



Alliance
of Rouge
Communities

ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

DRAFT Meeting Summary Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

1:30 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Room City of Livonia, DPW Offices

Working together, restoring the river

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
Orchard Lake Village
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** – Wayne Domine, Alliance of Rouge Communities Vice Chair and Acting Chair
2. **Roll Call of Members** Wayne Domine took roll call at the meeting. The following table indicates attendees at the meeting on June 14, 2006.

*Alliance of Rouge Communities
Executive Committee*

Officers		
Vice-Chair (Acting Chair)	Wayne Domine	Bloomfield Twp.
Treasurer	Kurt Giberson	Dearborn
Past Vice-Chair	Jim Anulewicz	Plymouth Twp.
Counties		
Washtenaw Co. - Alt.	Michelle Bononi	WCDC
Wayne Co. - Rep.	Kurt Heise	WCDOE
Wayne Co. - Alt.	Kelly Cave	WCDOE
SWAGs		
Main 1 & 2 - Rep.	Brandy Bakita	Southfield
Main 1 & 2 - Alt.	Jennifer Lawson	Troy
Upper - Rep.	Tom Biasell	Farmington Hills
Middle 1 - Alt.	Jill Rickard	Northville Township
Lower 1 - Rep.	Dan Swallow	Van Buren Township
Lower 1 - Al.	Bob Belair	Canton
Lower 2 - Rep.	Jack Barnes	Garden City
Lower 2 - Al.	Mike Buiten	Wayne
Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Representatives		
Technical Committee Co-Chair	Gary Zorza	Farmington Hills
Staff Support		
Staff Support	Jack Bails	RPO
Staff Support	Colleen Hughes	RPO
Others		
Meghan Bonfiglio, Bloomfield Twp	Bill Craig, RRAC	Zachare Ball, RPO
Jim Murray, Chelsea Environmental	Dave Payne, Bloomfield Twp.	Gary Mekjian, Southfield
Sara Selden, Troy	Kathryn Hagaman, Bingham Farms	Chris Catalfo, RPO

3. **Minutes of March 22, 2006, Executive Committee Meeting** - After soliciting comments on the March 22, 2006 meeting summary and receiving none, a vote to accept the minutes as prepared passed unanimously.
4. **Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda** - Washtenaw County requested that a discussion of the IDEP alternative approach be added to the agenda. Acting Chair, Wayne Domine, included the item under the Technical Committee report.
5. **Chair Communications** - Wayne Domine summarized recent developments related to the ARC, including:
 - i) Bob Beckley's new position in Surprise, Arizona
 - ii) ARC's first grant (CMI grant for bacteria source tracking)
 - iii) Welcoming a new ARC member - City of Orchard Lake Village
 - iv) PIE and Technical Committee updates

The Chair pointed out that these topics were highlighted in a recent ARC news email distribution. Mr. Domine recommended that the ARC news serve as a means of communication from the ARC officers to keep members and interested parties abreast of developments between ARC meetings. Jennifer Lawson commented that the simple layout was helpful.

6. **Response to Chair Departure**

a. **Resolution of Tribute**

Wayne Domine read a *Resolution of Appreciation* to former Chair Robert Beckley for consideration of the Executive Committee to recommend to the Full Alliance for adoption at the August 23, 2006 meeting. (Attachment A) A motion to recommend the resolution to the Full Alliance was made by Jim Anulewicz of Plymouth Township and supported by Tom Biasell of Farmington Hills. The motion passed unanimously.

b. **Schedule of Election of Officers for 2007**

Acting Chair Wayne Domine suggested that the ARC plan to hold the ARC election of new officers who will serve the ARC in 2007-2008 at the August 23, 2006 meeting of the Full Alliance. This schedule would allow for newly elected officers to take part in budget planning

for the 2007 term in which they will serve. After discussing the merits of this approach, Chair Domine proposed that if there were no objections, the ARC should proceed with plans to elect officers at the August meeting and charge a nominating committee with creating a slate of candidates. Tom Biasell, Kurt Heise, and Michele Bononi volunteered. The nominating committee will be soliciting candidates and anyone interested should contact Tom Biasell. They will have tentative recommendations by the August 2, 2006 Executive Committee meeting. The meeting notification for the August 23rd full Alliance meeting should highlight that elections will be held to encourage full representation by all ARC members.

c. **Interim assistance to Acting Chair**

The decision to elect new officers at the August meeting made this consideration unnecessary.

7 **Treasurers Report/ Finance Committee - Kurt Giberson**

- a. **2006 Invoicing / Assessments Paid Status** - Kurt Giberson reported on the status of member assessment payments. Most communities have paid their assessments. However some on different fiscal years have yet to pay.
- b. **2006 Expenditures Status Report** - Kurt Giberson briefly reviewed the 2006 Expenditures Status Report and corresponding task status report. Work is proceeding as planned.
- c. **2006 Budget Adjustments** –A summary of budget adjustments to be recommended to the Full Alliance was discussed. Adjustments included a reduction in the cost for insurance, the addition of a line item for the bacterial source tracking CMI grant and a reduction in the baseline sampling program to account for shared costs between the baseline program and bacterial source tracking program. Wayne County commented on the significance of the ARC being awarded the first grant and the impact it is having on promoting regional cooperation. More specifically, how it is influencing participation in the formation of a Watershed Alliance with downriver communities. Suggestions were made to notify public officials and the media of the grant award.

- d. **2007 Budget Planning** - Wayne Domine requested that the standing committees have their preliminary budgets prepared for consideration of the Executive Committee and Full Alliance at the August meetings. This schedule will give the Full Alliance an opportunity to review and comment on proposed budgets prior to their consideration for approval at the December meeting. Technical Committee acting Chair, Gary Zorza of Farmington Hills, commented that correspondence with the USGS indicated that waiting until the December meeting to approve the 2007 USGS monitoring budget may result in delays and possibly missed opportunity to obtain data early in 2007. Therefore, he requested an official budget request to the Full Alliance at the August meeting for this line item.

8. **Other Committee Reports**

a. **Organization Committee** (Heise/Payne – Co-Chairs)

- i) The Organizational Committee has begun drafting an RFP for 2007 ARC staff support services for consideration by the Executive Committee and Full Alliance at the August meetings. The intent is to make a selection by the end of the calendar year. The organizational committee will have a draft ready for the August 2nd Executive Committee meeting and requested input on the development of the RFP from Tom Biasell and Jim Anulewicz. Both agreed to help.
- ii) An action item from the March 22 Executive Committee meeting for the ARC officers to meet to discuss the pursuit of grant opportunities and SWAG facilitation roles was not held due to the surprise departure of former Chair Robert Beckley. Treasurer, Kurt Giberson scheduled a meeting for June 29th and will report back to the Executive Committee at the August meeting.

b. **Public Involvement and Education Committee** (Lawson, Chair)

- i) Jennifer Lawson provided a PIE Committee progress report highlighting the success of the household hazardous waste survey. She also noted that the committee is interested in broadening member participation at meetings to help assure that watershed wide interests are represented. There was discussion of what topics should be highlighted in a report to

Judge Feikens. It was suggested that we ask Jonathon Bulkley to review the draft letter prior to presenting it to Judge Feikens. The PIE Committee proposed using the annual Year in Review report to help draft the report. Jack Bails offered continued evidence that the Rouge River is being used as a national model in that several newspaper articles about the Rouge River restoration efforts have been published around the country. Kurt Heise added that the ARC is similarly serving as a model for successful regional cooperation.

c. **Technical Committee** (Vice Chair, Zorza)

- i) Vice Chair, Gary Zorza pointed out that the Technical Committee also would like better watershed wide participation at committee meetings. A suggestion was made to have a brief discussion about this at the next Full Alliance meeting and have a sign up sheet. He also referred to the recent ARC News that highlights recent activities of the Technical Committee. Upcoming activities include responding to MDEQ's request for an evaluation of the ARCs alternative IDEP approaches and development of an annual report template that can be used by all ARC members.
- ii) Michelle Bononi discussed challenges Washtenaw County is experiencing with IDEP implementation. She voiced concern over the cost of the program and requested advice as to a better approach than the traditional approach. She requested that the MDEQ produce comprehensive data on what is out there statewide regarding IDEP. Technical Committee Vice Chair Gary Zorza invited someone from Washtenaw County to sit on the Technical Committee as it is the forum of collaboration on IDEP strategies. Ms. Bononi said they would be glad to participate. Kurt Giberson commented that the MDEQ Environmental Advisory Council meets monthly and suggested this may be a forum for expressing our concerns.

9. **Report from WCDOE** (Cave)

- a. **Rouge Project Update** – Kelly Cave of Wayne County provided an update noting that the MDEQ recently held a TMDL kickoff meeting in Southfield. She highlighted that the MDEQ is planning on using data collected from the Rouge Project in their study and that the TMDL should not result in additional regulation. The 2005 Year in Review Report is being finalized, but there is still time for any success stories to be added. Downriver watersheds are using edited ARC Bylaws to take to their councils. Jennifer Lawson commented that the Clinton watershed is using the same approach as the Alliance.
 - b. **Round VII Grant Awards** – Ms. Cave noted that although EPA stated that the frozen federal grant funds have been released, official documentation has not yet been received. Updated round VII sub-grant proposals were scored and ranked by the review committee. Although the grants have been on hold for nine months now due to the grant freeze, EPA has not approved extending the deadline for project completion. Wayne County will continue to pursue schedule extensions. Wayne County added that if EPA gives an extension and frozen funds are officially released, a small amount of funding may be available for a Round VIII of sub-grants. Wayne County requested a recommendation from the ARC Executive Committee regarding the eligibility of a proposal submission from a prior member of the Assembly of Rouge Communities who is not a current member of the Alliance. After discussion, Tom Biasell presented and read a resolution regarding eligibility for Round VII and future sub-grants (Attachment B). The motion to approve the resolution was supported. Discussion resulted in a change to the last sentence from *not be directly awarded* to *not be awarded*. Approval of the revised resolution passed unanimously.
10. **Reports from SWAGS** (Comments, Concerns, and/or Recommendations)
- a. Main 1-2 – Nothing to report
 - b. Main 3-4 – Nothing to report
 - c. Upper – Nothing to report, but interested in results of Main 1-2 319 grant applications and requested prompt notification when more information becomes available.

- d. Middle 1 / Lower 1 – Waiting to hear on 319 grant submittal to fund SWMP revisions.
- e. Middle 3 – Nothing to report
- f. Lower 2 – Nothing to report

11. Summary of Executive Committee Actions

- Recommend approval by Full Alliance of resolution of tribute to former Chair Robert Beckley of Livonia.
- 2006 budget adjustments recommended for approval by Full Alliance on August 23, 2006
- Finance Committee will ask standing committee chairs to prepare preliminary budgets for 2007 for presentation to the Executive Committee on August 2, 20006.
- Organization Committee will begin preparing a Request for Proposals for ARC support services.
- Approval of resolution regarding eligibility for Round VII and future sub-grants.
- Appointment of nominating committee for election of officers in August.
- PIE Committee is drafting an ARC status report and cover letter to Judge Feikens.

12. Upcoming Meeting(s)

Executive Committee	Dearborn DPW offices	August 2, 2006	1:30 PM	RFP for 2007 staff support, Plan for 2007 fiduciary services, 2007 budget planning, nomination of officers
Full Alliance	Canton Township	August 23, 2006	1:30 PM	Election of officers, review 2007 budget, approve RFP for 2007 ARC services, approve plan for 2007 fiduciary services.
Executive Committee	Livonia DPW offices	November 15, 2006	1:30 PM	Recommend 2007 budget
Full Alliance	Troy	December 6, 2006	1:30 PM	Approve 2007 budget

Adjourn

Attachment A



RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

ROBERT BECKLEY

Working together, restoring the river

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

***WHEREAS** Robert Beckley served as the first Chair of the Alliance of Rouge Communities as a representative of the City of Livonia during the critical transition from the informal Assembly of Rouge Communities to its present status as a state recognized watershed-based public entity*

***WHEREAS** his voluntary efforts in helping establish a watershed approach to storm water management in the 1990s led to the development of the first watershed-based storm water discharge permits and the subsequent formation of the Assembly of Rouge Communities*

***WHEREAS** through his leadership as Chair of the Upper Rouge River Stormwater Advisory Group, the first pilot subwatershed plan was developed that later became a model for the entire state*

***WHEREAS** Robert's leadership abilities were recognized by his peers when he was elected as Chair of the Assembly of Rouge Communities in December of 2004, and affirmed as Chair of the newly created Alliance of Rouge Communities in 2005*

***WHEREAS** Robert has accepted a new position with the City of Surprise, Arizona to take on new challenges*

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alliance of Rouge Communities wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Robert Beckley for his support, guidance, and contributions to the restoration of the Rouge River through his early and sustained leadership in the development of cooperative watershed approaches*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alliance of Rouge Communities collectively and individually offers its best wishes to Robert Beckley as he assumes responsibility for new water management challenges with well deserved pride for his accomplishments and contributions to the City of Livonia, the Rouge River watershed, and the southeast Michigan region.*

Adopted _____ at the August ____, 2006, meeting of the Alliance of Rouge Communities

Wayne Domine (Bloomfield Township)
Acting Chair, Alliance of
Rouge Communities

Kurt Giberson (Dearborn)
Treasurer, Alliance of
Rouge Communities

Attachment B

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY
ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Proposed by Tom Biasell, Farmington Hills
14 June 2006**

Resolve that,

The Executive Committee of the Alliance of Rouge Communities recommends to the Wayne County Department of Environment that the Round VII A & B demonstration subgrants be evaluated based upon the eligibility requirements established at the time of the original Notice of Grant Availability for the Round VII subgrant program and that the actual awards be based upon the application of the scoring criterion previously reviewed and approved by the Technical Committee, and,

Further resolve that,

The Executive Committee reaffirms and supports the position that any future Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project (Rouge Project) subgrants or other grants obtained by the ARC should not be ~~directly~~ awarded to public entities that are eligible for membership in the ARC, but have chosen not to join.

Approved @
6/14/06
Exec Committee