

John O'Meara, P.E.
Executive Director



DRAFT FULL ARC MEETING SUMMARY ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

June 13, 2024, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Via Teams through 1 open meeting and 1 closed meeting (Member Communities only)

OPEN MEETING

1. **Welcome** (Doug Moore, Chair)

a. **Report from Cooperating Partners**

SEMCOG reviewed some grant funding available and upcoming. They are wrapping up the regional Resilience Framework with a climate resiliency data portfolio, resiliency funding strategies, development of large-scale, nature-based solution methodology and a framework to assess, plan and implement resiliency strategies. This will be on their website when complete. SEMCOG was awarded \$900K from FHWA to develop a Regional Resilience Improvement Plan which includes culvert data, equity considerations, nature-based solutions, and GREEN Pilot for entire region. They will be looking for priority projects to reduce match. SEMCOG received a \$500k grant from the Erb Family Foundation to build on GREEN Initiative. SEMCOG is partnering on a grant through the Center for Watershed Protection for \$200k. Project will work with communities to identify locations for large scale, impactful green infrastructure implementation with a focus on underserved communities. GLRI Environmental Justice Program awarded SEMCOG \$4.2M to advance environmental quality in underserved communities.

FOTR reported that their Executive Director, Marie McCormack, has stepped down and that they have hired a replacement who will start July 8. They had their volunteer picnic with more than 100 people. They do have funding to do a culvert inventory in the Lower Branch and part of the Great Lakes Road Crossing Network. Kelly Karll stated that they would be interested in collaborating and looking at overlapping efforts.

b. **MS4 Permit Update – EGLE**

John O'Meara informed the group that ARC permit communities turned their permit renewal application in last year. EGLE reviewed them and requested changes which lead to ARC Staff having discussions with EGLE to negotiate a compromise.

Christe Alwin gave a summary of an email that went to ARC Staff. WRD staff discussed the proposed ARC IDEP and TMDL Implementation Plan along with supporting documentation provided in comment responses and in-stream sampling locations provided by the GLWA Watershed Hub. EGLE discussed this information internally and with Kelly Karll as part of a larger discussion on IDEP and TMDL requirements. Phil Argiroff participated in these discussions and provided insight on integrated planning strategies approved for the GLWA service area. EGLE also reviewed the

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

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

MS4 permitting timelines for ARC members. They have an MS4 program goal of realigning all MS4 permittees into their standard NPDES basin years for permit reissuance. For ARC members, this results in the following permitting timelines.

- Reissue by September 30, 2024, with an expiration of October 1, 2026 - Short-term permits to place in basin year

- Reissue by September 30, 2026, with an expiration of October 1, 2031 as combined permits results in a 7-year planning period

The 7-year planning period is meant to satisfy the request for more certainty moving through the permitting process. The IDEP and TMDL Implementation Plans approved as part of the 2024 permit reissuance could be resubmitted to satisfy the application requirements for the 2026-2031 permit (based on typical reissuance timeframes the actual permit period is likely to be closer to 2027-2032). With this permitting timeline in mind, EGLE is proposing the following updates to the IDEP and TMDL Implementation Plan to be consistent with statewide expectations.

IDEP

Dry-weather screen all 2,350 ARC member outfalls (actual number will vary based on up-to-date information) through 2031. This approach would be considered an approvable alternative based on the outfall focus and extended schedule of 7 years (typically MS4 permittees area only allowed 5 years). EGLE believes the extended schedule is appropriate to allow for the full second permit term to be used to complete dry-weather screening. The alternative IDEP would need to include a process for identifying target areas each year to ensure progress toward meeting the requirement to dry-weather screen all outfalls. As discussed with Kelly Karll, an IDEP effectiveness study could be conducted concurrently with the dry-weather screening.

TMDL

EGLE internally discussed the current focus of the proposed in-stream E-coli monitoring is during dry-weather as a part of IDEP. They also reviewed the currently active and to be activated sampling locations identified as part of the Watershed Hub Regional Water Quality Monitoring Program (RWQMP). The RWQMP in-stream E. coli samples will be collected on a certain day of the week regardless of dry or wet-weather conditions as confirmed by USGS. This approach is expected to provide few, if any, wet- weather E. coli sampling results. The ARC's proposed 400 priority outfalls to be screened during dry-weather may be appropriate for wet-weather investigation to confirm conditions following elimination of illicit discharges or guide further investigation within a sewershed. Wet-weather monitoring of priority outfalls would be performed two times during the 7-year permitting timeline with the results of the second sampling event used to guide application updates as part of the 2031 permit reissuance. We also discussed expectations for follow-up actions on outfalls with E. coli concentrations between 1,000-5,000 cfu/100 mL. These outfalls need to be identified as requiring follow-up and may be included in the 400 outfalls if it makes sense (e.g., final outfall confirmation following elimination of illicit discharges); however, prioritizing higher concentrations of E. coli may continue to be the best option. The updated plan can be flexible.

Christe stated that EGLE is available to discuss these updates further and provide language in the form of approvable procedures or permit language if helpful and they look forward to making continued progress.

John O'Meara let the group know that they have also talked about a study that will look at what is being done around the state and by EGLE and what the results are showing. SEMCOG is currently leading the development of this study and will be looking for funding for it. The results of this study could help inform the next permit reissuance.

The meeting was concluded, and Doug Moore asked the ARC Members to join the 1:30 p.m. call to continue the discussion in a closed meeting. The closed ARC Member only meeting began with roll call.

b. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum - Roll call was taken. The 35 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	Y
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	N	Romulus	Y
Farmington	Y	Schoolcraft College	N
Farmington Hills	Y	Southfield	Y
Franklin	Y	Troy	Y
Garden City	Y	University of Michigan-Dearborn	Y
Henry Ford College	N	Van Buren Twp.	N
Inkster	Y	Walled Lake	Y
Lathrup Village	Y	Washtenaw County	Y
Livonia	Y	Wayne	Y
Melvindale	N	Wayne County	Y
Northville	N	Wayne County Airport Authority	N
Northville Twp.	Y	West Bloomfield Twp.	Y
Novi	Y	Westland	Y
		Wixom	Y

Others in attendance at the 1:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. closed meeting were: Chris O'Meara, John O'Meara, Emily Levine and Noel Mullett – ARC Staff; Kelly Karll, Bailee Pasienza – SEMCOG; Dan Gold – GLWA; Lishba Varughese, Kathleen Sexton, Jack Cotrone, Christe Alwin, Mindy Steffler - EGLE ; Elisa Lam – Arch Environmental Group; Leah Medley – EPA GLNPO; John Gundry – Wayne County Parks; Lauren Eaton, Sally Petrella – FOTR

d. Additions or Changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda

John O'Meara requested that after item 1. we move to the discussion regarding the MS4 permit (item 4.) then go through the items needing votes (item 3.) and if time permits we will do items 2. and 5.-7.

e. Approval of November 20, 2023, Meeting Summary

The motion was made by Novi, to approve the November 20, 2023, Full ARC meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Farmington and passed unanimously.

2. MS4 Permit

There was a discussion regarding the ARC's MS4 Permit reapplication and the effect on the ARC's budget and dues.

The motion was made by Wayne County to revise the ARC's 5-Year Plan (2024-2028) to an 8-Year Plan (2024-2031) as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Birmingham and passed unanimously.

Kelly Karll reviewed the study that SEMCOG will be leading. The IDEP/TMDL Program Assessment Concept should identify the best practices that work towards and achieve water quality standards. The study objectives would be to identify the IDEP/TMDL programs that "achieve desired MS4 permit outcomes" within Michigan and nationally. It would collect data from IDEP/TMDL programs across the State (and potentially nationally). It would also have both permittee partners and EGLE involvement. It would analyze data results from multiple programs, consider other related compliance requirements for collaboration opportunities and recommend a suite of best practices backed by evidence that supports science-based approaches to meet permit requirements. She ended the presentation by saying that they will be identifying partners, continuing communication with EGLE for support and will be looking for other funding opportunities for the study.

3. Executive Director Report

a. Grant Status Report

The grant status report was included in the handouts.

4. Treasurers/Finance Committee Report

a. A/R, A/P and Profit/Loss Reports, Dues and Single Audit

The accounts receivable, accounts payable and profit and loss reports were included in the handouts. All dues have been mailed out and the Single Audit for 2023 is being prepared by the ARC's auditors.

Rebecca Runkel took over running the meeting because Doug Moore had to go to another meeting.

b. Ratify E-mail Votes

Rebecca Runkel reviewed the email vote from 4/16/24 with 24 yea and 0 nay. The budget amendment added EPA14, upon grant award, GLRI grant in the amount of \$797,648 to the ARC with no match required. The project period is from June 15, 2024 – February 28, 2025. This grant is for the Rouge River AOC – Inkster Park EJ Design.

The motion was made by Farmington to ratify the April 16, 2024, email vote budget amendment adding the GLRI grant line item EPA14-Rouge River AOC Inkster Park EJ Design (upon grant award), in the amount of \$797,648 as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Inkster and passed unanimously.

c. Budget Amendments

Rebecca Runkel asked John O'Meara to review the budget amendments. John O'Meara reported that FC2 adds \$684,692.22 to EPA10 Wilcox for Wayne County parks amenities. As stated in the ARC/WC IAA should Wayne County choose to construct WC Park amenities at the same time as the federally funded grant project, Wayne County Parks would reimburse the ARC for 100% of

the work. WCP has chosen to include park amenities as part of the construction contract between ARC and Anglin Civil at Wilcox. ARC Staff will provide oversight services for the additional work. This amendment will add \$634,692.22 to the 2024 budget and \$50,000 to the 2025 budget. FC3 increases the budget for amenities work for EPA7 Riverview from \$895,975 to \$2,375,268. As stated in the ARC/WC IAA should Wayne County choose to construct WC Park amenities at the same time as the federally funded grant project, Wayne County Parks would reimburse the ARC for 100% of the work. WCP has chosen to include park amenities as part of the construction contract between ARC and Anglin Civil at Riverview. ARC Staff will provide oversight services for the additional work. This amendment will add \$2,263,618 to the 2024 budget and \$50,000 to the 2025 budget (\$61,650 was spent in 2023).

The motion was made by Southfield to approve the Budget Amendments FC2 and FC3 as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Inkster and passed unanimously.

d. Contract Revisions/Amendments

John O'Meara reviewed the Work Order for 2024-ECT2 which adds an additional \$30,000 to ECT's contract and provides both field engineering and administrative oversight for the amenities work associated with FC3 Wayne County Parks Amenities EPA7. This work will be reimbursed 100% by Wayne County Parks. John O'Meara reviewed the revision to ECT Work Order 2024-ECT3 which adds an additional \$25,000 to ECT's contract and provides both field engineering and administrative oversight for the amenities work associated with FC2 Wayne County Parks Amenities EPA10. This work will be reimbursed 100% by Wayne County Parks.

The motion was made by Redford Township to approve the contract revision adding \$25,000 to ECT's contract for Work Order 2024-ECT3 for oversight services associated with EPA10 Wilcox Amenities and adding \$30,000 to ECT's contract for Work Order 2024-ECT2 for oversight services associated with EPA7 Riverview Amenities. The motion was seconded by West Bloomfield Township and passed unanimously.

5. Standing Committee Reports

a. Organization Committee

Trisha Gabriel reported that there have been no activities under the Organization Committee.

b. PIE Committee

Jacy Garrison reported that the watershed posters will be going to libraries in 2024. The static displays are moving throughout the watershed. Also a reminder that brochures and giveaways are available to request through the ARC website and you can contact Chris or Tennille to get that login information.

c. Technical Committee

Tyler Sonoga reported that IDEP investigations are ongoing. The school in Novi did their own testing and found that the source was animal waste so that one can most likely be closed. Reminder on your outfall screening to update your GIS and try to get the most accurate data and location for those outfalls if you can.

d. Nominations Committee

Chris O'Meara reported on Bob Belair's behalf that the nominations for officer positions are up in 2025. She reported that Doug Moore, Charles Marcus and Rebecca Runkel have all

volunteered to run for their positions again but that the floor is open if any other community Representative would like to put their name in.

6. Report from Counties

Oakland County

Jacy Garrison, reported that their MS4 permit is out for public notice ending June 21, 2024, and is on the Oakland County website under the storm water management dropdown. She also reported that the Regional Storm Water Summit is being planned at Lawrence Tech during early October.

Wayne County

Patrick Cullen had no information to report.

Washtenaw County

Heather Rice reported that their native plant sale was held on June 1 with 15 plant vendors and that it was attended by more than 2,200 people.

7. Other Business

Nathan Jessee, Road Commission of Oakland County, wanted to follow-up on the culvert inventory that there was concern with people understanding how a road inspection for a culvert is different than an ecological inspection. He offered to set up a half-day training to review how the inspection works and also share their data about culverts. Kelly Karl said she would be in touch.

8. Summary of Actions of the Full ARC

- The Full ARC meeting summary of November 20, 2023, was approved.
- The E-mail votes from 4/16/24 were ratified.
- The 8-Year Plan (2024-2031) was approved.
- The 2024 Budget amendments FC2 WC Parks Amenities-Wilcox EPA10 and FC3 WC Parks Amenities-Riverview EPA7 were approved.
- The contract revisions/amendments to ECT Work Order 2024-ECT2 and ECT Work Order 2024-ECT3 were approved.

9. Adjourn

The motion was made by West Bloomfield to adjourn the Full ARC meeting. The motion was seconded by Wayne County and passed unanimously.