



DRAFT SUMMARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, August 26, 2005

1:30 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Conference Room

City of Livonia

Department of Public Works

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.

1. Welcome – Robert Beckley, Chair

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

2. Roll Call of Members (Beckley) and record of others present.

Mr. Beckley requested roll call by asking everyone to identify themselves.

**Assembly of Rouge Communities
Executive Committee Members
August, 2005**

2005-2006 Officers		
Chair	Robert Beckley	Livonia
Vice-Chair	Wayne Domine	Bloomfield Twp.
Counties		
Oakland County - Alt.	Phil Sanzica	OCDC
Oakland Co. - Alt.	Joe Colaianne	OCDC
Washtenaw Co.- Alt.	Michelle Bononi	WCDC
Wayne Co. - Rep.	Kurt Heise	WCDOE
Wayne Co. - Alt.	Kelly Cave	WCDOE
SWAGs		
Main 1 & 2 - Alt.	Jennifer Lawson	Troy
Main 3 & 4 - Rep.	John Kozuh	Allen Park
Upper - Rep.	Tom Biasell	Farmington Hills
Middle 3 - Rep.	Tom Wilson	Westland
Lower 1 - Rep.	Dan Swallow	Van Buren Township
Lower 1 - Al.	Bob Belair	Canton
Lower 2 - Rep.	Jack Barnes	Garden City

Others in attendance in the meeting included:

Colleen Hughes	Staff Support to ARC
Zachare Ball	Staff Support to PIE Committee
Carolyn McCaughey	Friends of the Rouge

3. Minutes of April 20, 2005 Executive Committee Meeting

Oakland County made a motion to approve the minutes. Farmington Hills seconded the motion.

**Rouge Assembly
Executive Committee Agenda
August 11, 2004**

The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda

There were no requested changes or additions.

5. U.S. EPA Grant Funding Rescission

Mr. Kurt Heise of Wayne County thanked everyone for making themselves available on short notice for this important session. He introduced the topic by referencing the letter that was sent out to each community with an active sub-grant notifying them of the grant rescission and by briefing everyone on the status and potential implications of this news. He informed the group that the worst case scenario is the loss of \$12.7 million in federal aid from the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project grant. He explained that all indications from U.S. EPA are that the Rouge funds are not the target of the freeze and that Wayne County's position is that RPO grant funds should not be included in the freeze. Wayne County reported that they promptly sent letters to U.S. EPA stating this position and requesting an exemption. Wayne County also briefed Senator Levin's staff and had a personal meeting with Congressman Dingell and encouraged all involved to also contact their Congressional representatives. Mr. Heise reported that the Region V grant officer had submitted the necessary paperwork requesting the exemption and that Senator Levin was writing a letter to EPA and asking the congressional delegation to co-sign. Mr. Heise informed the group that he can't emphasize enough that all RPO grants are at risk and that Wayne County can not answer questions about the level of risk for individual projects. He encouraged all affected, including Mayors and other elected officials to send similar letters and indicated that ARC staff had already drafted a letter to be sent on behalf of the ARC and was distributed to the Committee for discussion.

Ms. Cave provided additional detail describing why Rouge funds should not be included in this rescission, but that at this time all projects are at risk; including construction, studies, FOTR, and ARC funding. Ms. Cave responded to several questions from the group, reminding them that she could not provide advice on how each grant recipient should proceed.

Chair Beckley reviewed the ARC's financial status report and suggested that an ad hoc committee could be formed to consider contingency planning on behalf of the ARC. He recommended that the group not convene immediately but to wait a few weeks to see how progress developed. He requested that Wayne County circulate status updates as information becomes available. Mr. Beckley then requested comment from the Committee on the draft letter to U.S. EPA that might

**Rouge Assembly
Executive Committee Agenda
August 11, 2004**

be sent on behalf of the ARC. After several suggestions were made to strengthen the letter, Garden City moved to authorize Chair Beckley and ARC staff to make the suggested changes and send acting on behalf of the ARC. The motion was supported by Westland and unanimously approved.

Ms. Lawson of Troy suggested that the ARC provide a template for communities to use in drafting their own letters. Wayne County offered to help with talking points, but did not support the concept of a form letter.

6. Reconsideration of Failed Oakland County Bylaws Amendment

Mr. Beckley reported that he met with Mr. McColloch in response to the recommendation of the ARC after Oakland County's proposed bylaws amendment failed at the last full Assembly meeting. Mr. Beckley reported that he now has a different perspective of Oakland County's position and realizes that each community may be faced with the same circumstance which may not have been recognized by the ARC. He therefore requests the Committee to reconsider the proposal.

The committee discussed the proposal further including implications with regard to the fact that several communities had already approved the bylaws or had invested significant time into the review and interim approval of the bylaws. It was pointed out that there is an opportunity to consider bylaw amendments annually in December. Mr. Beckley responded to this discussion stating that in the absence of support from the Executive Committee to reconsider the amendment proposal, he would contact the Drain Commissioner relaying a summary of the discussion, pointing out that bylaws amendments can be revisited at the next annual meeting in December.

7. Alliance Bylaws Adoption Status

Mr. Beckley reported that five eligible members had approved the bylaws and asked if any communities needed any assistance. Representatives reported that several reviews were in process and that no problems have arisen. The ARC officers offered to provide assistance at board meetings as requested.

6. Meeting Schedule

Since the goal of the next meeting is to dissolve the Assembly and formally create the Alliance of Rouge Communities, scheduling will be postponed until we're notified that about 20 eligible members have approved the bylaws.

7. Adjourn

Adjourned at 3:45pm