



**Assembly  
of Rouge  
Communities**

**OURS TO PROTECT**

*Working together, restoring the river*

**Assembly of Rouge Communities  
Executive Committee Meeting**

January 25, 2005

1:30 to 4:00pm

Livonia Department of Public Works  
Livonia, Michigan

**1. WELCOME**

Mr. Beckley (Livonia) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Mr. Beckley asked all attendees to identify themselves. He indicated the new representative and alternate for Main 1-2 Subwatershed Advisory Group (SWAG) are Ms. Brandy Bakita (Southfield) and Ms. Jennifer Lawson (Troy). Ms. Bakita was unable to attend today's meeting so Mr. Shawn Keenan (Auburn Hills) is in attendance. The Upper SWAG needs to identify new representative/alternates as Mr. Beckley is the current Upper SWAG representative and Mr. Caryl (Redford) is retiring.

Allen Park  
Auburn Hills  
Beverly Hills  
Bingham Farms  
Birmingham  
Bloomfield Hills  
Bloomfield Twp.  
Canton Twp.  
Commerce Twp.  
Dearborn  
Dearborn Heights  
Farmington  
Farmington Hills  
Franklin  
Garden City  
Inkster  
Lathrup Village  
Livonia  
Melvindale  
Northville  
Northville Twp.  
Novi  
Oakland County  
Plymouth  
Plymouth Twp.  
Pontiac  
Redford Twp.  
Rochester Hills  
Romulus  
Southfield  
Superior Twp.  
Troy  
Van Buren Twp.  
Walled Lake  
Washtenaw County  
Wayne  
Wayne County  
West Bloomfield Twp.  
Westland  
Wixom  
Ypsilanti Twp.

<i>Officers</i>		
Robert Beckley	Chair	Livonia
Kurt Giberson	Treasurer	Dearborn
Tom Biasell	Past Chair	Farmington Hills
<i>Counties</i>		
Phil Sanzica	Oakland County	Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office
Joe Colaianne	Oakland County	Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office
Michelle Bononi	Washtenaw County	Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner's Office
Kurt Heise	Wayne County	Wayne County Drain Commissioner
Kelly Cave	Wayne County	Wayne County Department of Environment
<i>SWAG Representatives</i>		
Shawn Keenan	Main 1-2	Auburn Hills
Jennifer Lawson	Main 1-2	Troy
John Kozuh	Main 3-4	Allen Park
Ron Caryl	Upper	Redford
Aaron Staup	Middle 1	Novi
Tom Wilson	Middle 3	Westland
Jack Barnes	Lower 2	Garden City
Mike Buiten	Lower 2	City of Wayne

Others in attendance in the meeting include:

Jack Bails	Executive Committee Facilitator
Zachare Ball	Staff Support to PIE Committee
Simone Charles	Staff Support to ARC
Dave Payne	Organization Committee Co-Chair
Amy Ploof	Staff Support to ARC
Jim Ridgway	Main 1-2 SWAG Facilitator
Gary Zorza	Technical Committee Vice-Chair

**3. MINUTE OF OCTOBER 13, 2004 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Oakland County made a motion to approve the minutes.

Auburn Hills seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**4. ADDITIONS OF CHANGES TO DRAFT AGENDA**

There were no changes or additions offered to the draft meeting agenda.

**5. CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Beckley indicated the PIE committee has prepared two resolutions for consideration by the Executive Committee. The ceremonial signing of the Watershed Alliance Legislation will be February 10 at 9am in Lansing. Up to 30 people may attend the signing. The current and past officers along with elected officials from their communities will be given priority. ARC members are asked to contact Jack Bails or Bob Beckley if they or their elected officials would like to attend.

Mr. Gary Mekjian of West Bloomfield Township was elected as Vice-Chair of the ARC for 2005-2006. Mr. Mekjian recently accepted a position outside the Rouge River Watershed in Lincoln Park so he resigned as ARC Vice-Chair. Mr. Beckley has asked the Nominating Committee to develop candidates for the position to be voted on at the next full assembly meeting. Members of the Nominating Committee include past officers, Mr. Biasell and Mr. Anulewicz, and representatives of the three counties. If anyone is interested in running for Vice-Chair they are asked to contact Mr. Beckley or Mr. Bails.

**5A. FORMATION OF AD HOC TRANSITION COMMITTEE**

**5AI. MEMBERSHIP**

An ad hoc transition committee was formed to aid the transition from the past to present officers. Members of the transition committee included the past and newly elected ARC officers, Organization Committee members, and Tim Faas of Canton.

**5AII. ISSUES**

The transition committee was formed to formulate the by-laws of the Alliance and handle other transitional matters. Mr. Bails reviewed a draft version of the bylaws. There was discussion of the bylaws and several attendees offered suggestions.

- The appendices will change prior to adoption by communities.
- Mr. Ridgway indicated that Orchard Lake has suggested that their watershed boundary be reviewed as they feel do not believe they have any area tributary to the Rouge River Watershed.
- The question was asked why the fiscal year for the ARC is the calendar year. The calendar year as the fiscal year budget is carryover from the Assembly.
- One past officer is included as a member of the ARC EC. It was discussed whether or not the past officer should be a voting or non-voting member of the EC. It was decided the past officer should be a voting member.
- How to best involve Detroit and what was the appropriate level of participation was discussed.
- The Counties would like to know whether or not they will be charged assessments for the following year by August 1.
- Communities are concerned that revenue sharing may again be cut.
- Communities would like to avoid large fluctuations in dues.
- It was suggested to develop a five-year plan for the ARC.
- Kelly Cave updated the group on the status of Detroit's stormwater permit. They have a jurisdictional permit for their separated areas. Detroit is primarily served by combined sewers; DWSD estimates that only approximately 100 acres is served by separated sewers.
- The need to clarify the process as to when the ARC could apply for grants was discussed.
- OCDC suggested that the ARC should consider liability insurance.

Additional comments on the draft by-laws should be forwarded to Mr. Beckley or Mr. Bails in advance of the February 22 Full Assembly meeting.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Kurt Giberson, ARC Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report. The 2005 budget was approved by the ARC in December. The ARC is currently operating in the black. A more detailed report will be provided at the next meeting.

**7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**7A. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Giberson reported the Finance Committee plans to meet soon.

**7B. ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Heise reported the Organization Committee is considering the issue of insurance for the ARC and plans to meet soon.

**7C. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Ms. Jennifer Lawson, Acting Vice-Chair of the Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Committee, gave the PIE Committee report. The PIE committee met on January 12. Ms. Dana Calhoun of Troy was selected to be the liaison between the Technical and PIE

committees. The PIE committee is seeking additional members. Ms. Lawson provided additional information regarding the ARC PIE subgrant budget. Ms. Lawson will send the PIE budget to Mr. Bails for distribution to the group. The PIE Committee will ask the Technical Committee to partner on the detention pond workshop.

Ms. Lawson presented two resolutions related to support of Friends of the Rouge for consideration by the Executive Committee. The first resolution would proclaim the ARC's continued support of FOTR. The second resolution would encourage local businesses to support FOTR.

The group discussed both resolutions. The ARC indicated they see a long-term role for FOTR in the watershed and would like the FOTR to continue to be a cooperative partner. The consensus of the group was that they were unclear on the reasoning for the first resolution. The Executive Committee did not recommend the first resolution proclaiming ARC support for the FOTR to the Full Assembly for consideration. It was suggested that the ARC Executive Committee would look favorably on adopting resolutions of support for FOTR for grant applications, etc.

Mr. Heise offered to meet with Friends of the Rouge to discuss their efforts and coordination with the ARC.

Oakland County made a motion to recommend the second resolution encouraging local businesses to support FOTR to the Full Assembly for consideration.

Heise seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **8. REPORTS FROM SWAGS**

**8A. MAIN 1-2.** Mr. Shawn Keenan reported that several projects had recently been completed in the Main 1-2 subwatershed including the Detention Pond Inventory, Streambank Stabilization Inventory, and Franklin Branch study. The Main 1-2 PE Committee recently completed the riparian newsletter.

**8B. MAIN 3-4.** Mr. Kozuh reported the Main 3-4 will meet on February 8 at 1:30pm.

**8C. UPPER.** Mr. Caryl had nothing to report.

**8D. MIDDLE 1.** Mr. Staup had nothing to report.

**8E. MIDDLE 3.** Mr. Wilson indicated he had nothing to report.

**8F. LOWER 1.** The Lower 1 was not represented at the meeting.

**8G. LOWER 2.** Mr. Barnes indicated he had nothing to report.

## **9. REPORT FROM WCDOE**

Mr. Heise reported that Wayne County had received a VA HUD appropriation of \$800,000.

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS TO FULL ASSEMBLY**

**10A. PROCESS FOR NOMINATION OF NEW VICE CHAIR OF ARC.**

The Nominating Committee will propose a candidate for consideration by the Full ARC.

**10B. PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CO-CHAIRS**

The Officers will select the Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs.

**10C. ORGANIZATIONAL/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Organization Committee will review their current membership and add new members if necessary. Members must be approved by the Full ARC. Mr. Heise will contact Mr. Dave Harvey, City Manager of Garden City, regarding participation in the ARC.

**10D. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

**10DI. TRANSITION TO PUBLIC ENTITY.**

The draft Alliance by-laws will be distributed to all communities following the February 22 meeting.

**11. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

The current chairs and co-chairs have been asked to continue their leadership of the committees.

**12. MEETING SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ASSEMBLY/ALLIANCE**

**12A. FULL ASSEMBLY MEETING**

The next Full Assembly meeting will be February 22 at 1:30pm in Canton Township.

**12B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next Executive Committee meeting will be April 20 at 1:30pm in Farmington Hills. Mr. Biasell will confirm the location prior to the meeting.

**13. ADJOURN**

Mr. Beckley adjourned the meeting at 4:15.

***--Resolution Proclaiming ARC Support for Friends of the Rouge--***

Proclamation by the Assembly of Rouge Communities (ARC)

Date of proclamation

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Rouge (FOTR), a private, non-profit organization founded in 1985, has been pursuing a mission of education and stewardship of the Rouge River; and

WHEREAS, FOTR has successfully grown into an organization relying on volunteer involvement along with a small professional staff to carry out activities; and

WHEREAS, the cities, villages, townships, and counties of the Rouge River watershed have obtained General Storm Water Permits from the State and of Michigan, and their obligation under this permit is the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI) encompassing river restoration, water quality monitoring, and public involvement and education; and

WHEREAS, FOTR provides programs and activities such as Rouge Rescue/River Day, Rouge Education Project, frog and toad survey, benthic invertebrate monitoring, riparian corridor management, storm drain stenciling, and the watch frog program, all of which assist communities in meeting General Storm Water Permit obligations; and

WHEREAS these individual municipalities have come together and formed the Assembly of Rouge Communities (ARC) to provide for coordination and sharing resources in furtherance of fulfilling their permit responsibilities; and

WHEREAS much of the funding for river related activities for both the FOTR and the communities of the ARC came from federal Environmental Protection Agency grants, whose funding will cease in 2006;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Assembly of Rouge Communities hereby proclaims its support of the Friends of the Rouge mission of education and stewardship in the Rouge River watershed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly of Rouge Communities and the Friends of the Rouge commence discussions to determine how best to continue to support their mutual goals in as economical a manner as possible so as to jointly continue to restore the Rouge River watershed.

***Resolution Proclaiming ARC Support for Friends of the Rouge.***

***Resolution was presented by Public Involvement and Education Committee.***

***Resolution was NOT recommended by the Executive Committee for consideration by the Full Assembly at their February 22, 2005 meeting.***

***--Resolution Encouraging Local Businesses to Support Friends of the Rouge--***

Resolution by the Assembly of Rouge Communities (ARC)

WHEREAS the Assembly of Rouge Communities supports the mission and activities of the Friends of the Rouge; and

WHEREAS, FOTR provides programs and activities such as Rouge Rescue/River Day, Rouge Education Project, frog and toad survey, benthic invertebrate monitoring, riparian corridor management, storm drain stenciling, and the watch frog program, all of which assist communities in meeting General Storm Water Permit obligations; and

WHEREAS Businesses in the Rouge River watershed have an important role in improving and maintaining water quality and are encouraged to participate in local environmental initiatives to enhance environmental quality through such programs as the ISO certifications;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Assembly of Rouge Communities encourages all businesses within the watershed to support Friends of the Rouge in their mission of education and stewardship of the Rouge River watershed.

***Resolution Encouraging Local Businesses to Support Friends of the Rouge.***

***Resolution was presented by Public Involvement and Education Committee.***

***Resolution was recommended by the Executive Committee for consideration by the Full Assembly at their February 22, 2005 meeting.***