



Working together, restoring the river

ASSEMBLY OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

Meeting Summary

General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.

Farmington Hills Main Library

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
 Oakland County
 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

1. WELCOME

Mr. Robert Beckley of Livonia, Assembly of Rouge Communities Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Farmington Hills for hosting the meeting.

1A. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

Mr. Beckley took roll call at the meeting. He asked all attendees to identify themselves and the organization they represented. The 26 voting members present as identified below were sufficient for a Quorum.

The following communities were in attendance at the meeting:

Auburn Hills	Bingham Farms	Birmingham	Bloomfield Township
Canton Township	Dearborn	Farmington	Farmington Hills
Garden City	Lathrup Village	Livonia	Northville
Northville Township	Oakland County	Plymouth Township	Pontiac
Redford Township	Rochester Hills	Southfield	Superior Township
Troy	Van Buren Township	Wayne	Wayne County
West Bloomfield Twp.	Westland		

The following communities were absent from the meeting.

Allen Park	Dearborn Heights	Beverly Hills	Bloomfield Hills
Commerce Township	Franklin	Inkster	Melvindale
Novi	Plymouth	Romulus	Walled Lake
Washtenaw County	Wixom	Ypsilanti Township	

1B. Review and Approval of February 22, 2005, Assembly Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February, 22 2005 Assembly of Rouge Communities meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Westland made a motion to approve and the motion was supported. **The February, 22 2005 minutes were unanimously approved.**

1C. Additions or Changes to Draft Meeting Agenda

Mr. Beckley asked if there were any requests for additions or changes to the agenda. None were requested.

1D. Chair's Report

1D1. April 26, 2005 meeting with MDEQ on IDEP and PEP

Mr. Beckley reported that ARC representatives met with MDEQ on April 26, 2005 to discuss MDEQ's response to August 2004 IDEP and PEP updates. As a follow-up to that meeting, the ARC sent a letter to MDEQ suggesting a compromise approach that better supports watershed focused permitting through the use of templates that each community and county could use as a starting point and customize to their specific activities. The MDEQ responded indicating that they could not provide a decision as to the acceptability of this approach by the June 9, 2004 full Assembly meeting.

1D2. Change in Assembly staff support

Mr. Beckley reported that Ms. Amy Ploof had taken a new position and her role as staff support to the ARC would be filled by Ms. Colleen Hughes.

1D3. Appointment of chair and charge to PIE Committee

Mr. Beckley reported that Ms. Jennifer Lawson of Troy accepted appointment as Chair of the PIE Committee and that Mr. Gary Zorza would continue as acting Chair of the Technical Committee.

Farmington Hills moved that the Technical and Public Involvement and Education Committees review draft IDEP and PEP templates proposed to MDEQ and work to develop consensus on a final format. The motion also included that the PIE Committee evaluation of how to incorporate involvement of Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) with the ARC. Westland supported the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. TREASURER'S/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

2A. Status of Assembly Invoice Payments

Mr. Kurt Giberson, Treasurer of the Rouge Assembly, reviewed the ARC financial status report for 2005 as of 6/3/05, including community assessment payment status and invoices paid for planned activities. Over 50% of community dues for 2005 have been paid to date. The financial summary was available in the meeting packet.

2B. Status of 2005 Assembly Budget/Expenditures

Mr. Giberson presented a task status summary for services completed as of 6/8/05 that was available in the meeting packet. All items are progressing as expected.

2C. Questions for Treasurer/Finance Committee

There were no questions at this time.

3. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

3A. Public Involvement and Education

The Chair of the Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Committee, Ms. Jennifer Lawson of Troy, reported on progress since the last full ARC meeting on February 22, 2005 highlighting the creation of an ad hoc committee to determine what the future relationship should be between the ARC and FOTR. Ms. Lawson also reported that a detention pond maintenance workshop was held in May and that planning for the public education workshop for municipal staff is well underway and scheduled for September 28, 2005.

3B. Technical Committee

Acting Chair of the Technical Committee, Mr. Gary Zorza of Farmington Hills, gave the Technical Committee report highlighting that 2005 sampling in the Middle 1 and 3 subwatersheds had begun with five dry weather and one wet weather event completed in May. The annual Rouge River Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Report was distributed on CD and the new data dissemination web query tool is expected to be available in July. The Technical Committee also reviewed Wayne County's draft Notice of Grant Availability for Round VII sub-grants for permit compliance activities and coordinated with MDEQ on biological and *E. coli* monitoring they will be performing in 2005.

3C. Organization Committee

The Organization Committee is co-chaired by Kurt Heise, WCDOE, and Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township. Mr. Heise gave the Organization Committee report. Recent efforts have focused on changes to the proposed Alliance Bylaws based on ARC member comments and evaluating insurance needs. After meeting with FOTR, the Organizational Committee recommended the Public Involvement and Education Committee determine what their long term relationship between the FOTR and ARC should be.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT ON ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

4A. Discussion of Bylaws

Mr. Beckley, ARC Chair, and Mr. Jack Bails, ARC facilitator, presented the draft bylaws which were distributed prior to the meeting noting that the only remaining items required to proceed are a resolution to adopt the bylaws and a provision for indemnification and general liability insurance.

A representative from the Airport Authority noted that they would fit into the Alliance as an Associate member with the currently drafted bylaws and requested comment on why they would not have an opportunity to be a primary member. Kurt Heise of the Organizational Committee explained that the membership categories are a product of the Alliance statute that requires all cities, and counties, villages, and townships in the defined watershed to be offered an equitable basis for membership. The membership of all other public agencies are defined in the bylaws adopted by the individual Alliances formed under the statute. Since population and land area is used to establish voting and assessments of all communities within the proposed Alliance of Rouge Communities, a different method is needed to define the voting and assessments to other members.

4A1. Recommendations of Executive Committee and clarification/correction changes

Mr. Beckley announced that the Executive Committee recommends proceeding with the June 9, 2005 draft bylaws pending inclusion of insurance provisions. The Chair requested action from the ARC regarding formal approval of the bylaws as presented, pending inclusion of liability/indemnification provisions. A motion to approve and proceed with the presented bylaws was made by Mr. Ron Carl of Redford Township and supported by Mr. Ramzi El-Gharib of Wayne. **The motion passed unanimously with the exception of Oakland County's abstention.**

4A2. Other Amendments

Oakland County moved to amend the draft bylaws via miscellaneous resolution #05103 issued by the Office of the Oakland County Drain Commissioner Planning and Building Committee to include the following language at the end of Article III A (2) (a): "In the event the ARC determines to assess the Counties for contributions to its budget, and the funding is not appropriated by the County Board of Commissioners, the County shall become a Cooperating Partner as provided in Article II D. 3." The motion was supported by the City of Northville.

There was discussion regarding the privileges of a County as a Cooperating Partner. It was agreed that in that role, a County would forego voting privileges and membership on the Executive Committee. Further discussion revolved around the intent of the amendment and the opportunity for a County to become a Cooperating Partner. Oakland County stated that the intent is to stay involved in the event that the ARC assesses counties in the future in the event that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners does not make an appropriation for ARC membership. A review of the definition of Cooperating Partner in the proposed Draft Bylaws seemed to imply that a County or community eligible as a member would not be eligible to be a Cooperating Partner. It was suggested that revision of the Cooperating Partner definition would be a better solution to Oakland County's concern. Oakland County rejected the suggestion to revise their amendment on the basis that the amendment was a product of a resolution from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and not open for revision at this time. **The motion to amend Article III A(2)(a) as moved by Oakland County failed with only four members present supporting the amendment.**

Concern was expressed regarding Oakland County's future involvement in the ARC and addressing their concerns with the draft bylaws. Chair Beckley agreed to act on a suggestion to offer to appear before the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to discuss the issue further.

4A3. Liability Insurance Update

The Organizational Committee is evaluating ARC insurance options and associated bylaw provisions. One quote for general liability insurance for the officers requiring an indemnification provision in the bylaws was \$6,000 per year. Questions were raised

regarding the need for additional insurance given that most communities already have insurance as well as the specifics of who will be indemnified and for what activities. The Organizational Committee is continuing to work out these details and obtain additional insurance quotes. The Officers of the ARC and the co-chairs of the Organizational Committee will continue to evaluate insurance quotes and determine the appropriate indemnification language for inclusion in the proposed Alliance bylaws.

4A4. Final Adoption/Schedule

The Organizational Committee agreed to complete their evaluation of insurance responsibilities and associated costs within two weeks. A three week target was set to finalize the bylaws for distribution and formal consideration by the governing bodies of the eligible member public agencies.

5. OTHER ISSUES/ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS

5A. WCDOE – New Round, Rouge Project Sub-grants and 2006 Funding for Support of Rouge Alliance

Ms. Kelly Cave of Wayne County reported that new round of sub-grants for permit compliance activities will be available in 2005. The Technical Committee reviewed the Notice of Grant Availability which is similar to the Round VI notice in 2004. Eligibility requirements dictate that applicants must be ARC members. Due to the short application submittal schedule, endorsement from Sub-watershed Advisory Groups will be considered after the submittal due date. Ms. Cave also announced that 50% federal grant match funding would be available in 2006 for the Rouge Alliance at the same level as in 2005.

6. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

Greg Weeks of Wade Trim commented on Article VII: Amendment to Bylaws wondering why amendments should only be considered at the annual meeting. Jack Bails, ARC facilitator responded that the intent is to align bylaw amendments with budgetary decisions such that members can simultaneously assess membership renewal with potential bylaw amendments.

A representative from FOTR requested clarification regarding their eligibility to apply for Round VII sub-grants since FOTR is not currently an ARC member. Ms. Kelly Cave of Wayne County responded that although the eligibility language indicated that they may not be eligible, that language would be reviewed and assured FOTR that they would continue to be eligible as they have in the past. A special thanks was offered by FOTR to all those that participated in recent River Day activities.

7. MEETING SCHEDULE

The next full Assembly meeting will be held in late August or September with dissolution of the ARC by adoption of the Alliance as a primary agenda item.

8. ADJOURN