



Working together, restoring the river

James W. Ridgway, P.E.
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

April 24, 2008

City of Dearborn DPW Office, 2951 Greenfield Road

1:00 p.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.

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
Oak Park
Oakland County
Orchard Lake
Plymouth
Plymouth Twp.
Pontiac
Redford Twp.
Rochester Hills
Romulus
Southfield
Superior Twp.
Troy
Van Buren Twp.
Walled Lake
Washtenaw County
Wayne
Wayne County
Wayne County Airport
Authority
West Bloomfield Twp.
Westland
Wixom
Ypsilanti Twp.

1. Welcome – Kurt Giberson, Chair

2. Roll Call of Members

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

In Attendance:

Lower 1-Rep.	Bob Belair	Canton Twp.
Upper-Rep.	Tom Biasell	Farmington Hills
Washtenaw Co.-Rep.	Janis Bobrin	WCDC
Washtenaw County-Alt.	Michelle Bononi	WCDC
Middle 3-Alt.	Kevin Buford	Westland
Oakland County-Rep.	Joseph Colaianne	OCDC
Lower 2-Rep.	Ramzi El-Gharib	Wayne
Treasurer	Tim Faas	Canton Twp.
Chair:	Kurt Giberson	Dearborn
Wayne County-Rep.	Kurt Heise	WCDOE
Main 1-2 Rep.	Jennifer Lawson	Troy
Middle 1-Rep.	Jill Rickard	Northville Twp.
Executive Director	Jim Ridgway	ECT
Upper-Alt.	Jim Zoumbaris	Livonia

Not In Attendance:

Middle 3-Rep.	Jack Barnes	Garden City
Main 1-2-Alt.	Meghan Bonfiglio	Bloomfield Twp.
Wayne County-Alt.	Kelly Cave	WCDOE
Past Vice-Chair	Wayne Domine	Bloomfield Twp.
Oakland County-Rep.	John McCulloch	OCDC
Vice-Chair	Gary Mekjian	Southfield
Oakland Co.-Alt.	Phil Sanzica	OCDC
Middle 1-Alt.	Aaron Staup	Novi
Lower 1-Alt.	Dan Swallow	Van Buren Twp.
Lower 2-Alt.	Tom Wilson	Romulus
Main 3-4-Rep.	TBD	
Main 3-4-Alt.	TBD	

Others Present: Gary Zorza, Vice-Chair – Technical Committee, Amy Mangus, SEMCOG, Noel Mullett, Wayne County DOE, Zachare Ball – ECT, Chris O’Meara – ECT

3. Summary of February 4 , 2008, Executive Committee Meeting

A motion was made by M. Bononi to accept the February 4, 2008, meeting summary. The motion was seconded by J. Zoumbaris. Motion passed.

4. Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

5. Chair Communications

a. Alliance Membership Status

There was no new information to report.

b. 2007 ARC Executive Director Annual Report

The ARC Executive Director Annual Report was handed out for the committee's information.

c. 2007 Executive Director Annual Review

K. Giberson asked J. Ridgway to give an overview of the annual review. J. Ridgway stated that the review committee consisted of the three ARC Officers. The review committee felt that the overall support provided to the ARC committees was good. The committee felt that more proactive effort (i.e., press releases as major ARC projects or issues arise) was needed under the advocacy task. Some overall comments/suggestions that were discussed are:

- PI was good
- Stormwater Watershed planning -- too early to tell
- Too many ECT staff at meetings
- Need to spend the ARC's budget frugally
- Possible need for a fundraiser in 2008
- Need to streamline procedures
- Funding strategy for 2009 with various strategies if things change. This includes a 5-year financial plan spreadsheet

J. Ridgway stressed that he is available for any meeting that the communities feel his presence would be of assistance. Much of this will be provided to the ARC at no cost.

The review committee suggested that if a community asked for something that is out of scope that ECT listen, but acknowledge that it is out of scope.

T. Faas informed the Executive Committee that the tone of the review meeting was not all negative. He stated that ECT is doing a very good job. He said that the financial items need to be worked out more and that this will improve over time.

K. Giberson stressed that the ARC has a great relationship with ECT and plans to work on these long-term goals which should improve the ARC and keep it going into the future.

J. Lawson stated for the record that the Public Involvement/Education Committee is running wonderfully and would not work as effectively without the help of Zachare Ball.

6. Treasurers Report (Faas and WCDOE)

a. Financial Status Report for 2007

T. Faas stated that the rollover from 07 is more favorable then we had expected.

b. Task Status Report for 2008

The expenditures/task status report was distributed for the committee's information.

7. Executive Director Report

a. Phase II permit update and application alternatives

J. Ridgway reviewed the draft letter to MDEQ Director Steve Chester of the MDEQ regarding the ARCs major concerns with the Phase II permit. J. Ridgway stated that he reviewed the past letters from the ARC along with what was discussed at the various meetings with the MDEQ before drafting the letter. J. Ridgway feels that the MDEQ views our position on the permit differently than we do. The ARC communities need to be concerned about signing a permit with which they cannot comply. J. Ridgway stated that the ARC communities want to comply with the Clean Water Act because they want clean water. Excessive requirements, however, should not be accepted. The MDEQ needs to provide some flexibility. J. Ridgway discussed a few of the concerns with the current permit. He stated that the MDEQ needs to clarify the alternative approach that is referenced in the permit. He also stressed that the mapping and data collection that is required under the draft permit will be unusable to the communities.

K. Heise stated that the ARC and several other Southeast Michigan representatives will be meeting with S. Chester on April 30, to make one last attempt to stress their concerns with the permit. K. Heise stressed the need to demonstrate that we have exhausted our administrative options. We are meeting with S. Chester to offer one last opportunity to work with us on the permit. Our hope is to postpone the permit for six months to a year and have a blue ribbon commission or something similar put together and get a permit that we can all live with. K. Heise also stated that we will continue to push the watershed alliance aspect—alliances could be looked at differently by the state.

J. Colaianne reviewed the legal options available to the ARC if the MDEQ moves forward with the permit as it is today. The Drain Commissioners, counties and communities can leverage this in the legal aspect. He stated that on its face, it is a violation of the Headlee amendment. J. Colaianne discussed the options with a contested case hearing which would leave the current permits in place until it has been decided first administratively and possibly, by the courts. Other legal avenues include seeking the legal opinion from the Attorney General or getting a declaratory judgment in Circuit Court, which would have a judge rule and stay further enforcement.

J. Bobrin stressed that we need to have a united front and show that this is the feeling among other entities across the state. She also felt that we have to continue to show our efforts to work with the MDEQ without having to go to court, but that we will if we are left no other choice.

J. Ridgway asked that the Executive Committee perform a final review to the draft letter reflecting the comments from the Executive Committee meeting. After receiving comments or suggestions it will be forwarded to the full ARC to be adopted as the ARC's position before sending to the MDEQ. The committee agreed that it can go to the MDEQ after the full ARC has approved it.

- i. Recommend to Full ARC to have one permit for all ARC members
The motion was made by M. Bononi to have the ARC Technical Committee develop a working group to investigate the mechanics of pursuing coverage under one (1) NPDES Phase II permit certification of coverage for the upcoming permit cycle. Seconded by J. Lawson, motion passed.

- b. Watershed Plan Update

- i. Goals and Objectives
The draft goals and objectives were distributed to the committee for review and comment.
- ii. Approval of Public Participation Plan (PPP)
The draft Public Participation Plan was distributed to the committee. Z. Ball informed the committee that the watershed planning process is going well. Three public meetings are planned in June and communities can attend any of the three. We are also planning postcards and flyers for communities to distribute. There will be two focus committees, business and education to review the plan. An Internet-based survey will be available on the ARC website.

The motion was made by J. Lawson to recommend that the Public Participation Process, as submitted, be forwarded to the full ARC for approval with authorization of the ARC Executive Director to submit the PPP to the MDEQ for review and approval. Seconded by J. Rickard, motion passed.

- c. Other Activities

J. Colaianne passed out Senate Bill 1249 for the committee's review. He informed the committee that it is now open for comment. A discussion regarding the significance pursued.

8. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee

T. Faas stated that the financial summary was reported earlier in the meeting. He informed the committee that the next Finance Committee meeting will be held May 8.

- b. Organization Committee

- i. ARC Strategic Plan

After the Executive Committee's final review K. Heise presented the final product to the Executive Committee for acceptance before going to the full ARC.

The motion was made by J. Colaianne to recommend to the full ARC the approval of the Strategic Plan as submitted. Seconded by R. El-Gharib, motion passed.

- ii. Nominating Process Policy

K. Heise presented the draft nomination process policy that was prepared by the Organizational Committee and asked that it go to the full ARC to adopt. The motion was made by J. Bobrin to recommend to the full ARC the adoption of the Nominating Process Policy. Seconded by J. Rickard, motion passed.

iii. Procurement Policy

K. Heise presented the draft Procurement Policy and asked that it be forwarded to the Full ARC for review and comment at the next meeting. The committee suggested that the policy include statements regarding bids being time stamped and a conflict of interest provision detailing whom approval reverts to if there is a conflict of interest.

The motion was made by T. Faas to present the draft Procurement Policy, with the suggested changes, to the full ARC for comment at the next meeting. Seconded by K. Buford, motion passed.

c. PIE (Public Involvement and Education) Committee

J. Lawson informed the committee of the PIE Committee's upcoming projects which include the Main 3-4 poster, new design for the ARC website and a education piece on septic system maintenance. The PIE committee has also finished the Household Hazardous Waste Guide which can be found on the main page of the ARC website. This is an interactive PDF for communities.

There was a discussion regarding some potential newspaper and radio ads for Wayne County's Nutrient Reduction Program. T. Faas stated that the committee would need to prepare a budget amendment request to the Finance Committee for review and approval.

J. Lawson stated that the next PIE committee meeting is on July 10 in Beverly Hills.

d. Technical Committee

- i. G. Zorza stated that the next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for May 12. He also informed the committee that a presentation that was made to the ARC TC and PIE committees by representatives from the American Forests (CityGreen software), Sanborn (Aerial mapping for land cover features) and Ann Arbor (Stormwater Utility Fee). Using CityGreen and the aerial mapping products provides a way to measure tree canopy and monitor land use impacts on the watershed. The aerial products are also used by Ann Arbor to identify features for assigning utility fees.

e. Grants Committee

J. Rickard reported that FOTR had raised concerns about future funding for benthic macroinvertebrate sampling at the Lower 1/Middle 1 SWAG meeting earlier that day.

9. Report from WCDOE

N. Mullet reported that the Rouge River Ecological Monitoring Assessment Report (RREMAR) is available on the Rouge website or through a link on the ARC website.

10. Reports from SWAGS

There has been one round of SWAG meetings to develop the goals and another round of SWAG meetings over the next two weeks to review existing conditions. J. Rickard suggested that the ARC look into doing the technical presentation to county permit staff.

11. Summary of Executive Committee Actions

- Approval of 2/4/08 Executive Committee Meeting Summary
- After receiving comments on the draft letter to Steve Chester the Executive Director will forward it to the full ARC to be adopted as the ARC's position before sending to the MDEQ
- Technical Committee develop a working group to investigate the mechanics of pursuing coverage under one (1) NPDES Phase II permit certification of coverage for the upcoming permit cycle.
- Executive Committee recommends to the Full ARC the approval of the Strategic Plan as submitted.
- Executive Committee to recommend that the full ARC approve the Public Participation Process, as submitted, and authorizes the ARC Executive Director to submit the PPP to the MDEQ for review and approval.
- Executive Committee to recommend to the Full ARC the adoption of the Nominating Process Policy.
- Executive Committee presents the draft Procurement Policy, with the suggested changes, to the Full ARC for comment at the next meeting.

12. Upcoming Meeting(s)

- SWAG Meetings:
 1. Thursday April 24th 9:30am @ Northville Twp (Middle 1/Lower 1)
 2. Tuesday April 29th 1:30pm @ Southfield Public Library (combined Main 1-2 and Upper SWAGs)
 3. Wednesday May 7th 1:30pm @ Dearborn DPW (Main 3-4)
 4. Thursday May 8th 1:30pm @ Livonia DPW (Middle 3/Lower 2)
- PIE Committee Meeting, Howard Knorr's House, Beverly Hills, July 10, 2008 at noon.
- Finance Committee Wayne County DOE, Commerce Court, Wayne on May 9, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.
- Technical Committee City of Farmington Hills, May 12, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.
- Full ARC meeting, Tuesday, May 6 at 1:30 p.m. at Novi Civic Center

13. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by K. Buford. Seconded by J. Zoumbaris, motion passed.