



Working together, restoring the river

ASSEMBLY OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

Full Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, September 8, 2004

DRAFT AGENDA

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** – Tom Biasell (Farmington Hills) Rouge Assembly Chair
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Approval of March 18, 2004, Assembly Meeting Minutes
 - C. Additions or changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda
 - D. Chair Update of Assembly Activities
 1. Meeting with MDEQ July 7, 2004
 2. Round VI Rouge Grants
 3. Seminar for Elected Officials
 4. August Executive Committee Meeting (discussion and actions on recommendations later in agenda)
 5. Letter to Airport Authority re: Membership in Assembly
- 2. Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee** – Gary Mekjian (*West Bloomfield Township*) Rouge Assembly Treasurer
 - A. Review of 2003 Income and Expenses **Information**
 - B. 2005 Budget Schedule and Assumptions **Information**
 - C. Questions for Treasurer/Finance Committee **Information**
- 3. Standing Committee Reports**
 - A. Organization Committee (*Committee Co-Chairs – Kurt Heise, WCDOE and Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township*)
 1. Status of Watershed Legislation **Information**
 2. Merger of Organization and Membership Committee **Discussion**
 3. New Member Kurt Giberson (Dearborn) **Discussion**
 4. Vision and Goals for Assembly **Discussion**
 5. Policy on Resolutions **Discussion**
 - B. Technical Committee (*Committee Vice Chair – Gary Zorza Farmington Hills*)
 1. Monitoring Program **Information**
 2. Alternative SWIPPI outfall sampling **Information**
 3. Other Information Items/Questions **Discussion**
 - C. Public Involvement (*Assembly Vice Chair and Committee Chair – James Anulewicz, Plymouth Township*)
 1. Status of joint public survey **Information**
 2. Status of catalog of public information materials **Information**
 3. Round VI Grant proposal for I & E **Information**
 4. Other Information Items Questions **Discussion**

4. Executive Committee Report (*Assembly Chair and Committee Chair – Tom Biasell, Farmington Hills*)

D. Recommendations for Action by Executive Committee

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Merger of Organization and Membership Committee | Action |
| 2. New Member Kurt Giberson (Dearborn) | Action |
| 3. Vision and Goals for Assembly | Action |
| 4. Policy on Resolutions | Action |
| 5. Formation/Composition of Nominating Committee | Consent |
| 6. Representative to RRAC | Consent |
| 7. Transition of Assembly during 2004-2005 | Consent |
| a. Assignment re: Presentation on reasons for joining Assembly (Bails, Ploof, Ball, Cave, Beckley, and Mekjian) | |
| b. Committee Assignments | |

5. Other Issues/Items of New Business from Members

6. Opportunity for Comments by the Public

7. Meeting Schedule for 2004

- A. Full Rouge Assembly
- B. Executive Committee

Adjourn



Assembly
of Rouge
Communities

OURS TO PROTECT

Working together, restoring the river

Assembly of Rouge Communities

ACTION ITEMS FOR 2004

(Committee, Officer, and Staff Assignments)

Revisions to Memorandum of Agreement, or in the Alternative New Bylaws for the Assembly of Rouge Communities

Combined Organization and Membership Committee will consider the following items:

- Expand membership to include new members such as school districts, airport authority, City of Detroit, colleges and universities, other state or federal agencies.
- Determine appropriate level of assessment/voting shares of new members compared to community members.
- Resolve whether or not counties will continue as non-paying members
- Participation by other stakeholders
- Expand membership of Executive Committee to include representation by immediate past officer(s) for continuity of operations
- Expand purpose (e.g., CSO/SSO or other issues)
- Modify other operating procedures or provide for policy adoptions
- Reflect 2005 budget needs in assessment table after adoption by ARC

Deadlines

- **Propose changes one month in advance of November 2004 meeting of ARC**
- **Make recommendations to Executive Committee at its October meeting**

Budget for 2005 Assembly Operation, Assessment Total, and Other Sources of Revenue

Finance Committee in cooperation with other ARC standing committees will assume the responsibility for consolidating the following information and for recommending proposed 2005 ARCBudget:

PIE Committee

- Determine level of staff support needed
- Finalize activities, cost and source of funding (e.g., Round VI Rouge Project Grant, Assessment of Members, Matching Rouge Project)
- Other changes related to the 2005 budget

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
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Wayne County
West Bloomfield Twp.
Westland
Ypsilanti Twp.

Organization Committee

- Changes in support services needed (General Assembly, Executive Committee, Standing Committee, and SWAGs), method of providing service (e.g., RPO, donated services by members and/or new direct contract for services), cost, and source of funding (e.g., assessments, Rouge Project grant dollars, other sources)
- Other recommendations related to 2005 budget

Technical Committee

- Changes in monitoring/sampling activities and associated costs.
- Other recommendations related to 2005 budget.

Executive Committee

- Recommendations that will have implications to the 2005 budget

Deadline

- **Make recommendations to Executive Committee at its October 2004 meeting.**

Establish Nominating Committee for 2005 Assembly Officers

The Chair of the ARC will take responsibility for the following:

- Propose members for the Nominating Committee
- Solicit new candidates for ARC Officers for two-year terms beginning January 1, 2005
- Present slate of ARC officer candidates for consideration by ARC

Deadlines:

- **Recommend Nominating Committee at the September ARC Meeting**
- **Present slate of candidates for a vote of the full ARC at its November meeting**

Prepare Concise Power Point Presentation for Use by ARC Members Before Their Boards and Councils on Benefits of ARC Membership

The ARC staff (Bails, Ploof and Ball) will work with Kelly Cave (representing county members), Bob Beckley (representing city members), and Gary Mekjian (representing township members) to accomplish the following:

- *Prepare a 15/20 minute presentation that highlights the value of ARC membership that can be used as a template by ARC members in support of continued participation*
- *Present draft presentation to Executive Committee and finalize for review of full ARC*

Deadlines:

- **Review draft presentation at October Executive Committee Meeting**
- **Make appropriate revisions and present final presentation at November ARC meeting**

Recommendations to the ARC at its September Meeting

The Executive Committee will make the following recommendations to the ARC:

- Merger of the Membership Committee into the Organization Committee and add Kurt Giberson to Organization Committee
- Adoption of the Vision and Goals for the ARC
- Continue to operate the ARC under the current MOA and, for budget and other purposes, assume passage of the proposed Watershed Alliance legislation in early 2005
- Adoption of policy related to ARC resolutions
- Propose ARC member to serve as liaison with RRAC

Public Involvement and Education Activities

The PIE Committee in addition to its 2005 budget recommendations will focus on the following for completion during calendar 2005:

- Review and Report on the SEMCOG/ARC joint public survey results for use by ARC members in updating PIPs within their Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiatives (SWPPIs)
- Complete catalog of available public information materials available for use by ARC members
- Prepare recommendations for use of Rouge Project Round VI grant dollars by ARC in cooperation with Oakland County Drain Commission

Technical Committee Activities

The Technical Committee in addition to its 2005 budget recommendations will focus on the following for completion during calendar 2005:

- Continue to review and evaluate ARC monitoring program and make recommendations to best meet the permit needs of ARC members
- Develop alternative and propose to MDEQ an IDEP program that replaces the current requirement that all storm water outfalls be inspected once every five years

Organization/Membership Committee

The combined Organization and Membership committees, in addition to membership, MOA/Bylaw changes, and budget responsibilities outlined above will focus on the following for completion during calendar 2005:

- Prepare a draft RFP outlining the duties responsibilities, experience, education and skills needed for Executive Director position to serve the ARC assuming passage of the proposed Watershed Alliance Legislation
- Provide analysis and response to proposed Watershed Alliance legislation, and provide information to ARC members to encourage support as appropriate

Calendar of Actions by Assembly and Committees

| Activity | August | September | October | November |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | Ex. Com. Mtg. 11th | ARC Meeting 8th | Ex. Com. Mtg. 13th | ARC Meeting 17th |
| ARC | | | | |
| Approve Nominating Committee | | ● | | |
| Adopt Revisions to Assembly MOA/Bylaws | | | | ● |
| Approve Assembly 2005 Budget | | | | ● |
| Adopt Policy for Resolutions | | ● | | |
| Adopt Vision and Goals | | ● | | |
| Appoint RRAC Representative | | ● | | |
| Approve Transition Plan | | ● | | |
| | | | | |
| Executive Committee | Approved August 11 th | | | |
| Recommend Nominating Committee Process | ● | | | |
| Recommend Policy for Resolutions | ● | | | |
| Make Committee Assignments, Meeting Calendar, and Deadlines | ● | | | |
| Recommend Changes in MOA/Bylaws | | | ● | |
| Recommend 2005 Budget | | | ● | |
| Recommend Vision and Goals | ● | | | |

| Activity | August | September | October | November |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | Ex. Com. Mtg. 11th | ARC Meeting 8th | Ex. Com. Mtg. 13th | ARC Meeting 17th |
| Finance Committee | | | | |
| Solicit Budget Input from Com. | _____ | Request due 10th → | | |
| Make 2005 Budget Recommendation to Executive Committee | | | ● | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------|------------------|---|
| Organization/ Membership Committee | | | | |
| Finalize New Legislation | ● | | | |
| Solicit Support for Legislative Action | _____ | | | → |
| Recommend Vision and Goals | ● | | | |
| Provide 2005 Budget Input | | Due 10th ● | | |
| Recommend Changes in MOA/Bylaws | | | ● | |
| Recommend Membership Changes | ● | | | |
| | | | | |
| Technical Committee | | | | |
| Consider Changes in Monitoring 05 | _____ | → | | |
| Prepare Alternative IDEP for DEQ Consideration | _____ | | Due early Oct. → | |
| Provide 2005 Budget Input | | ● Due 10th | | |

| Activity | August | September | October | November |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | Ex. Com. Mtg. 11th | ARC Meeting 8th | Ex. Com. Mtg. 13th | ARC Meeting 17th |
| PIE Committee | | | | |
| Review/Report SEMCOG Survey Results | | —————→ | | → |
| Make Recommendation for PIP changes to Communities | | | ● | |
| Propose Rnd. VI Rouge I&E Grant Activities | —————→ | | | |
| Provide 2005 Budget Input | | Due 10th ● | | |
| Nominating Committee | | | | |
| Solicit/Present Nominations | | —————→ | | →● |

DRAFT 2

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled

"Natural resources and environmental protection act," (MCL 324.101 to 324.90106) by
adding part 312. #52

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

PART 312 WATERSHED ALLIANCES

Sec. 31201. As used in this part:

(a) "County agency" means an agency created or controlled by a county board of commissioners or a county executive, a board of county road commissioners, or an office of the county drain commissioner.

(b) "Member" means a municipality, county, county agency, public school district, public college or university, or other local or regional public agency that is a member of a watershed alliance as provided for in this part.

(c) "Watershed" means a geographic area in the state within which surface water drains into a common river, stream, or body of water.

(d) "Watershed alliance" means a watershed alliance established under section 31202.

(e) "Watershed management plan" means a written document prepared and approved by a watershed alliance that identifies water management issues and problems, proposes goals and objectives, and outlines actions to achieve the goals and objectives identified by members of a watershed alliance.

Sec. 31202. (1) Two or more municipalities, by resolution of their governing bodies, may establish a watershed alliance for the purpose of studying problems and planning and implementing activities designed to address surface water quality or water flow issues of mutual concern in a watershed, including 1 or more of the following:

(a) Preparation of watershed management plans and other required documents as part of state or federal requirements to obtain water discharge permits or grant funding.

(b) Monitoring, sampling, and analyses of data necessary to manage the watershed, including, but not limited to, surface water quality, water quantity and flows, ecosystem health, recreational use, and the publication of results.

(c) Conducting public surveys, preparing and distributing informational and educational materials, and organizing public involvement activities.

(d) Designing and implementing projects and conducting activities to protect or enhance water quality and related beneficial uses, or manage flows to protect or reduce damage to riparian property and aquatic habitat.

(e) Designing and implementing other actions consistent with watershed management plans adopted by a watershed alliance, or required to protect public health, and maintain and restore beneficial public uses of the surface water resources of the watershed.

(2) A Resolution under subsection (1) establishing a watershed alliance shall include bylaws that identify, at a minimum, all of the following:

(a) The structure of the organization and decision-making process

(b) The geographic boundaries of the watershed.

(c) An identification of the municipalities, counties, county agencies, public school districts, and other local or regional public agencies eligible for membership in the watershed alliance.

(d) The basis for assessing costs to members.

(e) A mechanism to be used for adoption of an annual budget to support projects and activities.

(3) A watershed alliance shall provide an equitable basis for all municipalities, counties, and county agencies within the geographic boundaries of the watershed to voluntarily join as members. In addition, at its discretion, the watershed alliance may authorize the voluntary membership of any local public school district, public college or university, or any other local or

regional public agency that has water management responsibilities. Following establishment of a watershed alliance under subsection (1), by resolution of its governing body, a municipality, county, county agency, public school district, public college or university, or other local or regional public agency established under state law with surface water management responsibility may voluntarily join a watershed alliance as provided for in this subsection.

Sec. 31203. A watershed alliance is a body corporate with power to sue and be sued in any court of this state and with the authority to carry out its responsibilities under this part and as otherwise provided by law.

Sec. 31204. (1) A watershed alliance, consistent with the purposes identified in section 31202 and its bylaws, may do 1 or more of the following :

- (a) Employ personnel to coordinate and implement actions.
- (b) Enter into agreements or contracts with public or private entities to coordinate or implement actions.
- (c) Assess and collect fees from members with approval of the governing bodies of the watershed alliance members.
- (d) Solicit grants, gifts, and contributions from federal, state, regional, or local public agencies and from private sources.
- (e) Expend funds provided by members, or through grants, gifts, and contributions.
- (f) Represent members of the watershed alliance before other bodies considering issues affecting water quality or flow

management issues within the designated watershed, including obtaining local, state, or federal permits or authorizations that may be required to carry out activities as may be authorized by its members.

(2) A watershed alliance shall prepare and deliver to its members on or before April 1 of each year a report detailing the revenue received and expenditures by the watershed alliance during the immediately prior January 1 through December 31 period.

(3) A watershed alliance shall have no independent authority to assess or collect any fees or taxes directly from individuals or property owners. A watershed alliance member may allocate the use of public funds from fees, taxes, or assessments generated under the provisions of other state laws for use by a watershed alliance.

Sec.31205. (1) A watershed alliance shall obtain an audit of its financial records, accounts, and procedures at least every year.

(2) A watershed alliance shall submit the results of an audit under subsection (1) to the governing bodies of its members and to the state treasurer.

(3) An audit under subsection (1) shall satisfy all audit requirements set under the uniform budgeting and accounting act, 1968 PA 2, MCL 141.421 to 141.440a



Local Management
Assembly

**Assembly of Rouge Communities
Executive Committee Meeting**
August 11, 2004 at 1:00pm
Livonia Department of Public Works

1. Welcome

Tom Biasell, Chair of the Assembly of Rouge Communities (ARC), welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Bob Beckley of Livonia for hosting the meeting.

2. Roll Call of Members (Biasell) The following indicates those in attendance:

- 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.

| Member (M) Alternate (A) | Representing | Local Assembly Member Agency |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tom Biasell (M) | Chair Rouge Assembly | Farmington Hills |
| James Anulewicz (M) | Vice Chair, Rouge Assembly | Plymouth Township |
| Gary Mekjian (M) | Treasurer, Rouge Assembly | West Bloomfield Twp. |
| Kurt Heise (M) | Wayne County | Wayne County |
| Kelly Cave (A) | Wayne County | Wayne County |
| Phil Sanzica (A) | Oakland County | Oakland County |
| Shawn Keenan (M) | Main 1 & 2 SWAG | Auburn Hills |
| Brandy Bakita (A) | Main 1 & 2 SWAG | Southfield |
| John Kozuh (M) | Main 3 & 4 SWAG | Allen Park |
| Robert Beckley (M) | Upper SWAG | Livonia |
| Ron Caryl (A) | Upper SWAG | Redford Township |
| Absent | Middle 1 SWAG | |
| Absent | Middle 3 SWAG | |
| Absent | Lower 1 SWAG | |
| Absent | Washtenaw County | |
| Mike Buiten (A) | Lower 2 SWAG | Wayne |

| Others Present | Representing | Agency/Firm |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Jack Bails</i> | <i>RPO- ARC Facilitator</i> | <i>PSC</i> |
| <i>Amy Ploof</i> | <i>RPO- ARC Facilitator</i> | <i>CDM</i> |
| <i>Zachare Ball</i> | <i>RPO- ARC PIE Facilitator</i> | <i>ECT</i> |
| <i>Barry Johnson</i> | <i>RPO – Subwatershed Fac.</i> | <i>CDM</i> |
| <i>Colleen Hughes</i> | <i>RPO – ARC TC Facilitator</i> | <i>CDM</i> |
| <i>Gary Zorza</i> | <i>Vice Chair –ARC Tech. Com.</i> | <i>Farmington Hills</i> |
| <i>Dave Payne</i> | <i>Co-Chair – ARC Org. Com.</i> | <i>Bloomfield Twp.</i> |
| <i>Bill Craig</i> | <i>RRAC</i> | <i>Concerned Citizen</i> |

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

3. Minutes of February 27, Executive Committee Meeting (Biasell)

Biasell asked for any correction or additions to the February 27, 2004 minutes. Hearing no comments, Biasell indicated the minutes were accepted as presented.

4. Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda (Biasell)

Members requested no additions or changes.

5. Chair Communications (Biasell)

a. MDEQ Quarterly Meeting

Biasell reviewed the discussions at the Quarterly Meeting held between WCDOE Rouge Project staff, ARC representatives and MDEQ.

He commented on the importance and value of such meetings that give the Rouge River communities the opportunity to discuss permitting and related issues with the MDEQ S.E. Michigan Water Division staff.

Biasell with assistance from Kelly Cave outlined the community concerns related to the Illicit Detection Elimination Program (IDEP) guidance issued by MDEQ. Of particular concern was the requirement that once every 5 years those agencies with Certificates of Coverage (COCs) would be required to re-inspect each and every outfall that was under their jurisdiction. Additionally, the organization of the guidance emphasizes methods other than those which have been used in the Rouge watershed for decades that have proven to provide cost-effective identification of illicit discharges. MDEQ staff agreed to consider proposed revisions to the guidance document, presented by the ARC on behalf of its members, which will present alternative methods, including targeting problem areas rather than sample/observe each outfall. The development of the proposed revisions to the MDEQ-issued IDEP guidance document will be assigned the ARC Technical Committee.

b. Round VI Grants

Biasell reported that the ARC Technical Committee's advice and guidance on the criteria for selecting Round VI Rouge Project Grants was accepted by WCDOE and that the ARC Subwatershed Advisory Group rankings were a key factor in the final selection process. He thanked WCDOE for their willingness to involve the ARC.

Kelly Cave provided a handout that summarized the projects conditionally awarded Rouge Project funding under the Round VI grant program. She indicated that because there were unused funds from previous grant rounds, the total federal funds available for Round VI grants were increased. Not all projects were funded. The total requested federal share for conditionally approved Round VIA (CSO/SSO control projects) grants is \$7,463,403 and

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

for approved Round VIB (Storm water / watershed management projects) the total is \$2,309,285. These funding amounts represent an upper limit; for virtually every project, there are required changes to / conditions on the proposed scope of work to which the community/agency must agree to be eligible for Rouge Project funding. Cave indicated that the exact amount for each project would not be finalized until the Interagency Agreements (IAAs) are signed and ineligible or unapproved portions of some projects are deleted from the total requested. The awarding of funding to these projects is subject to approval by the Wayne County Commission and Executive; the request for the grant awards has been submitted into the Commission / Executive approval process.

Cave reminded members that projects must be completed according to the schedule in their IAA due to the grant schedule timeline. Cave also indicated an additional round of funding may be available next year.

Biasell noted that the ARC had requested, through an application prepared by the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's (OCDC) office, and it was conditionally awarded funding for public education and involvement activities related to storm water permit requirements. The detailed work plan and matching requirements for this grant will be assigned to the ARC Public Information and Education Committee (PIE) for development and oversight in coordination with the OCDC.

c. Workshop/Seminar for Elected Officials

Biasell reported that the seminar sponsored by the ARC on June 30, 2004, for community elected and appointed officials was a success, although the attendance (i.e. approximately 38) was less than hoped.

Shawn Keenan, who organized the seminar, distributed a list of attendees and a summary of the 15 survey responses returned conference attendees. Of those responding 87% indicated the overall workshop/seminar was *excellent* with the remaining 13% indicating the workshop was *good*. Both Biasell and Keenan indicated that they had received favorable feedback from both their community representatives that attended the meeting and others.

The speaker at the June 30 workshop will be returning to SE Michigan in the Fall of 2004. While there will be a fee for attending, elected and appointed officials representing ARC members should be encouraged to attend.

Keenan indicated that engineering and planning partners in the Rouge River watershed provided support for the dinner that was provided for the event. They were recognized at the dinner and included CDM; ECT, Inc; Hubbell, Roth and Clark; Orchard, Hiltz, and McCliment; Public Sector Consultants; Tetra Tech, Inc.; Tilton & Associates, Inc.; and Wade, Trim and Associates.

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

6. Treasurer Report (Mekjian)

The ARC Treasurer distributed reports on the Status of ARC Membership Assessments for 2004 indicating that 65% of the assessments had been paid by members, including several payments ahead of the date due. He noted that Farmington Hills, Livonia, Plymouth, Pontiac, Walled Lake, Wayne, and Westland had not yet paid 2004 assessments and that all were due September 1, 2004 except for Livonia which was due June 23. Mekjian noted that all members had paid the 2003 assessment with the exception of Ypsilanti Township which has paid its 2004 assessment and indicated the 2003 payment would also be made.

Mekjian also reported expenditures to date of the ARC indicating that some savings from approved budget items had been accrued and that there is an anticipated carry-over of 2004 funds available for incorporation into the 2005 budget.

Overall, Mekjian indicated that the ARC revenues from assessments and expenditures were consistent with the budget approved by the ARC. Some discussion followed the reports that were received by the Executive Committee.

7. Standing Committee Reports (Biasell)

a. Finance Committee (Mekjian)

The minutes of the August 2, 2004, meeting of the ARC Finance Committee were distributed to members. Mekjian emphasized the role of the Finance Committee in the preparation of the ARC 2005 budget recommendations and indicated the Finance Committee needed all recommendations from other ARC standing committees by September 10, 2004. Following the Finance Committee meeting in September, the committee will prepare a draft 2005 ARC budget for review by the Executive Committee. Mekjian provided a written procedure outlining the process for recommending budget items and a form to be used by standing committees when requesting 2005 budget requests.

Cave indicated that there is \$300,000 in Rouge Project federal grant funds available for 2005 to match community contributions to the Assembly of Rouge Communities. This federal funding level for 2005 is the same level as for 2003 and 2004.

b. Organization Committee (Heise)

Kurt Heise, Organizational Committee Co-Chair, referred members to the notes from the Organization Committee's July 27 meeting distributed to members for detailed information.

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He provided a status report on the proposed Watershed Alliance Legislation. Thanks to Senator Patterson, Bails will now be working directly with the Legislative Service Bureau to draft a bill that conforms with that which was developed for and approved by the ARC. Prospects for introduction and passage in the Senate by year's end are good. Timing of House process is less certain, but our goal remains to have the new law available by early 2005.

Heise also highlighted the following:

- Policy for ARC resolutions – Process and criteria for resolutions brought to ARC for consideration. **Policy was reviewed and approved for consideration by full ARC.**
- Vision and Goals for ARC – The Organization Committee was charged to provide a draft that would help guide the standing committees. **The Vision and Goals were discussed and without objection recommended for consideration by the full ARC.**
- Combining Membership and Organization Committees – **The Executive Committee will recommend that the full ARC combine the two committees, and that Kurt Giberson will be added to the Organization Committee.** .
- Creation of Officer's Nomination Committee – Biasell led the discussion on creation of a nominating committee. Biasell indicated that since he will not be running for the Chair, he volunteered to propose a Nominating Committee to the full ARC at its next meeting. **The purpose of the committee will be to have a slate of one or more candidates for each ARC officer position by the November meeting of the full ARC.**
- Transition Planning – The Organization Committee is recommending that the ARC proceed on the assumption that the new Watershed Alliance legislation will be in place early next year, and that no changes to the existing Memorandum of Agreement be made until then. The request for membership made earlier this year by the Wayne County Airport Authority therefore cannot be honored at this time. Bails was directed to draft a letter to the WCAA regarding their membership request on the Chair's behalf.

c. Public Information and Education Committee (Anulewicz)

Anulewicz outlined the results of the PIE committee meetings indicating the subcommittees were established to address various issues related to the charges to the committee. He reported that the joint public survey with SEMCOG and other southeast Michigan communities was underway. He pointed out that the cost to Assembly members to complete the survey had been substantially reduced through this partnership effort and is an example of how working together the Assembly members can save money in meeting SWPPI requirements. He also noted that the PIE Committee will use the final Vision and Goals statement of the Assembly to guide future public information about the Assembly and its purposes. He indicated that the PIE Committee is generating a list of all public

**Rouge Assembly
Executive Committee Summary
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involvement products and is reviewing community SWPPIs to determine common elements. He indicated that the involvement elected officials is key. He also indicated a Fall newsletter will be distributed and the committee is looking for feedback. Keenan indicated that there should be at least one member from each SWAG on the PIE Committee. Anulewicz indicated they would review the membership.

d. Technical Committee (Zorza)

Zorza indicated that the Technical Committee will be meeting the week of August 16, 2004 to continue work on the 2005 monitoring program that will result in budget recommendations.

He noted that the Technical Committee would be charged with the responsibility to develop a rationale for an alternative approach to meeting the MDEQ guidelines for the IDEP program, which now call for re-inspection of all storm water outfalls every five years.

8. RPO from SWAGS

a. Main 1 & 2 (Keenan)

Keenan reported on the development of radio and cable public information material on storm water produced through the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office as part of a Rouge Project subgrant. He reported that there have been a number of radio messages broadcast and that cable channels in Bloomfield Township and Bingham Farms had already aired the storm water information materials.

b. Main 3 & 4 (Kozuh)

Kozuh reported that the Main 3 & 4 communities were appreciative of the Rouge VI grants and those communities awarded monies will begin work as soon as possible.

c. Upper (Beckley)

Beckley had nothing to report from the Upper SWAG

d. Middle 1 (Not represented)

e. Middle 3 (Not Represented)

f. Lower 1 (Not Represented)

g. Lower 2 (Mike Buiten)

Buiten had nothing to report from the Lower 2

9. Reports from WCDOE (Cave)

a. Round VI Rouge Project Grants (Reported earlier in agenda)

b. Rouge 2004. The *Rouge 2004* annual briefing for watershed stakeholders is scheduled for the morning of Friday, October 15. This year, a major centerpiece of the event will be to show how much the river and ecosystem have improved during our collective decade-long effort to restore the river. The planning committee for the event offered the Assembly of Rouge Communities a second centerpiece spot on the agenda. Biasell accepted this offer on behalf of the ARC. The group

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suggested that the ARC presentation could include: overview of formation of ARC, accomplishments to date, and anticipated future activities. The importance of the proposed Watershed Alliance legislation to the ARC should be highlighted. Cave invited a representative of the ARC to join a planning meeting for the event scheduled for Monday, August 16 at 10am at the Wayne County offices at 415 Clifford, Detroit.

- c. Recent Rouge Products. Cave provided copies of the annual "Rouge Project Year in Review" report for 2003, and asked the Committee for guidance on distribution. The Committee suggested that a new cover be developed in order to distinguish this report from other Rouge Project products. It was decided that the report will be distributed electronically to SWAGs, and paper copies will be available at the next full meeting of the Assembly of Rouge Communities and at the *Rouge 2004* event. Wayne County also distributes the report annually to Judge Fiekens, US EPA, the Congressional delegation, and others. Anulewicz suggested that the PIE Committee also prepare a summary of the report for the general public.

Wayne County is now required to prepare a "technical summary report" for each federal grant at its completion. Rouge Project Grants 4 and 5 were recently closed, with Grant 2 closing in September. The final report for Grant 4 was recently completed, and the Grant 5 final report is scheduled for completion soon. These reports present a summary of all projects completed under the respective grant, including watershed-wide activities conducted by Wayne County and the Rouge Program Office, and subgrant projects completed by communities/agencies. Wayne County will distribute the report to Judge Fiekens, US EPA, the Congressional delegation, and others. The Committee recommended that these reports be distributed electronically to SWAGs, and paper copies made available at the next full meeting of the Assembly of Rouge Communities.

- d. Watershed 2004. The Rouge Project was well represented at the national Water Environment Federation's *Watershed 2004* conference recently held in Dearborn. The Rouge Project was the focus of six presentations, on topics including the Gateway Master Plan, riparian corridor management, illicit discharge elimination, Rouge Education Project, FOTR public education and involvement activities, and trend analysis of the 10 years of water quality data collected for the Rouge River. In addition, the Rouge Project co-hosted a pre-conference workshop on public education, and sponsored a bus tour.

10. Follow-up Items for Officers and Committee Chairs

- a. Schedule and Charges to Committees, Officers and Staff (**See attached**)

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- b. Special Committee to prepare presentation for use by communities to support Assembly participation by documenting benefits.
 - i. Biasell asked Assembly staff (i.e. Bails, Ploof, and Ball) to work with Beckley (representing cities in Assembly), Gary Mekjian (representing townships in Assembly) and Kelly Cave (representing counties in Assembly) to prepare short powerpoint presentation for use by communities in presentation to boards and councils.
- c. Dates for Assembly and Executive Committee meetings in 2004
 - i. Assembly – September 8, 2004 and November 13, 2004
 - ii. Executive Committee – October 13, 2004 and perhaps December, 2004
- d. Assembly RRAC representation. The ARC will propose a member to serve as liaison with RRAC.
- e. Transition of Assembly during early 2005
Biasell indicated that the Assembly of Rouge Communities would operate under the assumption that a new state statute authorizing the formation of a legal local watershed entity would pass and that the Assembly would reorganize under this statute. Rather than sending out 2005 assessments or asking for changes in the Memorandum of Agreement establishing the Assembly at this time, before the passage of the new statute, the Assembly would continue to operate under the existing MOA and submit invoices for assessments following the passage of the state statute authorizing the formation of a new intergovernmental watershed entity. The full Assembly can determine if a contingent scenario is needed at its November meeting when the status of the legislation will be better understood.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

12. Presentation –Ten Years of Monitoring on the Rouge River (Hughes)

Hughes presented a summary of a paper presented to the WEF Watershed 2004 Conference held in Dearborn, Michigan. The statistical analysis of two key parameters – dissolved oxygen and *E. coli* – was shown. The dissolved oxygen levels recorded in the watershed at various sampling locations over the last decade indicate progressive improvement by an average of 0.3 milligrams per liter/year. This improvement is most likely the result of improved CSO and SSO controls as well as application of storm water best management practices by communities within the Rouge River watershed. *E. coli* results, on the other hand, indicate that there are still problems in the river. It is uncertain why the *E. coli* numbers are higher in some areas. Further investigations are needed to identify the source of the bacteria to determine whether or not it is associated with human or other animal fecal material.