Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield. The online motion passed unanimously with 31 yay votes and 0 nay.

Work Order No. 2020-3 EPA Rouge River AOC WC Parks Habitat Restoration Design Grant

John O'Meara reviewed the work order that adds the EPA grant activities to ECT's contract, upon Wayne County Commission approval of the IAA. The work order adds overall grant management, preliminary engineering and field investigation in addition to the design of the 5 parks. It also includes development of construction documents.

The online motion was made by Charles Markus, Bloomfield Twp., to approve the ECT Contract Amendment adding Work Order No. 2020-3 for the EPA Rouge River AOC WC Parks Habitat Restoration Design Grant, upon IAA Award, in the amount of \$731,000. The motion was seconded by Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield. The online motion passed unanimously with 31 yay votes and 0 nay.

**4. Standing Committee Reports**

**a. Organization Committee**

ARC Bylaws Revision

Annette reviewed the recommended change to the ARC Bylaws that changes the number of times the Executive Committee is required to meet. Currently, it is four times a year and the recommended change is to meet as needed without a specific number each year. The revision was originally discussed at the November 2019 Full ARC meeting which started the 30-day review period required by the ARC Bylaws.

The online motion was made by Charles Markus, Bloomfield Twp., to approve the amendment to the ARC Bylaws adjusting the number of Executive Committee meetings from a specific number of “at least four times each year” to a broad statement of “regularly scheduled” meetings to complete ARC activities. The motion was seconded by Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield. The online motion passed unanimously with 31 yay votes and 0 nay.

**b. PIE Committee**

Jacy Garrison, Oakland County, reported that the ARC members should have received copies of the new homeowners brochure, Watershed Wisdom, please display and include in your new homeowners packets if you hand them out. Let ARC Staff know if you need more copies.

ARC staff sent mailings to all realtors in the watershed offering copies of the new Homeowners Brochure for them to hand out with their home sales, unfortunately we did not receive any requests for copies from any realtor. Each mailing included a copy of the brochure. Staff will be following up with phone calls to the realtors.

ARC staff will be emailing homeowner associations next to see if they would like copies of the brochure mailed to them to distribute.

This year we will be creating 1 new brochure (possibly geared toward businesses), 1 new article and ad graphic for use in community newsletters and social media, and 1 new static display that can be rotated through the watershed for the general public to see. We will also be hosting 1 webinar. Friends of the Rouge will also be doing a workday at an established green infrastructure site that needs maintenance.

The survey of the road signs “entering the Rouge River Watershed, ours to protect” will be finished this year providing areas that need maintenance or new signage.

**c. Technical Committee**

Karen Mondora reported that the Technical Committee met on March 6, 2020. 26 of 31 permittees were in attendance. The meeting summary for this meeting was distributed by ARC Staff. Discussions included IDEP findings for 2019, Oakland County had 8 category A&B outfalls that were investigated and 25 category C outfalls that were resampled. The draft collaborative IDEP plan progress report was also discussed.

Annette showed status of the IDEP investigations over the last two years via PowerPoint slides. This was an excerpt from the IDEP plan progress report.

**5. Report from Cooperating Partners**

Cranbrook

Michelle, with Cranbrook reported the Spring into Science event was canceled and those who were registered should receive notice.

SEMCOG

Katie reported SEMCOG offices are closed until May due to Covid-19. They are trying to do multiple online seminars. They released a toilet paper PSA of what is appropriate to flushed down the toilet. Here are the links to the [video](#) and to [the webinar](#) with Senator Peters. The Transportation Alternatives training projects are holding a webinar

Wednesday, noon-1pm. Best Practices for Education Leaders is on April 9 from 10-11am. Parks and Recreation data run through will be April 10 from 1-2pm. Please check SEMCOG's website for more information.

#### Friends of the Rouge

Sally, FOTR reported their offices are closed and are working from home. They postponed their annual meeting and the Earth Day Great Global Cleanup which more than likely will be canceled. They had to cancel their second Frog and Toad workshop training. They did a master rain gardener training in Livonia and one was online. They are trying to go more online and are using #natureisopen. FOTR have not yet made a decision to cancel Rouge Rescue. In the meantime, they are working on a new challenge where people get points for cleaning their backyard, naming plants, etc. in mid-April.

Sally also reported that they were invited to submit a proposal to National Fish and Wildlife Federation for a project to open log jams on the Water Trail.

The spring bug hunt is also canceled. They are working with the communities who were included.

Marie McCormick mentioned they are going to be offering a virtual rain gardens 101 course that will be streamed Facebook live on April 11 which is free to the public. Links below:

Website: <https://therouge.org/lawnstolife/>

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/180575223314003/>

Shareable facebook

post: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheRouge/posts/10156866735511237>

She also mentioned they are in discussion with Michigan Sea Grant and MSU about offering their water school as a virtual option. That is scheduled for May 18 and 19. They are considering going forward in person, but the location host is canceling.

#### Great Lakes Water Authority

As part of the watershed subcommittee, the ARC participated in the development of GLWA's Wastewater Master Plan. The plan was completed in 2019 and Sherri Gee gave a presentation that summarized the plan and the water quality monitoring component.

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

Jacy Garrison, Oakland County, mentioned that they don't have any new information regarding the approval of their stormwater standards. Jacy also mentioned that they put together a summary for community use regarding phase two stormwater reporting.

Heather Rice, Washtenaw County, mentioned the in-person master rain gardener course was canceled. She is hoping for online courses in July/August. They are still hoping to have their native plant sale with the Conservation District.

Noel Mullett, Wayne County, reported that they don't have any new information regarding their stormwater standards and the public notice of the MS4 permit. The Household Hazardous Waste collection scheduled for April, is most likely canceled.

## **7. Report from EGLE**

Marty Hendges, EGLE, gave the status of the MS4 reporting. Of the 27 Rouge permittees that have reports due, as of March 31 he has received 13. A few communities have asked for an extension. There are around 6 townships that were sent to Lansing. He is waiting for comments on the draft permits.

Jack Cotrone, EGLE, wanted to update everyone on the non-point source program. 319 Grant season is approaching. They don't have an exact date for the RFP release date. Those communities who worked on the Pebble Creek watershed management plan which was completed would be a good grant cycle to the implementation of that plan started (Southfield, W. Bloomfield Township, Farmington Hills, Oakland County and SEMCOG).

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

There were no public comments.

## **9. Summary of Actions of Full Alliance**

The 8 motions were voted online beginning March 30 and closed on March 31. All votes were approved unanimously and are summarized below:

- Approved the 11/20/19 Full ARC meeting summary
- Approved the of appointment of Kate Richardson (Novi) as ARC Treasurer
- Approved the revision to the Accounting Procedures Manual adding language required by new federal guidelines for nonprofits.
- Approved adding the new \$75,000 SPAC Grant for RRAC facilitation and FOTR activities to the 2020 budget.
- Approved adding the new \$731,000 Wayne County EPA Grant for parks habitat restoration design upon Wayne County IAA Award to the 2020 budget.
- Approved the ECT Contract Amendment adding Work Order No. 2020-2 for the SPAC Grant in the amount of \$31,000.
- Approved the ECT Contract Amendment adding Work Order No. 2020-3 for the EPA Rouge River AOC WC Parks Habitat Restoration Design Grant upon IAA Award in the amount of \$731,000.
- Approved the amendment to the ARC Bylaws adjusting the number of Executive Committee meetings from a specific number of "at least four times each year" to a broad statement of "regularly scheduled" meetings to complete ARC activities.

## **10. Other Business**

There was no other business discussed.

## **11. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned.