

Annette DeMaria, P.E., PMP
Executive Director



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

March 24, 2022, 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Microsoft Teams

Auburn Hills
Beverly Hills
Bingham Farms
Birmingham
Bloomfield Hills
Bloomfield Twp.
Canton Twp.
Commerce Twp.
Dearborn Heights
Farmington
Farmington Hills
Franklin
Garden City
Henry Ford College
Inkster
Lathrup Village
Livonia
Melvindale
Northville
Northville Twp.
Novi
Oak Park
Oakland County
Orchard Lake
Plymouth
Plymouth Twp.
Redford Twp.
Rochester Hills
Romulus
Schoolcraft College
Southfield
Troy
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Van Buren Twp.
Walled Lake
Washtenaw County
Wayne
Wayne County
Wayne County Airport Authority
West Bloomfield Twp.
Westland
Wixom

1. Welcome (Doug Moore, Chair)

a. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum - Roll call was taken. The 32 members listed below were in attendance, which was sufficient for a quorum.

ARC Member	Attended Y/N	ARC Member	Attended Y/N
Auburn Hills	Y	Oakland County	Y
Beverly Hills	Y	Oakland County Road Commission	N
Bingham Farms	Y	Oak Park	Y
Birmingham	Y	Orchard Lake	Y
Bloomfield Hills	N	Plymouth	Y
Bloomfield Twp.	Y	Plymouth Twp.	Y
Canton Twp.	Y	Redford Twp.	Y
Commerce Twp.	Y	Rochester Hills	Y
Dearborn Heights	Y	Romulus	N
Farmington	Y	Schoolcraft College	N
Farmington Hills	Y	Southfield	Y
Franklin	N	Troy	Y
Garden City	Y	University of Michigan-Dearborn	Y
Henry Ford College	N	Van Buren Twp.	Y
Inkster	N	Walled Lake	Y
Lathrup Village	N	Washtenaw County	Y
Livonia	Y	Wayne	N
Melvindale	N	Wayne County	Y
Northville	Y	Wayne County Airport Authority	N
Northville Twp.	Y	West Bloomfield Twp.	Y
Novi	Y	Westland	Y
		Wixom	Y

Others in attendance were: Friends of the Rouge, EGLE, GLWA, Oakland County Water Resources

b. Additions or Changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

c. Approval of November 18, 2021 Meeting Summary

The motion was made by Auburn Hills, to approve the November 18, 2021 Full ARC meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Wixom and passed unanimously.

2. Executive Director Report

a. 2021 Executive Director’s Annual Report

Annette DeMaria reported the annual report is available on the ARC’s website and a hyperlink is provided in the agenda. Annette presented a PowerPoint of the ARC 2021 Annual Report Summary. This presentation included:

- Grant funded projects in 2021 which included \$950,100 of new grant projects; current ongoing projects and completed projects.

Cooperating Partners:
Cranbrook Institute of Science
Friends of the Rouge
Great Lakes Water Authority
Rouge River Advisory Council
SEMCOG
Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority
The Henry Ford

- Advocacy Partnerships
- MS4 Initiatives: IDEP Investigations, IDEP Plan (2018-2019 vs 2020-2021), IDEP Training
- Public Participation (23 Stormwater Mgmt Plans posted, 8 remaining)
- Public Education Initiatives: PIE materials distributed
- PEP Plan (2018-2019 vs 2020-2021)

Annette asked if there were any questions, there were none.

b. MS4 Update

Annette DeMaria reported that the 2020-2021 progress reports are due to the state for most members on April 1st and is updated through MiWaters. If there are any questions, you can reach out to Emily Levine [elvine@ectinc.com](mailto:el Levine@ectinc.com) or Annette ademaria@ectinc.com. Annette stated the reporting period is for January 1, 2020 through December 2021. Annette mentioned there are two reports due: one for the two year progress report and the second year is for alternative compliance on the post construction standards which covers 2021. Annette reminded members that each permittee needs to complete an individual progress report that described the status of implementing various elements on their Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). It should include backup documentation demonstrating compliance, as well. This was further described in the guidance emailed earlier in the day which included the list of metrics for the individual reports. Upon request of a member, ARC staff will provide an example individual permittee progress report.

For the post construction standards report, ARC staff further recommended that permittees upload a copy of their progress report which show includes a description of their progress with adopting their updated stormwater ordinance. The post construction report is not required of townships.

Joel with Oakland County Water Resources stated OC is working on a report/tracking example and when it is complete (post construction standards section) and approved by EGLE, he will share with the ARC.

c. Grant Status Report

John O'Meara reported the following:

EPA Wayne County Rouge AOC Habitat Projects

- **Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage**
 - Contractor is conducting vegetation maintenance. Lowering of the water control will take place over the next two summers. With partial opening this July.
 - Working on social media to get message out about public assistance in helping the site get established by not entering the project area. To facilitate the successful completion of this natural area restoration, the footpaths within the adjacent woods will be closed during this establishment phase.

EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation - Tamarack/Fish Hatchery (\$3,367,559)

- **Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Restoration**
 - Contractor working vegetation maintenance for 2022
- **Tamarack Creek Restoration**
 - Contractor will be performing final work and vegetation maintenance in 2022
 - Received APWA and Michigan Chapter Environmental awards

EPA Rouge River AOC Seeley Creek Habitat Restoration (\$815,000)

- Coordination with Oakland County for Contract Document Approval and easement development
- Anticipated bidding spring 2022
- Requested no-cost grant extension from EPA to extend grant from October 2021 until September 2023

EGLE Rouge River AOC PAC Support (\$95,000)

- Development an electronic project mapping AOC projects
- RRAC meetings held November 2, 2021, and January 11, 2022
- EGLE extended the grant until March 31, 2022

Wayne County EPA Rouge River AOC Wayne County Parks (5) Habitat Restoration Design (\$731,000)

All work required by the ARC has been completed. Wayne County is writing their final report on the grant.

EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat - Colonial & Venoy Restoration (\$1,834,000)

- Bidding completed
- Construction to begin spring 2022

EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation- Wayne County Parkland (\$4,222,090)

Restoration at the 5 Wayne County parkland sites (Lower Rouge River, Riverview, Bell Creek, Lola, and Sherwood)

- Lower Rouge Reforestation: construction to begin later this week
- Lower Rouge Log Jams: construction underway
- Sherwood: bidding complete; construction to begin spring 2022
- Bell and Lola: bidding complete; construction to begin spring 2022
- Riverview: bidding anticipated fall 2022

GLRI USDA Forest Service - Reducing Runoff in the Rouge River AOC (\$261,780)

Project will intercept a total of 1.3 million gallons annual runoff by planting of 895 trees and installation of 2.9 acres of green infrastructure, in 17 ARC communities and 3 counties.

- Communities in process of acquiring trees for planting
- Green Infrastructure design and implementation underway

Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration - LTU Wetland Habitat Design (\$125,000)

GLRI grant to design a wetland system on Lawrence Technological University's campus. The design is being developed in collaboration with LTU.

- Design underway

Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration - Wilcox/ Phoenix/ Inkster Habitat Design (\$785,100)

EPA has awarded a GLRI grant to the ARC to provide restoration designs for habitat at Wilcox Lake, Phoenix Lake and Inkster Park. These activities when implemented will result in restoration/enhancements to 16.5 acres of habitat, which includes lake, wetland/wet meadow, and riparian areas.

- Field work has begun
- Design is underway

Annette reported that on the following:

Regional Investigational Monitoring Work Plan for Southeast Michigan (\$40,000) - The GLWA was awarded funding in Summer 2021 and GLWA has asked ARC to complete the development of a work plan framework to conduct investigational monitoring in the GLWA wastewater service area to identify stream segments that are being impacted by sewage sources. This includes Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties. The ARC developed a work plan and budget which his approximately \$2M across the region over 5 years. Annette indicated that the ARC has started to attend meetings that are held with County officials and sanitary sewer drainage districts in local municipalities to discuss their interest in pursuing the program and figure out where the funding comes from. Over the next month, the ARC plans on meeting with three sewer districts (GWK, Evergreen Farmington and Clinton Oakland).

SUBMITTED GRANTS**EGLE NPS Middle Rouge River Daylighting Design (\$40,000) - NOT AWARDED**

EGLE NPS Johnson Creek Subwatershed Action Plan (\$60,000 - \$54,000 Grant/\$6,000 match) – NOT AWARDED

NOAA Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Regional Partnership Grant with Friends of the Detroit River – AWARD PENDING

John O'Meara reported in the beginning of January, the Rouge and the ARC as the partner submitted a grant with Friends of the Detroit River to NOAA for their regional partnership. This would also allow work on non-AOC areas and would include the Daylighting project. This will potentially be awarded in June.

d. Nankin Lake Project

Alice Bailey with ECT introduced herself and presented a PowerPoint on the Nankin Lake project in Wayne County. A summary of the PowerPoint is below:

Alice explained the project is a GLRI project. The funding is administered by EPA to Wayne County, who then hired ECT to do the work. Wayne County Parks is involved as the project is on the Parks property.

Alice stated there are two main focus areas. 1) 3 acres of invasive species management and 2) 4 acres of habitat restoration. The grant objective required is to have 4 acres of habitat restoration: 3 acres of in lake habitat created/restored and 1 acre of riparian habitat restoration and 3 of invasive species removal.

Alice stated in the final design ECT has met or exceeded the grant objective requirements by having 7 acres of habitat restoration/created which includes 6 acres of in lake habitat, 3.9 acres of open water habitat, 0.8 acres of deep-water habitat, 0.65 acres of spawning habitat, 1.76 acres of emergent/submergent habitat, 1.0 acre of riparian habitat restoration, 23 fish habitat structures and 35,000 cu yards of sediment removal and 3 acres of invasive species control. Alice then showed the areas on the plan where the objectives will be. At Wayne County Parks request there will be parking lot restoration for two areas. The parking lot work will not be funded through the GLRI.

Alice stated dredging work will begin in April. ECK is the contractor and has started working on site.

John O'Meara reported on the dredging aspect of the project and Chris O'Meara shared the screen of the geotextile bags and a write up will be provided to Westland and Livonia as these bags will be very large and noticeable on site. John also stated Wayne County Parks will be adding a dock and launch to the project as well which will be paid for by Wayne County.

3. Treasurers/Finance Committee Report

a. A/R, A/P and Profit/Loss Reports

Rebecca Runkel reviewed the A/R, A/P and profit/loss reports. Chris O'Meara reported the first round of dues went out in February and some payments have already been received. The second round of dues will go out in the beginning of May.

b. 2022 Member Dues

Rebecca Runkel reported there will be another 2% increase expected.

c. 2020 Census and 2023 Dues

Rebecca Runkel reported that Chris O'Meara provided a draft spreadsheet regarding the census data and how the dues were calculated. As per the ARC Bylaws, when census data is finalized the population will be updated in the ARC dues calculations and dues will be adjusted depending on the increase/decrease in community's population numbers. In addition to the census adjustment the ARC will continue with a 2% increase from 2022 to 2023. Chris stated

there are some communities highlighted in blue that population data was not finalized on the census site and in those cases the estimated 2019 data for the calculations was used.. Chris O. shared the spreadsheet detailing the information and informed the committee that once the census data is available for those communities a final 2023 dues sheet will be emailed. Chris stated that if there were any questions to let her know.

4. Standing Committee Reports

a. Organization Committee

Nothing to report.

b. PIE Committee

Jacy Garrison reported the following:

- 2020-2021 PEP and PPP Collaborative Plan Progress Reports are on ARC website
- New giveaway: jar opener made of recycled tires has been sent to all members (100 for each community) – these include tips of protecting water quality
- Fleet vehicle magnets going to those communities that allow them; magnets will be sent out to those communities who requested at a later date.
- Pet waste containers and fertilizer clips have been restocked
- This year we will:
 - Prepare a brochure educating commercial/industrial/educational/institutional entities (permit requirement) for stormwater prevention pollution
 - Ad graphic that will support the new brochure
 - New static display (banner) to support the new brochure and displayed in those facilities
 - Rouge River Watershed Signage: determine maintenance needs and high priority new sign locations; ECT provided an interactive map. Chris O'Meara will resend the link to the map.
 - The ARC supports the following FOTR events:
 - FOTR Stonefly search completed in January
 - FOTR Master Rain Gardener Series (5 workshops)
 - FOTR will conduct 1 workday at ARC community GI site
 - FOTR will host 1-2 rain barrel sales events in ARC communities. One sale will be held May 22 at Southfield Beechwood Park from 1pm-4pm.

c. Technical Committee

Karen Mondora reported the following:

- 2021 final IDEP reports were completed by Wayne County and ARC staff. Those reports were provided to the Technical Committee.
- Last month, the ARC approved the 2022 IDEP investigation work plans that was done by Wayne County and the ARC.
- The collaborative IDEP plan progress report is being completed and will be posted on the ARC's website. Chris O'Meara will send out the link for communities to include in their report due to EGLE.
- Wayne County and ARC staff met with the City of Plymouth to discuss IDEP investigation plans for 2022. Wayne County will schedule a meeting with the City of Livonia.
- Dry and wet weather sampling efforts will be included this year to support the collaborative TMDL plan.

6. Report from Cooperating Partners

Friends of the Rouge

Marie McCormick reported the following and stated that Sam Davis and Cyndi Ross were also on the call.

- FOTR participated in the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Day.

- Marie was elected as RRAC Chair in January. Marie asked if any of the ARC members would like to be included in the RRAC meetings to contact Chris O'Meara.
- The FOTR Annual Report will be out soon
- The FOTR will host their virtual 2021 Annual Meeting on April 6th at 3:00pm.
- The FOTR will also host an afterglow which will be a meet and greet with board members, staff, and members. This will be at Downy Brewery Company in Dearborn.
- Marie also stated she is grateful for Annette to join some of their board meetings and meeting one on one for continued partnership.
- The link for volunteers is: <https://therouge.org/restoration-projects/>

Cyndi Ross reported:

- 3,500 of public engaged in restoration activities
- Master Rain Gardener Course (large percentage are the public from the Rouge watershed)
- Green Your Neighborhood Community Forum will be today at 4:30pm; The link to register is <https://therouge.org/GYN>
- The FOTR is planning and marketing for the Lower Rouge Habitat Reforestation seedling planting which will begin March 30th and continue through April. There are 13,400 saplings going in.
- Earth Week Activities: Lunch and Learns for Rain Garden 101, Rain Barrel 101 and Pollinator Gardening. Cyndi asked the members to share the events to the public.
- Rouge Rescue will be offered in a different format this year. Work Days will be happening following Earth Week and continue through the Native Plant Rain Barrel Sale will be held in Southfield, May 22nd

Sam Davis (education and monitoring assistant) reported:

- Spring Bug Hunt will be April 23rd from 10:00am-4:00pm; <https://therouge.org/bug-hunt-events-and-trainings/>; The FOTR is still looking for volunteers.

RRAC

Marie McCormick stated a RRAC meeting that is currently scheduled for April will be rescheduled due to the All-PAC meeting. Marie also stated that a subcommittee has been formed to review the RRAC by-laws. Marie is also involved in the statewide Diversity Equity and Inclusion Sub Committee.

7. Report from Counties

Oakland County

Jacy Garrison reported the County's MS4 biennial progress report is available on their website. Jacy also provided a summary for community use to supplement community reporting. Jacy provided the links to Chris O'Meara for the ARC's website. Chris O'Meara stated they were added before the meeting.

Jacy also mentioned there is an upcoming meeting for the workgroup for the Oakland County Stormwater Standards and if anyone is interested it will be held virtually Friday, April 8th at 9:00am. Jacy advised to let her know and she will send out the invitation.

Washtenaw County

Heather Rice reported the following:

- There is a master rain gardener workshop going on. <https://www.washtenaw.org/raingarden>
- The native plant expo and marketplace will be held Saturday, June 4th 9:00am-1:00pm at the Chelsea Fairgrounds. This event will bring various Michigan native plants vendors throughout the State. This event will also promote native landscapes, planting more plants in the ground to absorb stormwater along with non-profits in attendance. Information for the event can also be found at <https://www.washtenawcd.org/npem.html> with support from WRWRC.

Wayne County

Noel Mullett reported Wayne County is getting back on schedule of Household Hazardous waste collection events in Westland beginning in April. There will be two other events scheduled later. Wayne County is offering a drop off available at their contractors location in Livonia via voucher. Visit waynecounty.com for more information.

8. Report from EGLE

Kathleen Sexton and Lishba were on the call. Kathleen reported she is the compliance manager for most ARC communities. Kathleen stated Annette covered most of the MS4 updates. Kathleen mentioned that most ARC members have a biennial progress report due next Friday, as well as the post construction report. Kathleen reported there was a guidance letter sent out for what is to be included in the report.

Kathleen reported there is a Great Lakes Water Infrastructure Conference-Virtual that is coming up May 10-11, 2022. It is free and open for registration at <https://egle.idloom.events/great-lakes-water-infrastructure-conference>.

Kathleen's email is sextonk3@michigan.gov if you would like to receive the guidance letter.

9. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

10. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

11. Summary of Actions of the Full ARC

- Approved the November 18, 2021 Full ARC meeting summary

12. Adjourn

The motion was made by the Farmington, to adjourn the Full ARC meeting. The motion was seconded by Novi and passed unanimously.