



Local Management
Assembly

**Assembly of Rouge Communities
Executive Committee Meeting**
August 11, 2004 at 1:00pm
Livonia Department of Public Works

1. Welcome

Tom Biasell, Chair of the Assembly of Rouge Communities (ARC), welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Bob Beckley of Livonia for hosting the meeting.

2. Roll Call of Members (Biasell) The following indicates those in attendance:

- 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.

Member (M) Alternate (A)	Representing	Local Assembly Member Agency
Tom Biasell (M)	Chair Rouge Assembly	Farmington Hills
James Anulewicz (M)	Vice Chair, Rouge Assembly	Plymouth Township
Gary Mekjian (M)	Treasurer, Rouge Assembly	West Bloomfield Twp.
Kurt Heise (M)	Wayne County	Wayne County
Kelly Cave (A)	Wayne County	Wayne County
Phil Sanzica (A)	Oakland County	Oakland County
Shawn Keenan (M)	Main 1 & 2 SWAG	Auburn Hills
Brandy Bakita (A)	Main 1 & 2 SWAG	Southfield
John Kozuh (M)	Main 3 & 4 SWAG	Allen Park
Robert Beckley (M)	Upper SWAG	Livonia
Ron Caryl (A)	Upper SWAG	Redford Township
Absent	Middle 1 SWAG	
Absent	Middle 3 SWAG	
Absent	Lower 1 SWAG	
Absent	Washtenaw County	
Mike Buiten (A)	Lower 2 SWAG	Wayne

Others Present	Representing	Agency/Firm
<i>Jack Bails</i>	<i>RPO- ARC Facilitator</i>	<i>PSC</i>
<i>Amy Ploof</i>	<i>RPO- ARC Facilitator</i>	<i>CDM</i>
<i>Zachare Ball</i>	<i>RPO- ARC PIE Facilitator</i>	<i>ECT</i>
<i>Barry Johnson</i>	<i>RPO – Subwatershed Fac.</i>	<i>CDM</i>
<i>Colleen Hughes</i>	<i>RPO – ARC TC Facilitator</i>	<i>CDM</i>
<i>Gary Zorza</i>	<i>Vice Chair –ARC Tech. Com.</i>	<i>Farmington Hills</i>
<i>Dave Payne</i>	<i>Co-Chair – ARC Org. Com.</i>	<i>Bloomfield Twp.</i>
<i>Bill Craig</i>	<i>RRAC</i>	<i>Concerned Citizen</i>

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3. Minutes of February 27, Executive Committee Meeting (Biasell)

Biasell asked for any correction or additions to the February 27, 2004 minutes. Hearing no comments, Biasell indicated the minutes were accepted as presented.

4. Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda (Biasell)

Members requested no additions or changes.

5. Chair Communications (Biasell)

a. MDEQ Quarterly Meeting

Biasell reviewed the discussions at the Quarterly Meeting held between WCDOE Rouge Project staff, ARC representatives and MDEQ.

He commented on the importance and value of such meetings that give the Rouge River communities the opportunity to discuss permitting and related issues with the MDEQ S.E. Michigan Water Division staff.

Biasell with assistance from Kelly Cave outlined the community concerns related to the Illicit Detection Elimination Program (IDEP) guidance issued by MDEQ. Of particular concern was the requirement that once every 5 years those agencies with Certificates of Coverage (COCs) would be required to re-inspect each and every outfall that was under their jurisdiction. Additionally, the organization of the guidance emphasizes methods other than those which have been used in the Rouge watershed for decades that have proven to provide cost-effective identification of illicit discharges. MDEQ staff agreed to consider proposed revisions to the guidance document, presented by the ARC on behalf of its members, which will present alternative methods, including targeting problem areas rather than sample/observe each outfall. The development of the proposed revisions to the MDEQ-issued IDEP guidance document will be assigned the ARC Technical Committee.

b. Round VI Grants

Biasell reported that the ARC Technical Committee's advice and guidance on the criteria for selecting Round VI Rouge Project Grants was accepted by WCDOE and that the ARC Subwatershed Advisory Group rankings were a key factor in the final selection process. He thanked WCDOE for their willingness to involve the ARC.

Kelly Cave provided a handout that summarized the projects conditionally awarded Rouge Project funding under the Round VI grant program. She indicated that because there were unused funds from previous grant rounds, the total federal funds available for Round VI grants were increased. Not all projects were funded. The total requested federal share for conditionally approved Round VIA (CSO/SSO control projects) grants is \$7,463,403 and

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for approved Round VIB (Storm water / watershed management projects) the total is \$2,309,285. These funding amounts represent an upper limit; for virtually every project, there are required changes to / conditions on the proposed scope of work to which the community/agency must agree to be eligible for Rouge Project funding. Cave indicated that the exact amount for each project would not be finalized until the Interagency Agreements (IAAs) are signed and ineligible or unapproved portions of some projects are deleted from the total requested. The awarding of funding to these projects is subject to approval by the Wayne County Commission and Executive; the request for the grant awards has been submitted into the Commission / Executive approval process.

Cave reminded members that projects must be completed according to the schedule in their IAA due to the grant schedule timeline. Cave also indicated an additional round of funding may be available next year.

Biasell noted that the ARC had requested, through an application prepared by the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's (OCDC) office, and it was conditionally awarded funding for public education and involvement activities related to storm water permit requirements. The detailed work plan and matching requirements for this grant will be assigned to the ARC Public Information and Education Committee (PIE) for development and oversight in coordination with the OCDC.

c. Workshop/Seminar for Elected Officials

Biasell reported that the seminar sponsored by the ARC on June 30, 2004, for community elected and appointed officials was a success, although the attendance (i.e. approximately 38) was less than hoped.

Shawn Keenan, who organized the seminar, distributed a list of attendees and a summary of the 15 survey responses returned conference attendees. Of those responding 87% indicated the overall workshop/seminar was *excellent* with the remaining 13% indicating the workshop was *good*. Both Biasell and Keenan indicated that they had received favorable feedback from both their community representatives that attended the meeting and others.

The speaker at the June 30 workshop will be returning to SE Michigan in the Fall of 2004. While there will be a fee for attending, elected and appointed officials representing ARC members should be encouraged to attend.

Keenan indicated that engineering and planning partners in the Rouge River watershed provided support for the dinner that was provided for the event. They were recognized at the dinner and included CDM; ECT, Inc; Hubbell, Roth and Clark; Orchard, Hiltz, and McCliment; Public Sector Consultants; Tetra Tech, Inc.; Tilton & Associates, Inc.; and Wade, Trim and Associates.

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6. Treasurer Report (Mekjian)

The ARC Treasurer distributed reports on the Status of ARC Membership Assessments for 2004 indicating that 65% of the assessments had been paid by members, including several payments ahead of the date due. He noted that Farmington Hills, Livonia, Plymouth, Pontiac, Walled Lake, Wayne, and Westland had not yet paid 2004 assessments and that all were due September 1, 2004 except for Livonia which was due June 23. Mekjian noted that all members had paid the 2003 assessment with the exception of Ypsilanti Township which has paid its 2004 assessment and indicated the 2003 payment would also be made.

Mekjian also reported expenditures to date of the ARC indicating that some savings from approved budget items had been accrued and that there is an anticipated carry-over of 2004 funds available for incorporation into the 2005 budget.

Overall, Mekjian indicated that the ARC revenues from assessments and expenditures were consistent with the budget approved by the ARC. Some discussion followed the reports that were received by the Executive Committee.

7. Standing Committee Reports (Biasell)

a. Finance Committee (Mekjian)

The minutes of the August 2, 2004, meeting of the ARC Finance Committee were distributed to members. Mekjian emphasized the role of the Finance Committee in the preparation of the ARC 2005 budget recommendations and indicated the Finance Committee needed all recommendations from other ARC standing committees by September 10, 2004. Following the Finance Committee meeting in September, the committee will prepare a draft 2005 ARC budget for review by the Executive Committee. Mekjian provided a written procedure outlining the process for recommending budget items and a form to be used by standing committees when requesting 2005 budget requests.

Cave indicated that there is \$300,000 in Rouge Project federal grant funds available for 2005 to match community contributions to the Assembly of Rouge Communities. This federal funding level for 2005 is the same level as for 2003 and 2004.

b. Organization Committee (Heise)

Kurt Heise, Organizational Committee Co-Chair, referred members to the notes from the Organization Committee's July 27 meeting distributed to members for detailed information.

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He provided a status report on the proposed Watershed Alliance Legislation. Thanks to Senator Patterson, Bails will now be working directly with the Legislative Service Bureau to draft a bill that conforms with that which was developed for and approved by the ARC. Prospects for introduction and passage in the Senate by year's end are good. Timing of House process is less certain, but our goal remains to have the new law available by early 2005.

Heise also highlighted the following:

- Policy for ARC resolutions – Process and criteria for resolutions brought to ARC for consideration. **Policy was reviewed and approved for consideration by full ARC.**
- Vision and Goals for ARC – The Organization Committee was charged to provide a draft that would help guide the standing committees. **The Vision and Goals were discussed and without objection recommended for consideration by the full ARC.**
- Combining Membership and Organization Committees – **The Executive Committee will recommend that the full ARC combine the two committees, and that Kurt Giberson will be added to the Organization Committee.** .
- Creation of Officer's Nomination Committee – Biasell led the discussion on creation of a nominating committee. Biasell indicated that since he will not be running for the Chair, he volunteered to propose a Nominating Committee to the full ARC at its next meeting. **The purpose of the committee will be to have a slate of one or more candidates for each ARC officer position by the November meeting of the full ARC.**
- Transition Planning – The Organization Committee is recommending that the ARC proceed on the assumption that the new Watershed Alliance legislation will be in place early next year, and that no changes to the existing Memorandum of Agreement be made until then. The request for membership made earlier this year by the Wayne County Airport Authority therefore cannot be honored at this time. Bails was directed to draft a letter to the WCAA regarding their membership request on the Chair's behalf.

c. Public Information and Education Committee (Anulewicz)

Anulewicz outlined the results of the PIE committee meetings indicating the subcommittees were established to address various issues related to the charges to the committee. He reported that the joint public survey with SEMCOG and other southeast Michigan communities was underway. He pointed out that the cost to Assembly members to complete the survey had been substantially reduced through this partnership effort and is an example of how working together the Assembly members can save money in meeting SWPPI requirements. He also noted that the PIE Committee will use the final Vision and Goals statement of the Assembly to guide future public information about the Assembly and its purposes. He indicated that the PIE Committee is generating a list of all public

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involvement products and is reviewing community SWPPIs to determine common elements. He indicated that the involvement elected officials is key. He also indicated a Fall newsletter will be distributed and the committee is looking for feedback. Keenan indicated that there should be at least one member from each SWAG on the PIE Committee. Anulewicz indicated they would review the membership.

d. Technical Committee (Zorza)

Zorza indicated that the Technical Committee will be meeting the week of August 16, 2004 to continue work on the 2005 monitoring program that will result in budget recommendations.

He noted that the Technical Committee would be charged with the responsibility to develop a rationale for an alternative approach to meeting the MDEQ guidelines for the IDEP program, which now call for re-inspection of all storm water outfalls every five years.

8. RPO from SWAGS

a. Main 1 & 2 (Keenan)

Keenan reported on the development of radio and cable public information material on storm water produced through the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office as part of a Rouge Project subgrant. He reported that there have been a number of radio messages broadcast and that cable channels in Bloomfield Township and Bingham Farms had already aired the storm water information materials.

b. Main 3 & 4 (Kozuh)

Kozuh reported that the Main 3 & 4 communities were appreciative of the Rouge VI grants and those communities awarded monies will begin work as soon as possible.

c. Upper (Beckley)

Beckley had nothing to report from the Upper SWAG

d. Middle 1 (Not represented)

e. Middle 3 (Not Represented)

f. Lower 1 (Not Represented)

g. Lower 2 (Mike Buiten)

Buiten had nothing to report from the Lower 2

9. Reports from WCDOE (Cave)

a. Round VI Rouge Project Grants (Reported earlier in agenda)

b. Rouge 2004. The *Rouge 2004* annual briefing for watershed stakeholders is scheduled for the morning of Friday, October 15. This year, a major centerpiece of the event will be to show how much the river and ecosystem have improved during our collective decade-long effort to restore the river. The planning committee for the event offered the Assembly of Rouge Communities a second centerpiece spot on the agenda. Biasell accepted this offer on behalf of the ARC. The group

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suggested that the ARC presentation could include: overview of formation of ARC, accomplishments to date, and anticipated future activities. The importance of the proposed Watershed Alliance legislation to the ARC should be highlighted. Cave invited a representative of the ARC to join a planning meeting for the event scheduled for Monday, August 16 at 10am at the Wayne County offices at 415 Clifford, Detroit.

- c. Recent Rouge Products. Cave provided copies of the annual "Rouge Project Year in Review" report for 2003, and asked the Committee for guidance on distribution. The Committee suggested that a new cover be developed in order to distinguish this report from other Rouge Project products. It was decided that the report will be distributed electronically to SWAGs, and paper copies will be available at the next full meeting of the Assembly of Rouge Communities and at the *Rouge 2004* event. Wayne County also distributes the report annually to Judge Fiekens, US EPA, the Congressional delegation, and others. Anulewicz suggested that the PIE Committee also prepare a summary of the report for the general public.

Wayne County is now required to prepare a "technical summary report" for each federal grant at its completion. Rouge Project Grants 4 and 5 were recently closed, with Grant 2 closing in September. The final report for Grant 4 was recently completed, and the Grant 5 final report is scheduled for completion soon. These reports present a summary of all projects completed under the respective grant, including watershed-wide activities conducted by Wayne County and the Rouge Program Office, and subgrant projects completed by communities/agencies. Wayne County will distribute the report to Judge Fiekens, US EPA, the Congressional delegation, and others. The Committee recommended that these reports be distributed electronically to SWAGs, and paper copies made available at the next full meeting of the Assembly of Rouge Communities.

- d. Watershed 2004. The Rouge Project was well represented at the national Water Environment Federation's *Watershed 2004* conference recently held in Dearborn. The Rouge Project was the focus of six presentations, on topics including the Gateway Master Plan, riparian corridor management, illicit discharge elimination, Rouge Education Project, FOTR public education and involvement activities, and trend analysis of the 10 years of water quality data collected for the Rouge River. In addition, the Rouge Project co-hosted a pre-conference workshop on public education, and sponsored a bus tour.

10. Follow-up Items for Officers and Committee Chairs

- a. Schedule and Charges to Committees, Officers and Staff (**See attached**)

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- b. Special Committee to prepare presentation for use by communities to support Assembly participation by documenting benefits.
 - i. Biasell asked Assembly staff (i.e. Bails, Ploof, and Ball) to work with Beckley (representing cities in Assembly), Gary Mekjian (representing townships in Assembly) and Kelly Cave (representing counties in Assembly) to prepare short powerpoint presentation for use by communities in presentation to boards and councils.
- c. Dates for Assembly and Executive Committee meetings in 2004
 - i. Assembly – September 8, 2004 and November 13, 2004
 - ii. Executive Committee – October 13, 2004 and perhaps December, 2004
- d. Assembly RRAC representation. The ARC will propose a member to serve as liaison with RRAC.
- e. Transition of Assembly during early 2005
Biasell indicated that the Assembly of Rouge Communities would operate under the assumption that a new state statute authorizing the formation of a legal local watershed entity would pass and that the Assembly would reorganize under this statute. Rather than sending out 2005 assessments or asking for changes in the Memorandum of Agreement establishing the Assembly at this time, before the passage of the new statute, the Assembly would continue to operate under the existing MOA and submit invoices for assessments following the passage of the state statute authorizing the formation of a new intergovernmental watershed entity. The full Assembly can determine if a contingent scenario is needed at its November meeting when the status of the legislation will be better understood.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

12. Presentation –Ten Years of Monitoring on the Rouge River (Hughes)

Hughes presented a summary of a paper presented to the WEF Watershed 2004 Conference held in Dearborn, Michigan. The statistical analysis of two key parameters – dissolved oxygen and *E. coli* – was shown. The dissolved oxygen levels recorded in the watershed at various sampling locations over the last decade indicate progressive improvement by an average of 0.3 milligrams per liter/year. This improvement is most likely the result of improved CSO and SSO controls as well as application of storm water best management practices by communities within the Rouge River watershed. *E. coli* results, on the other hand, indicate that there are still problems in the river. It is uncertain why the *E. coli* numbers are higher in some areas. Further investigations are needed to identify the source of the bacteria to determine whether or not it is associated with human or other animal fecal material.