

James W. Ridgway, P.E.  
Executive Director



Working together, restoring the river

**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**  
**ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES**  
**May 19, 2014, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Wixom Community Center**

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

1. **Welcome** (Gary Mekjian, Vice Chair, on behalf of Brandy Siedlaczek, Chair)
  - a. **Roll Call /Determination of Quorum** - Roll call was taken. The 22 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	Northville Twp.	Y
Beverly Hills	N	Novi	Y
Bingham Farms	Y	Oakland County	Y
Birmingham	Y	Oak Park	N
Bloomfield Hills	N	Orchard Lake	N
Bloomfield Twp.	Y	Plymouth	N
Canton Twp.	Y	Plymouth Twp.	N
Commerce Twp.	Y	Redford Twp.	N
Dearborn	N	Rochester Hills	N
Dearborn Heights	N	Romulus	N
Farmington	Y	Southfield	Y
Farmington Hills	Y	Troy	Y
Franklin	N	University of Michigan-Dearborn	N
Garden City	N	Van Buren Twp.	Y
Henry Ford Community College	N	Walled Lake	Y
Inkster	Y	Washtenaw County	Y
Lathrup Village	Y	Wayne	N
Livonia	Y	Wayne County	Y
Melvindale	N	Wayne County Airport Authority	N
Northville	Y	Westland	N
		Wixom	Y

- b. **Introduction of ARC guests**  
Gary Mekjian, Farmington Hills, asked all guests in attendance to introduce themselves.
- c. **Additions or Changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda**  
There were no additions or changes to the draft agenda.
- d. **Approval of November 21, 2013 Meeting Summary**  
The motion was made by Kathryn Hagaman, Bingham Farms, to approve the November 21, 2013 meeting summary. It was seconded by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, and passed unanimously.

Cooperating Partners:  
Cranbrook Institute of Science  
Friends of the Rouge  
Rouge River Advisory Council  
Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority  
The Henry Ford  
Wayne State University

## **2. Future of the Rouge River Watershed**

Jim Ridgway, Executive Director, reported that the ARC Staff met with the officers and then with the Executive Committee to discuss the future of the ARC along with the future of Friends of the Rouge and the Rouge River Advisory Council and the possibility of the three merging into a new organization. He asked for the support of the Full ARC to continue conversations with the organizations on the possibility of integrating the three organizations. Jim Ridgway stated that he has had conversations with the representatives of FOTR and RRAC and they are open to discussions. The Full ARC supported the continued conversations with the organizations.

## **3. Executive Director Report**

### **a. Permit Update**

Jim Ridgway, Executive Director, said there is nothing new happening at this point with the permit. He did say that he would renew the contact with MDEQ to reschedule the meeting regarding a watershed-wide permit for the ARC.

### **b. Grant Status Report**

#### **NOAA Habitat Restoration Grant – Oxbow Phase III Design**

The project team met with the MDEQ/MDNR/USACE to discuss the project and permitting needs. Additionally the project team had a meeting with the USACE separately to discuss Section 408 authorization. Though the project is upstream of the Corps normal jurisdiction, since this project will effect a Corps flood control project Section 408 authorization is needed. The QAPP submitted to NOAA for approval has been reviewed and approved. Geotechnical field investigation and topo surveying have been recently completed.

#### **Emerald Ash Borer U.S. Forestry/GLRI 2011**

The nursery finalized delivery of the remaining trees from the “Fall plantings”. ARC Staff have been coordinating with communities on field verification and reporting.

#### **Erb Foundation Capacity Building for the Alliance of Rouge Communities**

The Erb Foundation requested that the ARC refund the remainder of the grant funds (\$88,748) since the matching funding for the Lower Rouge Main Stem proposal could not be secured. ARC Staff have begun the process of refunding the remaining funds.

#### **2013 Area of Concern/Public Advisory Committee Grant**

ARC staff is working with RRAC, MDEQ, MDNR and EPA to development a “short-list” of projects needed to remove the Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment. This includes mapping of problem areas and project sites, as well as discussions with communities on potential project sites.

#### **HOW Federal Grant Writing (Freshwater Futures)**

Two grant applications were submitted at the end of February 2014 to NOAA GRLI Habitat Restoration and a third will be written this fall. This is anticipated to be the Oxbow implementation Grant.

## **OUTSTANDING GRANT APPLICATIONS**

### **SAW Grant: Monitoring and Stormwater Management Planning**

The ARC is on track to receive SAW funding sometime in 2015. The grant totaled \$1,741,667 plus \$358,333 in match. About 27% of the match has already been earned or is in the 2014 budget. The grant covers collaborative plan development and ecosystem monitoring to support to reapplication of the MS4 permits. More specifically, the grant covers:

- Development of a collaborative Public participation plan,
- Development of a collaborative Public education plan,
- Development and implementation of a public attitudes survey,
- Development of a collaborative illicit discharge elimination plan,
- Community specific ordinance review for compliance with the IDEP Ordinance requirements,
- Development of a collaborative total maximum daily load plan,
- Ecosystem monitoring including water quality (dissolved oxygen, E. coli, phosphorus and sediment), macroinvertebrates, and flow,
- Site-specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) development for municipal facilities that impact stormwater quality, and
- Development of a stormwater funding framework in collaboration with the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds.

### **NOAA GLRI habitat Restoration: Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage (Design)**

The ARC has applied for \$259,596 in federal funding to provide final design for a fish passage at the Henry Ford Estate Dam. Restoring fish passage at the HFE Dam would provide access to 18 to 36 river miles of the Main, Middle, and Upper Rouge Rivers depending on branch. The design will build upon the previous work done by the USACOE. – Anticipated NOAA notification June 2014.

### **NOAA GLRI habitat Restoration: Fish Barrier and Habitat Fragmentation (Study/Design)**

The ARC has applied for \$145,664 in federal funding from NOAA to examine and prioritize fish barriers and habitat fragmentation in the Rouge River. The MDNR 1998 Fisheries Assessment states there are 62 dams on the Rouge River. Many of these dams and other barriers serve to fragment the system and block movement of aquatic organisms. This project would prioritize fish passage barriers and prepare conceptual design for one or two priority projects. – Anticipated NOAA notification June 2014.

### **DNR Aquatic Ecosystem Grant Program: Fish Hatchery Park Restoration (Design and Implementation)**

The ARC applied for state funding to improve habitat along Johnson Creek within Fish Hatchery Park. The project included the installation of stormwater BMPs at the parking lot, naturalization of the shoreline between the pond and creek, and fish passage between the pond and creek. The grant was not awarded by MDNR.

### **c. 2010 Census and 2015 ARC Dues**

Annette DeMaria, ARC Staff, informed the Full ARC that the 2010 Census has been finalized and ARC staff have drafted an update to the 2015 dues calculations based on the population changes. Changes to the ARC dues will not take effect until the 2015 budget year. The draft dues calculation for 2015 is for discussion purposes only and if it

was decided to use these numbers for the 2015 dues it would need to be voted on at the November meeting along with the budget for 2015.

**4. Treasurers/Finance Committee Report (Bob Belair, Treasurer)**

**a. 2014 Member Dues**

Bob Belair, Canton, informed the group that all ARC dues invoices have been mailed and we have started receiving checks.

**b. A/R and A/P Reports**

Bob Belair, Canton, reviewed the accounts receivable and payables report.

**c. 2014 Budget Amendment**

HOW1 Federal Grant Preparation

John O'Meara, ARC Staff, informed the Full ARC that the ARC has received a \$15,000 grant to write three (3) federal grant applications.

The ARC staff will develop three grant applications in 2014 for federal funding. It is anticipated that the grant applications will include a narrative, budget, timeline and letters of support for the following projects:

- Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage
- Rouge River Fish Barrier and Habitat Fragmentation
- Oxbow Implementation

The motion was made by Michael Howell, Wixom, to approve the 2014 Budget Amendment adding the HOW1 grant to fund the preparation of three federal grant applications as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, and passed unanimously.

**d. 2011 ECT Contract Amendment**

Extension and Reappropriation of USGS Emerald Ash

John O'Meara, ARC staff, reviewed the contract amendment to the scope of services for the Executive Director Services with ECT extending the contract date and increasing the original contract amount by \$30,660 for project oversight/planning, installation coordination, community location coordination and reporting, field verification and grant reporting as described in Appendix I to the 2011 ECT Contract.

The motion was made by Michael Howell, Wixom, to approve the 2011 ECT ED Services Contract amendment extending and reappropriating Appendix I as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, and passed unanimously.

**e. 2013 ECT Contract Amendment**

Adding HOW1 Federal Grant Preparation

John O'Meara, ARC Staff, reviewed the contract amendment adding Appendix D which increases the original contract amount by \$15,000 to prepare three grant applications under the HOW Grant.

The motion was made by Michael Howell, Wixom, to approve the 2013 ECT Contract Amendment adding the HOW Grant at Appendix D as presented by the Finance

Committee. The motion was seconded by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, and passed unanimously.

## 5. Standing Committee Reports

### a. Organization Committee (Chris O'Meara, ARC Staff, reported on behalf of Kelly Cave, Co-Chair)

Chris O'Meara, ARC Staff, reported that the Organization Committee has not had a meeting yet this year. Chris O'Meara report that after the last Full ARC meeting, which did not have a quorum Kelly Cave, Organization Committee Co-Chair, asked the ARC staff to draft a revision to the ARC Bylaws to include a Quorum and Manner of Acting. The Officers stressed the importance of member participation regardless of making the change to the Bylaws to include email voting.

The motion was made by James Gallogly, Northville, to approve the revision to the ARC Bylaws to include a Quorum and Manner of Acting section. The motion was seconded by Michael Howell, Wixom, and passed unanimously.

### b. PIE Committee (Charles Markus, Chair)

Annette DeMaria reported on behalf of Charles Markus that the PIE Committee had one meeting and that four workshops have taken place. The PIE committee will be working on the Collaborative PEP in the next couple of months and will be requesting feedback from ARC members.

### c. Technical Committee (Karen Mondora, Chair)

Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, reported that the Technical Committee has been reviewing the 2014 County IDEP work plans and are planning on having more focused IDEP in Oakland County and Wayne County will focus on facilities. The Technical Committee has met with MDEQ on review of the Collaborative IDEP Plan. MDEQ requested more details in various elements.

Annette DeMaria distributed a handout of the summary of IDEP activities over the last several years and gave a brief presentation of the information. The presentation handouts are attached to the meeting summary. Annette DeMaria asked the communities to let the ARC staff know if your facilities have been dye-testing at their municipal facilities. Some communities don't have facilities in the Rouge, let ARC staff know that as well.

There was a discussion on who pays for oil-containing illicit discharges investigations and clean-up when it is discharging from a pipe of unknown private ownership. Hae Jin Yoon, MDEQ, informed the Full ARC that the EPA has funding available through the federal Oil Pollution Act, where communities can call Coast Guard or EPA to be reimbursed for investigation and clean-up expenses. If the discharge ends up coming from a municipality, then the community will be libel for the clean up costs.

Hae Jin, also asked why illicit connection corrections take so long to fix. Gary Mekjian gave a brief summary of what was done in Farmington Hills. He stated that they had to force the establishment of a special assessment district (SAD) to address a portion of the illicit connections. This was the first time that a SAD was forced on residents as opposed

to being requested by residents. In addition, it takes quite a bit of staff time to even identify the actual homes that are illicitly connected. Many homeowners did not respond to the first and second requests to gain entry into their homes to allow dye testing. He stated that the communities need the MDEQ to help be the bad guy with the residents by telling them “you need to fix it.” Karen Mondora can be contacted if anyone has additional questions on Farmington Hills’ experience.

Wayne Domine, Bloomfield Twp., added that they sent letters, knocked on doors to gain entry into the homes. But they were unable to get homeowners to respond even when the community is offering to pay for the correction. He reiterated that it takes a lot of staff time.

Haejin Yoon, MDEQ, offered whatever help they could give. Let MDEQ know how they can help by contacting Andrew Bahrou.

## **6. Report from Cooperating Partners**

### Friends of the Rouge

Aimee LaLonde-Norman, FOTR, informed the Full ARC that the Frog & Toad Survey was complete and 277 volunteers participated. The Bug Hunt also had 120 participants in 32 teams. She also reported that Wayne County coordinated 19 sites. The FOTR are working on the Fish Survey. She reported that the Rouge Rescue was a success, the Rouge Education Project is wrapping up and they are preparing for the Rouge Cruise fundraiser.

### Rouge River Advisory Council

Bill Craig reported that they are working on developing the Habitat Restoration Project list which is needed by the EPA and MDEQ in order to fund projects to remove the Habitat beneficial use impairment.

### SOCWA

Lilian Dean reported that with the funding coming to an end for the Rouge Project they are wrapping up their projects. She informed the ARC about some videos that are available including Beyond Buckthorn and Mulch Out both are available on the SOCWA website. She also handed out a tip card regarding the benefits of mulch that was handed out with seedlings which was funded through the Rouge Grant.

## **7. Report from WCDPS**

Razik Alsaigh, Wayne County, reported on behalf of Kelly Cave. He reiterated that the Rouge grant is ending on May 31, 2014 and asked that communities finalize any projects and attempt to use all Rouge grant money available. There will be no extension.

## **8. Summary of Actions of Full Alliance (Chris O’Meara, ARC staff)**

- The November 21, 2013 meeting summary was approved.
- The 2014 Budget Amendment adding the HOW1 grant was approved.
- The 2011 ECT Contract Amendment to extend and reappropriate the USFS grant was approved.
- The 2013 ECT Contract Amendment adding the HOW1 task was approved.
- The revised Bylaws were approved to include Quorum and Manner of Acting.

**9. Upcoming Meeting Schedule (C. O'Meara)**

None scheduled at this time.

**10. Other Business**

Bob Belair, Canton, informed the Full ARC about an upcoming Self Assessment Workshop through the APWA National on June 30, 2014, in Canton. If you would like more information please contact Bob Belair.

**11. Adjourn**

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, Auburn Hills, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, and passed unanimously.

# Alliance of Rouge Communities Attendance List

Meeting Date: 5/19/14

Name	Community	Attended	Initials
	Redford Township	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Appel Lisa	Cranbrook Institute of Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ballnik Dan	RRAC	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<del>Hanna Baumgarten</del> <u>Suzan Matt</u>	Lathrup Village	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SM
Belair Bob	Canton Township	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FB
Beri Jim	Melvindale	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Beyer Lori	Washtenaw County Road Commis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bivins Jerome	Inkster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JB
Borton Cory	HRC	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Borton Cory	Bloomfield Hills	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Borton Cory	Birmingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CB
Bradley Cassie	Friends of the Rouge	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Buiten Mike	Wayne	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Byrd Jim	Wixom	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Casari Tom	Northville Township	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TAC
Cave Kelly	WCDPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Craig Bill	RRAC	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cravens Jay	Bloomfield Hills	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Davis Paul	Rochester Hills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PMD
Dean Lillian	SOCWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	
DeMaria Annette	ECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AD
Domine Wayne	Bloomfield Township	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WD
Drabczyk Laura	University of Michigan-Dearborn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
El-Gharib Ramzi	Wayne	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eudy Chuck	Farmington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CE



Meeting Date: 5/19/14

Name	Community	Attended	Initials
Faas	Tim	Canton Township	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TF
Fellrath	Patrick	Plymouth Township	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fortura	Rocco	Oak Park	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fuller	Fred	Orchard Lake Village	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>FF</del>
Gallogly	James	Northville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JJG
Garrison	Jacy	Oakland County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JLG
Greco	Sam	Henry Ford Community College	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hagaman	Kathryn	Bingham Farms	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KPN
Hanna	Karen	Friends of the Rouge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Howell	Michael	Wixom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPH
James	Jay	Commerce Township	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>JJ</del>
Keenan	Shawn	Auburn Hills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>SK</del> SK
Ketai	Don	Bingham Farms	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kramarz	Kristina	Dearborn Heights	<input type="checkbox"/>
LaLonde-Norman	Aimee	FOTR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALN
Leach	Josh	Farmington	<input type="checkbox"/>
Markus	Charles	Bloomfield Twp.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marshall	Ellen	SOCWA	<input type="checkbox"/>
McCallum	Gerry	Orchard Lake Village	<input type="checkbox"/>
McCusker	Benny	Westland	<input type="checkbox"/>
McGill	Lisa	Walled Lake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LM
Mekjian	Gary	Farmington Hills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM
Melchert	Ron	Auburn Hills	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meszler	Tom	Village of Beverly Hills	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mondora	Karen	Farmington Hills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KM
Muery	Robert	Garden City	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mullett	Noel	WCDPS	<input type="checkbox"/>

Meeting Date: 5/19/14

<i>Name</i>		<i>Community</i>	<i>Attended</i>	<i>Initials</i>
Nash	Jim	Oakland County	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Olsztyn	Olivia	Bloomfield Township	<input type="checkbox"/>	
O'Meara	Paul	Birmingham	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Owens	Joe	Melvindale	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Paletko	Dan	Dearborn Heights	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Petrella	Sally	FOTR	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollizzi	Tim	Rochester Hills	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pratt	Evan	Washtenaw County Water Resour	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Price	Meghan	ECT	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Putala	Vicki	Farmington	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Puuri	Steve	Washtenaw County Road Commis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Radtke	Jana	Plymouth Township	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rice	Heather	Washtenaw County Water Resour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HR
Rickard	Jill	Northville Township	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ridgway	Jim	ECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JR
Rohraff	Don <i>Paul St. Henry</i>	Livonia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSH
Roney	Kevin	Garden City	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ross	Cyndi	FOTR	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Scappaticci	Roberto	Romulus	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Schultz	Leigh	Southfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LS
Selmi	John	Redford Township	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Siedlaczek	Brandy	Southfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sincock	Paul	Plymouth	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Smrka	Barb	Farmington Hills	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Snapp	Robert	Cranbrook	<input type="checkbox"/>	
St. Henry	Paul	Livonia	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Staup	Aaron	Novi	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Meeting Date: 5/19/14

<i>Name</i>		<i>Community</i>	<i>Attended</i>	<i>Initials</i>
Stickel	Karyn	Village of Beverly Hills	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stickel	Karyn	Troy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KG
Sullivan	Patrick	Northville	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sullivan	Amy	Village of Franklin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Taylor	Jim	Van Buren Twp.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tucker	Eric	Inkster	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tuomari	Dean	WCDPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Turner	William	Van Buren Twp.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WT
Vandette	Steven	Troy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wagoner	Bryan	Wayne County Airport Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wayne	Adam	Novi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AW
Whitt	L. Dennis	Walled Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wilson	Tom	Romulus	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wineka	Jim	Oakland County	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Witte	Eric	Dearborn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Yee	Kevin	Oak Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Zoner	Tom	Commerce Township	<input type="checkbox"/>	

