



# Rouge River Watershed Local Management Assembly General Assembly Meeting December 10, 2003 Southfield, Michigan

- 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

## 1. WELCOME

Mr. Tom Biasell, Chair of the Rouge River Watershed Local Management Assembly (Rouge Assembly), welcomed everyone to the meeting. He opened the meeting by reading a poem about restoration of the Rouge River.

Biasell indicated he received a question prior to the meeting as to whether a community could be represented by someone other than their representative or alternate. A community's representative or alternate can be an elected city official, community personnel, or their consultant. It is important that communities have consistent representation on the Rouge Assembly. Mr. Biasell indicated that after review of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) it was determined that someone other than the representative or alternate can vote for that community at the Rouge Assembly meetings if written authorization is provided prior to the meeting. Mr. Anulewicz indicated he hoped that by the end of 2004 all members of the Rouge Assembly would be elected officials.

### 1A. Roll Call / Introduction Status of Membership

Mr. Biasell took roll call at the meeting. Mr. Biasell indicated Mr. Zorza would be voting for Farmington Hills, Mr. Anulewicz indicated he would be voting for Plymouth Township, and Mr. Mekjian indicated Ms. Anne Vaara would be voting for West Bloomfield Township.

The following communities were in attendance at the meeting:

Allen Park	Auburn Hills	Beverly Hills	Bingham Farms
Birmingham	Bloomfield Hills	Bloomfield Twp	Canton Township
Commerce Twp	Dearborn	Dearborn Heights	Farmington
Farmington Hills	Livonia	Melvindale	Novi
Oakland County	Plymouth	Plymouth Twp	Pontiac
Redford Township	Rochester Hills	Romulus	Southfield
Superior Township	Troy	Van Buren Twp	Walled Lake
Washtenaw County	Wayne	Wayne County	West Bloomfield Twp
Westland			

The following communities were absent from the meeting:

Franklin	Garden City	Inkster	Lathrup Village
Northville	Northville Twp	Wixom	

The following communities have not indicated whether or not they will participate in the Rouge Assembly.

Lyon Township,	Ypsilanti Twp
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Only Salem Township has declined membership in the Rouge Assembly.

A sign in sheet for representatives and alternates and a fiscal calendar were passed around the table

**1B. Review and Approval of August 5, 2003 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the August 5, 2003 Rouge Assembly meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. There were no changes or corrections indicated for the minutes.

Mr. Tom Wilson of Westland made a motion to Approve the August 5, Meeting Minutes. Mr. Ron Caryl of Redford Township supported the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**1C. Additions or Changes to Draft Meeting Agenda**

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

**1D. Chair Update of Assembly Activities**

Mr. Biasell indicated it was important to meet before the end of 2003 to finalize the budget for 2004. He indicated participation in the Rouge Assembly and in the committees has been great. One of things the Rouge Assembly is doing is working with MDEQ to reduce the time spent on compliance issues. MDEQ has agreed that the Rouge Assembly can act on member communities' behalf and submit a letter to MDEQ if no change in their Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiatives (SWPPIs) and the Rouge Assembly must notify storm water managers in those communities. MDEQ agreed to an extension of the SWPPI deadline to January 5, 2004. The deadline for SWPPI submissions was subsequently extended to May 1, 2004.

Larry Arregum, Deputy Director of Environmental and Legal Affairs, for Governor Granholm's Southeast Michigan Office introduced himself and indicated he was eager to learn and listen.

The Rouge Assembly is preparing a packet to document the benefits of membership in the Rouge Assembly. Community representatives will realize this is saving them money and working towards better water quality and flow.

The Chair of the Rouge Assembly has been invited to participate in the Southeast Michigan Water Consortium.

Mr. Biasell personally thanked all the members for their great efforts.

**2. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Gary Mekjian, Treasurer of the Rouge Assembly, gave the Treasurer's Report. Mekjian reviewed the Rouge Assembly status report and to date \$256,264 (86%) has been received in 2003 community assessments. All expenditures to date are below the authorized amounts and the Assembly dues to date exceed the amount paid to date. The alternate from Livonia indicated the City Council has authorized the payment for 2003

and 2004. The representative from Commerce Township indicated payment for 2003 has been authorized. The only other communities whose 2003 assessment has not been paid are Franklin, Inkster, and Plymouth. The representative from Plymouth indicated their payment has been processed. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

### **3. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **3A. Organization Committee**

Kurt Heise of Wayne County and Dave Payne of Bloomfield Township chair the Organization Committee. Heise gave the Organization Committee Report. The Organization Committee is charged with determining the structure of the Rouge Assembly in the future.

Heise reviewed the minutes of the last Organization meeting and discussed several items.

- The Organization Committee discussed forming a subcommittee of elected officials and determined it was not necessary. Wayne and Oakland Counties make an annual trip to Washington D.C. to meet with elected officials. If the Rouge Assembly would like to send a few representatives from a cross-section of the watershed on this annual trip they should contact Mr. Heise.
- The Organization Committee recommended retaining the services of the RPO for 2004.
- The Organization Committee is moving slowly and cautiously to determine the long-term structure of the Rouge Assembly. They determined the Rouge Assembly should not take over the RPO. It is unlikely the grants could be transferred from Wayne County to another legal entity. The committee is reviewing the list of potential organizations created by Jack Bails for the Drafting Committee. The Committee has also been examining creating new legislation. The long-term structure of the Rouge Assembly should allow it to spend funds, accept grants, partner with other agencies, and hire staff.
- The Committee also discussed the best way to interact with other organizations such as Friends of the Rouge and SEMCOG.

The next meeting of the Organization Committee is scheduled for January 13 at 1:30pm at Redford DPS on Beech Daly.

Mr. Heise distributed a list of revenue sharing cuts for Rouge River Watershed communities. These cuts will have a large impact on community's budgets. In response to the revenue sharing cuts the Organization Committee has prepared a draft resolution regarding Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) policy. Communities will be incurring increasing costs due to SSOs while their available funds are declining. The resolution requests suspension of SSO Policy for one year. Heise suggested it be forwarded to the

Governor and other elected officials if approved by the Assembly. Biasell indicated this resolution was drafted for today's meeting in response to new information available so it was not possible to report this at the Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Dennis Dembiec of Birmingham suggested adding language regarding CSOs to the resolution. After some discussion it was determined that the resolution would move forward with only language regarding SSOs and CSOs could be addressed at a future date.

Mr. Renzo Spallasso of Beverly Hills made a motion to adopt the SSO resolution.

Mr. Wayne Domine of Bloomfield Township supported the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The motion will be sent to Governor Granholm and other elected officials from Rouge River Watershed communities. It will also be forwarded to member communities.

### **3B. Technical Committee**

The Chair of the Technical Committee is Mr. Tom Biasell and the Co-Chair is Mr. Gary Zorza. Mr. Zorza gave the Technical Committee report. A draft meeting summary from the November 10, 2003 Technical Committee meeting was distributed. At that meeting the Technical Committee evaluated and made recommendations on three items 1) Retaining the Services of the RPO, 2) Reviewing the 5-Year Watershed Monitoring Plan, and 3) Reviewing SWPPI commitments.

Ms. Kelly Cave of Wayne County gave a description of the multitude of activities the RPO performs on the communities' behalf at the Technical and Executive Committee meetings. Taking over the grants would be a monumental task. The consensus at the meeting was to continue with the services of the RPO at this time. CDs of the 2001 BDSR and RPO DataCD Volume 9 were distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Ed Kluitenberg and Ms. Colleen Hughes of the Rouge Program Office gave a summary of the RPO watershed monitoring program. The RPO has negotiated a 5-year monitoring program with MDEQ on behalf of all Rouge Watershed Communities. The RPO met with MDEQ prior to this meeting to discuss the monitoring program for 2004. MDEQ agreed the Wiley/Seelbach could be postponed without affecting communities' SWPPIs.

The Technical Committee had no changes to their suggested budget at this time.

The next meeting of the Technical Committee is scheduled for January 12, 2004 at 9:30am. [Note: The Technical Committee meeting was rescheduled to January 23, 2004.]

Ms. Cave gave an explanation of services provided by the Rouge Program office. She distributed a handout titled "Rouge Project Services to Watershed Communities". The

Rouge Project began in 1992 and its focus at that time was to gather data and to provide information to communities to make the river fishable and swimmable. The services provided by the Rouge Project can be categorized in three categories 1) watershed-wide services provided as a requirement of the federal grants, 2) watershed –wide services not required by the federal grants, and 3) community specific service. The last page of the handout shows the services the Rouge Assembly is supporting in 2003. The focus of the Rouge Project has switched from collecting data to implementing programs. A sign up sheet for the CDs of the 2001 BDSR and RPO DataCD Volume 9 were distributed.

Mr. Dembiec of Birmingham indicated the technical support from the Rouge Project is very important and must be maintained. He appreciated the efforts completed to date.

### **3C. Public Involvement/Education Committee**

Mr. Jim Anulewicz, Chair of the Public Involvement/Education (PIE) Committee gave the PIE Committee report. The PIE committee has met twice, November 4 and November 18. The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2004 in Troy. Over 30 people attended both meetings. There was spirited discussion on a number of topics. The PIE committee has set eight specific goals for next year. For the Rouge Assembly to be a success public officials must be engaged and we must show cost savings through cooperation.

The PIE committee accepts the budget as proposed. They support having a contingency available for other needs as they arise.

Mr. Thomas Wilson of Westland suggested a Storm Water Management Class for elected officials. The workshop could focus on things communities could do to improve the Rouge River without spending a lot of money. Mr. Anulewicz agreed this fit with the goals of the PIE committee.

Ms. Michelle Bononi of Washtenaw County suggested the PIE committee cooperates with SEMCOG on the good work they are doing. She also questioned the need for the survey.

Mr. Anulewicz indicated that SEMCOG is a vital part of the PIE. He also indicated the survey appears to be an important element. The PIE committee will show that it is necessary, explain the objectives of the survey, and perform the survey in the most cost-effective manner possible.

### **3D. Finance Committee**

Mr. Gary Mekjian, Treasurer of the Rouge Assembly, gave the Finance Committee Report. The Finance Committee met on November 4, 2003. At that meeting they reviewed the status of the 2003 budget, drafted a proposed 2004 budget, reviewed the status of community submittals, and discussed alternate funding sources. The 2003 audit was also discussed. It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the audit be

performed through Wayne County’s standard audit procedures. The Finance Committee also determined that the Rouge Assembly absolutely needs the support of the RPO.

Mr. Mekjian explained the proposed 2004 Rouge Assembly Budget. The potential total of 2004 Assembly assessments with matching funds from Wayne County is \$595,638. There are \$125,319 remaining in 2003 assessments with matching funds from the Rouge Project. The total available funds for 2004 are \$846,276. The proposed budget for 2004 was approved by the Executive Committee on December 2, 2003 and is listed below.

Activity	2004 Budget	SOURCE OF FUNDS			
		2004** Community Assessments	Matching Federal Dollars	2003 Carry Over Assessment Funds	2003 Carry Over Federal Funds
All	\$846,276	\$297,819	\$297,819	\$125,319	\$125,319

Activity	2004 Budget
Monitoring	\$ 478,000
Subwatershed Support Services	\$ 91,000
Public Involvement and Education	\$ 36,000
Rouge Assembly Staff Support	\$ 75,000
Contingency*	\$ 166,276
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 846,276</b>

\* Allocation to budget category, if needed, by subsequent action of Assembly during 2004. Remainder to be carried forward to support 2005 Assembly budget.

\*\* 2004 Community Assessments will be the same as for 2003

**4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**4A. Recommendations for Action and Discussion**

The following items were recommended by the Executive Committee at their December 2 meeting for approval by the Rouge Assembly

**4A1. Approval of Co-Chairs and Membership of Organization Committee**

Under the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the chairs and members of the Organization Committee must be approved by the members of the Rouge Assembly. The proposed co-chairs and members are listed below.

Co-Chairs: **Dave Payne**, Supervisor (Bloomfield Township)  
**Kurt Heise**, Director (Wayne County Department of Environment)

Members: **Mark Kibby**, City Administrator (Melvindale)  
**Ron Caryl**, Superintendent Sewer and Water (Redford Township)  
**Tom Wilson**, Director of Public Service Department (Westland)  
**Joe Colaianne**, Insurance Administrator (Oakland County Drain Commissioner’s Office)

Ms. Michelle Bononi of Washtenaw County made a motion to approve the chairs and members of the Rouge Assembly.

Mr. Jim Anulewicz of Plymouth Township seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the chairs and members of the Rouge Assembly passed unanimously.

A request was made for additional volunteers for the Organization Committee. Ms. Bononi volunteered pending approval of the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner.

Mr. Heise of Wayne County made a motion to approve Ms. Bononi as a member of the Organization Committee.

Mr. Ron Caryl of Redford Township seconded the motion.

The motion to approve Ms. Bononi as a member of the Organization Committee passed unanimously.

#### **4A2 Approval of Audit Review Process for 203 Income and Expenditures**

The Executive Committee recommends following the audit review process for 2003 income and expenditures recommended by the Finance Committee and continuing with Wayne County as the fiduciary in 2004.

Ms. Kathryn Hagaman of Bingham Farms made a motion to follow the audit review process suggested by the Finance Committee and continue with Wayne County as the fiduciary in 2004.

Mr. Renzo Spallasso of Beverly Hills seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4A3 Approval of 2004 Budget and Community Assessments**

The 2004 budget for the Rouge Assembly contains a contingency. These funds can be allocated by a vote of the Rouge Assembly.

The question was asked if it was acceptable to carry over federal funds. Mr. Biasell indicated that it was acceptable and Wayne County as the fiduciary was monitoring the funds. The question was also asked if communities' assessments for 2004 would be the same as 2003. Mr. Biasell indicated they would be the same.

Mr. Dembiec of Birmingham made a motion to approve the 2004 Rouge Assembly budget.

Mr. Phil Sanzica of Oakland County seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Rouge Assembly will begin preparing a summary of the Rouge Assembly program and benefits that can be shared with elected officials.

#### **4B. Standing Committees, Officers, Executive Committee Assignments for 2004**

The RPO has prepared a list of items the Rouge Assembly can participate in to increase their involvement. Members should review the list at Committee meetings.

#### **5. OTHER ISSUES/ITEMS OF BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS**

Mr. Heise of Wayne County suggested that Janis Bobrin, Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner, give an update on the potential changes to the Drain Code at the next meeting. There could be some interesting benefits to the Rouge Assembly.

Mr. Wayne Bonus of Southfield suggested a roster of committee members be distributed.

Mr. Jack Bails or the RPO indicated meeting summaries are available on the Rouge Assembly portion of the Rouge Project website, [www.rougeriver.com](http://www.rougeriver.com). Communication for the Rouge Assembly will be done primarily through email.

#### **6. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

Mr. Neall Schroeder of Troy indicated there was an issue with Main 1-2 Rouge subwatershed communities agreeing to the terms of the proposed inter-agency agreement (IAA) between the communities and the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office for a Rouge Project subgrant project. Due to these difficulties the communities were in danger of losing their Streambank Erosion Inventory and Pond Inventory Rouge Project subgrants. Mr. Biasell suggested a new item for the Rouge Assembly Finance Committee would be to create an IAA for the future that all communities could agree to.

Mr. Heise indicated that the draft of the Rouge Remedial Action Plan (RAP) is complete and available for public comment until December 29 on the Rouge Project website [www.rougeriver.com](http://www.rougeriver.com). Each community was provided a copy of the RAP for comment. The RAP was largely a volunteer effort and Allison McCormick and Joe Rathbun of the MDEQ did terrific work pulling it together. Mr. Heise also indicated that he would no longer serve as Chair of Rouge RAP Advisory Council (RRAC). Responsibilities for updating the RAP will be transferred over to Friends of the Rouge.

Mr. Heise acknowledged Ms. Cathy Bean for her work to improve the Rouge River.

Mr. Mekjian indicated the Finance Committee would like additional members. Please contact Mr. Mekjian to volunteer.

Ms. Jen Lawson of Troy indicated that Ms. Carolyn Foster-McCaughey is the new Executive Director of Friends of the Rouge.

Mr. Kurt Giberson of Dearborn thanked the officers and members of the committees for their work on the Rouge Assembly.

**7. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Rouge Assembly will be in the middle to late February 2004. Once a meeting date, time, and location are set a notice will be sent to all members by email.

Other Meetings:

Organization Committee will meet January 13.

Public Involvement and Education will meet January 21.

Technical Committee will meet January 12. [Note: Rescheduled to January 23.]

Membership Committee will form in January.