

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

April 24, 2007 2:00 -4:00 p.m.  
Dearborn Dept. of Public Works  
Conference Room  
2951 Greenfield  
Dearborn Michigan

1. **Welcome:** Chair
2. **Roll Call of Members:** Record of members and others present. A quorum was present

**In Attendance:**

Chair:	Kurt Giberson	Dearborn
Vice-chair	Gary Mekjian	Southfield
Treasurer	Tim Faas	Canton Township
Past Vice-Chair	Wayne Domine	Bloomfield Twp.
Wayne County-Rep.	Kurt Heise	WCDOE
Wayne County Alt	Kelly Cave	WCDOE
Oakland County-Alt	Phil Sanzica	OCDC
Main 1-2-Rep	Jennifer Lawson	Troy
Lower 2-Rep	Jack Barnes	Garden City
Lower 2-Alt	Ramzi El-Gharib	Wayne
Upper-Rep.	Tom Biasell	Farmington Hills
Upper-Alt.	Jim Zoumbaris	Livonia
Executive Director	Jim Ridgway	ECT
Middle 3-Alt.	Kevin Buford	Westland
Lower 1-Rep.	Dan Swallow	Van Buren Twp.

**Not In Attendance:**

Washtenaw County-Rep	Janis Bobrin	WCDC
Washtenaw County-Alt	Michelle Bononi	WCDC
Oakland County-Rep.	John McCulloch	OCDC
Oakland County-Alt.	Joe Colaianne	OCDC
Main 3-4-Alt	Mark Kibby	Melvindale
Middle 1-Rep.	Aaron Staup	Novi
Middle 1-Alt.	Jill Rickard	Northville Twp.
Lower 1-Alt.	Bob Belair	Canton Twp.

**Others in Attendance:** ECT Staff, Zachare Ball and Kelly Karll

3. **Approval of January 25, 2007 Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made to accept the minutes and it was supported. It passed unanimously.

4. **Additions or changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda:**

There were none.

5. **Chair Communications:**

**Grants Committee:** Kurt Giberson reported that the committee, chaired by Phil Sanzica, OCDC, met on April 16, 2007 and focused on whether to use 2008 monitoring funds to pay for updates of the subwatershed management plans in order to be eligible for 319 grants. Jim Zoumbaris, Livonia, said that Jack Bails previously had said the current plans were 319-compliant. Executive Director Jim Ridgway said that MDEQ and EPA audited one of the Rouge subwatershed management plans (Main 3-4) and said we needed to add some information. He said we would need to convince DEQ that our plans are satisfactory. He said he believed we need to modify the plans.

Mr. Giberson said there were two alternatives: Instead of doing monitoring in 2008, use that funding to update plans or if we want to comply with the 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit, apply for a Round VIII RPO grant now. Tom Biasell, Farmington Hills, said he would like to see one permit for the watershed or write all subwatershed management plans the same and make them 319 compliant at the same time.

Jack Barnes, Garden City, wanted to know what effect a one-year sabbatical on monitoring would have. Mr. Ridgway responded that the Rouge is the most monitored watershed in the state and suggested the ARC supplement its monitoring with volunteer monitoring.

Mr. Giberson said if the plans aren't updated now, he is concerned that in a couple of years, there will be no RPO funding, the plans aren't 319 compliant and there is no way to get any money to update the plans.

Kelly Cave, WCDOE, said this year is the fifth year of the Rouge 5-year monitoring plan. The ARC has to develop a monitoring plan for 2008 and beyond, and discuss this plan with MDEQ since the current SWPPIs reference the existing Rouge 5-year monitoring plan. She said the monitoring program is all volunteer-based in the 3 Downriver watersheds in Wayne County. Kelly Karll, ECT, said Clinton River Watershed Council volunteers have successfully been used to do road stream crossing, stream bank erosion surveys, macroinvertebrates and non-point source pollution based on development. She said ECT trained CRWC volunteers to do the various monitoring.

Ms. Cave said her only concern is disrupting the continuous (over 10 years) record of flow and dissolved oxygen monitoring data provided by the USGS at 5 stations in the watershed. Data collected continuously over the long-term allows analysis of trends in the water quality in the watershed. Mr. Ridgway noted that USGS is the only federal agency that can match federal dollars with federal dollars. He said if it is important for the ARC to keep USGS monitoring, then it is important to meet with them now to work it out. Ms. Cave said there are 5 permanent USGS DO stations throughout the watershed. She also noted that the budget for the USGS monitoring is small, compared to the budget for the other monitoring activities for 2007. She agreed with Mr. Ridgway that the USGS should be contacted to explore cost-sharing opportunities. Gary Zorza, Farmington Hills, said that Oakland County is also looking at whether to continue its USGS monitoring. Ms. Cave suggested that the ARC explore whether the continuous data collection could continue at some level, with the remainder of the monitoring funds used to update the subwatershed plans.

Mr. Biasell asked what the Executive Director recommended. Mr. Ridgway said he recommends that the Technical Committee review the monitoring plan and that the ARC ask for a Round VIII RPO grant to update the plans. He said some subwatersheds are going to move forward. He said the Main 1-2 specifically has asked the ARC to submit a Round VIII grant. Ms. Cave said that if all seven subwatersheds want to use Round VIII grant funds for updates the funding would be taken off the top of the total funds available, so applications wouldn't be necessary.

Tim Faas, Canton Twp., said the 2007 monitoring budget is \$330,000. Ms. Cave said the 2008 monitoring budget is \$419,000 including \$29,850 for USGS gages. She said funding is also needed for the annual Rouge River Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Report (RREMAR).

Mr. Ridgway said the action items are:

- Update all plans with the intent of ultimately having one plan for the watershed
- Ms. Karll to estimate the types of field work w/costs for the updates
- Get a better price for USGS gages in 2008
- Offer/ask each SWAG if they want to update their plans. If all want to do updates, money will be reserved from the Round VIII grant offering. If only a few want to update, they will be required to submit a grant application to Wayne County. Once this issue has been discussed by all the SWAGs, Wayne County requests notification by the ARC of the intentions of the SWAGs regarding the plan updates as soon as possible.
- Draft a letter to the MDEQ by the June 1 deadline that as of the deadline we are not updating plans.

A motion was made to use the 2008 ARC monitoring budget to update the subwatershed plans. (Motion: Jennifer Lawson, Troy; Second: Kevin Buford, Westland) There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**2007 Objectives:** Mr. Giberson reviewed the 2007 Objectives set by the ARC and listed on the agenda.

6. **Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee:** Mr. Faas said that a copy of the Executive Director's contract was attached. He said the previous estimate of a \$55,000 rollover was valid. The 2007 membership invoices have gone out, and some communities have paid.
7. **Other Committee Reports:**
  - a. **Organization Committee (K. Heise/D. Payne, co-chairs):** Mr. Heise said the committee would like to determine what membership costs would be from the member counties and asked that OCDC provide something that outlines current services provided and their costs. Ms. Cave reported that MDEQ is cracking down on permit violations, i.e., reports due, etc. She said MDEQ contacted her to review the Wayne County Storm Water Ordinance.
  - b. **Public Involvement and Education Committee (J. Lawson, Troy, Chair):** Ms. Lawson said three septic system maintenance workshops were held in March which attracted 135 participants. She said the committee is considering offering the workshops every other year, rather than annually. She said this year's monitoring posters will be for the Lower 1 and Lower 2 Subwatersheds. In addition, she said the PIE Committee just mailed out copies of the municipal training fact sheets and posters (from last year's SEMCOG workshop) to each ARC member. The next PIE Committee Meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. April 26, 2007 at Canton Township.
  - c. **Technical Committee (G. Zorza, Chair):** Mr. Zorza said the committee will have to look at what its role will be if there is no 2008 monitoring program.
8. **Report from the Executive Director:** Mr. Ridgway referred to the Strategic Plan outline on the agenda as possible tasks and asked for volunteers for a Strategic Plan Committee. Mr. Domine suggested a representative from each SWAG. Executive Committee Members who volunteered for the committee are: Gary Mekjian, ARC vice-chair; Kurt Heise, WCDOE and Organizational Comm. Chair; Phil Sanzica, OCDC; Jennifer Lawson, Main 1-2 SWAG Representative and PIE Committee Chair; Tom Biasell, Upper SWAG Rep, and Wayne Domine, ARC Past Vice-Chair. Kelly Cave (WCDOE) volunteered for the committee after the meeting.
9. **Report from WCDOE:** All items were discussed previously in the meeting.

- 10. Reports from the SWAGS:** There was nothing to report
- 11. Summary of Executive Committee Actions:**
  - A resolution was adopted to take the 2008 monitoring funds to update the subwatershed management plans to 319 standards.
- 12. Upcoming Meeting Schedule:**
  - PIE Committee, 1:30 p.m. April 26, 2007, Canton Twp.
  - Main 1-2 SWAG, 1:30 p.m. May 8, 2007, Troy Community Center
  - Middle 3/Lower 2 SWAG, 10 a.m. May 9, 2007, Livonia DPW
  - Organizational Committee, 3 p.m. May 11, 2007 Bloomfield Twp.
  - Upper SWAG, (tentative, no time set) May 17, 2007, Livonia DPW
  - Lower 1/Middle 1 SWAG, (no time or location set) May 24, 2007
- 13. Next ARC Executive Committee Meeting:** There wasn't one scheduled.
- 14. Adjourn**