



Working together, restoring the river

Annette DeMaria, P.E., PMP  
Executive Director

**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**  
**ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES**

September 24, 2020, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

GOTO Meeting

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

**a. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum** - Roll call was taken. The 29 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	N	Oak Park	N
Birmingham	Y	Orchard Lake	Y
Bloomfield Hills	N	Plymouth	N
Bloomfield Twp.	Y	Plymouth Twp.	Y
Canton Twp.	Y	Redford Twp.	Y
Commerce Twp.	Y	Rochester Hills	Y
Dearborn Heights	Y	Romulus	Y
Farmington	Y	Schoolcraft College	N
Farmington Hills	Y	Southfield	Y
Franklin	Y	Troy	Y
Garden City	Y	University of Michigan-Dearborn	N
Henry Ford College	N	Van Buren Twp.	N
Inkster	Y	Walled Lake	N
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	N

**Other attendees:**

RRAC, EGLE, DNR Fisheries, GLWA, Friends of the Rouge, OHM (Westland), HRC (Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Franklin, Troy, and Lathrup Village)

**b. Additions or Changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda**

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

**c. Approval of March 30, 2020 Meeting Summary**

The motion was made by Mike Buiten, City of Wayne, to approve the 3/30/20 Full ARC meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Charles Markus, Bloomfield Township. The motion passed unanimously with 29 yay votes and 0 nay.

- 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
- 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

## 2. Executive Director Report

### a. MS4 Permit Update

Annette DeMaria received an updated from EGLE this week and four of the township permits are issued for communities who used the Rouge as their prime watershed. The communities are Redford Township, Plymouth Township, Bloomfield Township and Northville Township. Marty Hendges is checking the status on West Bloomfield and Canton.

Annette also reported that there has been some movement on the post construction standards from Oakland County and Wayne County.

Annette reported that the ARC is working with Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA). Annette reported they are working on developing a region wide sampling plan for the GLWA area including the Rouge and Clinton River Watersheds.

### b. Call for Projects

Annette stated that if any community has an environmental project i.e. habitat restoration or green infrastructure to let Annette, John O'Meara and Chris O'Meara as a list of grant opportunities is being kept.

John O'Meara reported that the City of Novi has submitted an email for potential streambank project assistance.

### c. Grant Status Report

John O'Meara, ARC Staff reported the following:

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

- ARC's final reimbursement request was approved, direct deposit received, and grant closed.

#### **EPA Wayne County Rouge AOC Habitat Projects**

- **Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage**
  - Work has been completed on the site less a few repairs, some punch list items, site restoration, and vegetation maintenance. Lowering of the water control structure will not take place for at least one year.
- **Oxbow Phase III Implementation**
  - Work completed. Replacement of a few trees to occur in October.

#### **EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Design- Tamarack/Fish Hatchery**

**(\$583,220)**– The ARC received a grant from EPA for design engineering for the restoration of Tamarack Creek/wetland and habitat restoration on Johnson Creek at Fish Hatchery Park. These two priority projects were considered the next one that would have significant impact on the removal of the BUIs in the Rouge AOC.

- **Tamarack Wetland and Creek Restoration**
  - Property owners' meetings & authorizations
  - MDOT Permit
  - 99% design completed
  - EGLE permit application submitted
  - Technical specs drafted
  - Anticipated bidding Jan 2021

- **Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Restoration**
  - Project was bid in April 2020 and awarded in June 2020

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

The ARC has received from EPA of award of the grant for Seeley Creek in Farmington Hills.

- Vegetation mapping, data processing, and proposed conditions modeling conducted in May 2020
- Design started and base map generation occurred in June 2020
- Design progressed, including stream structure layout, bankfull bench layout, and invasive species treatment layout in July 2020
- EGLE/ USACE permit application was started and design drawings progressed in August 2020

**EGLE Rouge River AOC PAC Support (\$75,000)**

EGLE awarded a grant to the ARC to continue coordination role for RRAC and development of the AOC habitat list project narratives. Also included in this grant are fish surveys in 2020/2021 and fall macroinvertebrate surveys in 2020/2021 to be completed by FOTR. FOTR QAPP For Benthic and Fish Monitoring approved

- FOTR fish survey in July 2020
- Update 3 Project Narratives
- Update AOC habitat project funding listing
- RRAC meeting held June 3, 2020
- Plan RRAC meeting for September 29, 2020

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

Wayne County received a GLRI grant to complete the design on 5 AOC habitat projects located within Wayne County Parks. Wayne County has initiated an IAA with the ARC to complete this work.

- QAPP approved by EPA
- Topo and Tree surveys completed for Riverview, Bell Creek, Lola, and Sherwood
- Wetland & Desktop T&E surveys completed for Riverview, Bell Creek, Lola, and Sherwood
- Field investigation of Lower Rouge project completed
- Design concepts for all 5 project sites completed
- Grant and IAA time extension Until October 2021

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

The ARC has received from EPA of award of the grant for the design and implementation of restoration at Colonial Park and Venoy Park in the Wayne County Park system. Anticipated construction summer 2021 for both sites.

- QAPP approved by EPA
- Topo and Tree surveys completed for both sites
- Wetland field surveys in process

## **GRANTS AWARDED**

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

The ARC has received from EPA of award of the grant for the restoration at the 5 Wayne County parkland sites (Lower Rouge River, Riverview, Bell Creek, Lola, and Sherwood) in the Wayne County Park system. This is the implementation of the designs being developed under the ARC's design work for Wayne County.

- QAPP will be developed in September/October 2020
- Lower Rouge & Sherwood construction 2021
- Bell and Lola construction 2022
- Riverview construction 2023

## **SUBMITTED GRANTS**

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

- Expect notification on grant here in September with potential start date of October 2020.
- Reduce runoff program area – 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, throughout the Rouge River Watershed in 17 communities and across 3 counties. In addition to tree installation, green infrastructure will be installed in the form of rain gardens, bio retention installation and expansion, and native plant grow zone areas.

### **3. Treasurers/Finance Committee Report**

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

Kate Richardson reviewed the A/R, A/P and profit/loss reports. There is only one outstanding membership dues invoice -Bloomfield Hills. Chris O'Meara will follow-up with them. Kate Richardson also stated that we waiting to receive several grant reimbursements that have been submitted to Wayne County.

#### **b. Ratify E-mail Votes from 8/7/20 – 24 yay and 0 nay votes, passed**

Chris O'Meara reviewed the email votes from August 7 which need to be ratified per the ARC By-Laws as follows:

- 2020 ARC Budget Amendment FC4: Adding the new grant EPA7 line item–Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation - Wayne County Parkland \$4.2M total award, added \$30k to 2020 budget
- 2020 ECT Contract Amendment: Adding Work Order 2020 -5 to ECT's contract to include activities related to the EPA7 Budget Amendment above.

The motion was made by Shawn Keenan, City of Auburn Hills to ratify the email votes. The motion was seconded by Mike Buiten, City of Wayne, and passed unanimously.

#### **c. 2020 Budget Amendments & Adjustments**

Budget Amendment: EPA4 – Implementation of Tamarack/Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery  
John O'Meara requested a budget amendment for the Tamarack/Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Park habitat restoration implementation grant. EPA gave the ARC an increase

of \$59,840 to do the FEMA analysis on Tamarack after the work is completed. Some additional monies will be for working on property access agreements for Tamarack.

The motion was made by Mike Buiten, City of Wayne to approve the 2020 Budget Amendment adding additional EPA grant funds in the amount of \$59,840 to EPA4-Implementation of Tamarack/Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Shawn Keenan, City of Auburn Hills, and passed unanimously.

Budget Amendment: TC1 – Annual IDEP Activities

Annette DeMaria requested a budget amendment for TC1–Annual IDEP Activities. The ARC was made aware of high *E. coli* concentrations in the Lower Rouge starting in the City of Inkster. A budget was put together to screen MS4 outfalls and perform follow-up investigations, starting in the City of Inkster.

The motion was made by Jerome Bivins, City of Inkster to approve the 2020 Budget Amendment adding additional TC1 IDEP Activities increasing the budget by \$21,350 for an estimated five days of field work investigations. The motion was seconded by Shawn Keenan, City of Auburn Hills, and passed unanimously.

**d. ECT Contract Amendment**

Work Order No. 2019-4

John O’Meara reported that the contract amendment for ECT Work Order 2019-4 corresponds to the EPA Grant increase and increases ECT’s contract by \$59,840 for a total of \$403,569 and is extended until April 1, 2023 which is the extension of the grant.

Work Order No. 2020-1

Annette DeMaria reported that the contract amendment for ECT Work Order 2020-1 to increase ECT’s budget by \$21,350 for the IDEP investigations indicated previously.

The motion was made by Mike Buiten, City of Wayne to approve the ECT contract amendments associated with the 2020 budget amendments for ECT Work Orders 2019-4 and 2020-1. The motion was seconded by Shawn Keenan, City of Auburn Hills, and passed unanimously.

**e. 2021 Budget Recommendations**

Chris O’Meara and Annette DeMaria reviewed the proposed 2021 budget recommendations. Annette also reported Wayne County is doing their IDEP investigations as in-kind services, rather than being funded by the ARC, which puts the ARC below the 5-year plan budget.

Marie with FOTR asked the ARC if they would consider funding the full \$10,000 for the Stonefly search for 2021. Marie stated the cost of the Stonefly search is \$10,000 and the line item in the ARC funding shows \$5,000. The RRAC is funding the fall bug hunt for 2021.

Annette reported that the ARC would still be under budget if the ARC funded the extra \$5,000.

Shawn Keenan asked how many sites would be monitored for Stonefly search. Marie mentioned she would need to check with Sally Petrella. Community members asked if the Stonefly search assists with their MS4 permits. Annette informed the members that promoting and supporting volunteer activities is part of the permit. Wayne County also supported the funding.

The motion was made by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills to approve the 2021 Budget Recommendations including FOTR additional funds of \$5,000 as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Shawn Keenan, City of Auburn Hills, and passed unanimously.

#### **4. Standing Committee Reports**

##### **a. Organization Committee**

Noel Mullett stated there was nothing to report for the Organization Committee.

##### **b. PIE Committee**

Jacy Garrison reported the following for the PIE Committee:

- New ARC website launching week of 9/14
- New brochure, ad graphic and article will be coming in September - topic will be "proper disposal of chemicals/wipes" (#1 topic suggested by member survey)
- ARC Webinar being planned for late October topic will be "Stewards of the Rouge River"
- Discussion with the members for the return of the ARC's traveling banners in community buildings – do we start back up late fall? The group supported the return of the traveling banners which stopped because of COVID.
- New static display planned for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter – will be surveying members for topic
- Surveying of the "Ours to Protect" watershed metal signage along road/river crossings was completed. Next steps in 2021 will be to map and summarize condition and need for new signage
- ARC Homeowner brochures have been going out to subdivision associations. Feel free to promote to you email lists and on your website/social media that it is available
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##### **c. Technical Committee**

Karen Mondora reported the following for the Technical Committee:

- IDEP investigations are ongoing in Oakland County and Wayne County
  - 2 illicit connections found: one each in Beverly Hills and Northville (homes)
  - No new sources found in Wayne County, as this time.
- IDEP training
  - No investigator training this year due to COVID
  - ARC staff is working with SEMCOG to update the Alert Observer and Good Housekeeping/P2 trainings which will be offered virtually in Oct.
- The second 2020 TC meeting will not be held due to budget constraints caused by helping several communities prepare and submit their progress reports during the early stages of COVID. The next meeting will be held in Feb/Mar 2021.

##### **d. Nominating Committee**

###### 2021-2022 Officer Slate

Chris O'Meara reported that she reached out to the 3 current officers and asked if they were willing to serve next year if no other recommendations were made from the floor. Bob Belair asked if there was any other interest in the roles from the floor. With no

other interest Bob Belair presented the 2021 Officer Slate as: Doug Moore – Chair, Kate Richardson – Treasurer, Charles Markus – Vice Chair.

The motion was made by Mike Buiten, City of Wayne, to approve the 2021-22 officer slate of Doug Moore – Chair, Kate Richardson – Treasurer, and Charles Markus – Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Karen Mondora, City of Farmington Hills, and passed unanimously.

## **5. Report from Cooperating Partners**

### Friends of the Rouge

Marie, FOTR stated her thanks for the ARC funding the Stonefly search in 2021. She also reported the Rouge Uncruise was successful. There was a viewership of 1,500. All of the videos will be available on their YouTube channel and are available on their website.

Marie also reported there is a Master Rain Gardener course coming up, the City of Southfield is supporting. It will be both in person and virtual online. Registration is still open. It is a 5 week in depth course teaching residents how to build a rain garden at their home. Marie also mentioned FOTR did other virtual trainings including Rain Gardens 101 which the ARC will support next year. It is a crash course for rain gardens in your community. These are also recorded and available online as well.

Marie stated the following events coming up.

- Fall Bug Hunt is coming in October
- Fall Paddle is coming in October in the City of Wayne.

Marie also stated that FOTR developed a volunteer protocol plan which is available on their website under “Organizational Documents”. Every event that is hosted has safety protocols. Marie also mentioned that have been doing Rain Garden Maintenance and Planting days in Detroit.

Marie also reported FOTR is working with some non-point source pollution funding from 319 funds. They received an award to do 31,000 sq ft of gardens at their office headquarters and ground will break in a week or two.

### Great Lakes Water Authority

Dan Gold reported about the watershed hub. The watershed hub was born out of Wastewater Master Plan which is a 40-year plan and will be approved by the GLWA board. The watershed hub working group that was formed is to help implement the plan and help find ways to track investments of water quality and use collaborative water quality investments, including dry and wet weather impairments. The first-year goals are the regional water quality monitoring program and the implementation of it. Phase I will be putting in 8 or 9 continuous monitoring sites in the GLWA service area, this should be done by the end of 2020 or early 2021. Phase II would start in 3-5 years. GLWA also reported they are working on a mapping tool which is a data version which will eventually be made public. Data will also be brought in from SEMCOG’s restoration story mapper and Detroit Stormwater Hub. GLWA also mentioned he has spoken with Jackie with FOTR for opportunities on the rain garden campaign. GLWA will have their first larger meeting in late November or early December.

### RRAC

John O'Meara reported (in place of Bill Craig) RRAC has a meeting on September 29. The SPAC meeting for the PAC council is October 14.

### Cranbrook

Jacy with Oakland County reported for Cranbrook. Their Rouge River Water Festival will be done virtual October 20-23. Jacy reported they are still looking for presenters, if anyone knows or has anything to please contact Michelle. They will also be going live for some of the presentations.

## **6. Report from Counties**

Jacy Garrison, Oakland County, informed the Committee that their new MS4 permit is to be public noticed early next week. The post-construction stormwater standards are expected to be approved for implementation in March 2021.

She also stated she sent out information about their 16<sup>th</sup> annual kids clean water calendar. They are asking for the entries to be submitted online only. Keep in mind that the contest is for Oakland County kids only. She hopes for a lot of participation. All the information for the calendar is oakgov.com/calendar contest and their Facebook page that will be sent out later. There are also resources on the site.

She also mentioned they are filming a professional video of the Dirt Doctors program that should be ready by October 2020. She will send out the link at a later date.

### Wayne County

Noel Mullett reported that Wayne County's new permit was effective September 1. The County will not meet the deadline for the new stormwater standards of October 1.

Noel also mentioned there will be a stakeholder meeting on October 7 at 3:00 pm. A meeting invite will be sent later. Wayne County is looking for comments and get the documents into commission before end of calendar year.

Noel also reported they are trying to determine how their Household Hazardous Waste Collection program will occur in 2021 and hopes to have more information by the end of the year.

## **7. Report from EGLE**

Marty Hendges, EGLE, gave the status of the MS4 reporting. Marty mentioned he checked with Jessica Stiles in the permit section and Canton and West Bloomfield Township are in process. Marty also reported they are wrapping up MS4 permits and desktop audits (10 or so have been Rouge communities). The plan for next year will be inspections and some permittees have never had an inspection should get them done this year. Macomb County's permit was issued in June. Wayne County's permit was issued and is in effect. Oakland County is waiting on EGLE to respond to Jim Wineka's comments.

Annette asked Marty if he had a timeline of pre public notice for communities in the Rouge. Marty reported any communities looking to adopt county standards would have a permit in effect by February 1. Marty mentioned the process would need to be started by November 1.



Jack Controne, EGLE reported on the non-point source. 319 grants are in the proposal development phase. Notices of Intent were due last month. They received 10 submissions for the Warren district and 3 are in the Rouge Watershed and they are focused on Green Infrastructure. They are unsure if funding will be received for the Watershed planning money. If funding comes through an RFP will be out in December.

**8. Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**9. Other Business**

There was no other business discussed

**10. Summary of Actions of the Full ARC**

The 6 motions were voted on. All votes were approved unanimously and are summarized below:

- Approved March 30, 2020 meeting summary
- Ratified E-mail votes from August 7, 2020
- Approved the 2020 budget amendments to EPA4 and TC1
- Approved ECT contract amendments for Work Order 2019-4 and 2020-1
- Approved the 2021 Budget Recommendations including FOTR additional funds of \$5,000
- Approved the 2021-2022 officer slate

**11. Adjourn**

The motion was made by Mike Buiten, Wayne, to adjourn the Full ARC meeting. The motion was seconded by Noel Mullett, Wayne County and passed unanimously.

**FULL ARC Meeting attendees 9-24-20 1:30pm  
Reported through Go To Meeting**

**Borton, Cory (to Everyone):** 1:30 PM: Cory Borton  
**John Bauman (to Everyone):** 1:30 PM: John M. Bauman MI DNR Fisheries Division  
**Laura Hassold Prevot (to Everyone):** 1:31 PM: Laura Hassold Prevot, RCOC  
**Lisa McGill (to Everyone):** 1:31 PM: Lisa McGill, Farmington  
**Heather Rice (to Everyone):** 1:31 PM: Heather Rice - Washtenaw County WRC  
**Martin Hendges (to Everyone):** 1:31 PM: Martin Hendeges EGLE  
**Doug Moore (to Everyone):** 1:31 PM: Doug Moore  
**Mike Buiten (to Everyone):** 1:31 PM: Mike Buiten  
**Kate Richardson (to Everyone):** 1:31 PM: Kate Richardson, City of Novi  
**Jacy Garrison (Oakland County WRC) (to Everyone):** 1:31 PM: Jacy Garrison, Oakland County WRC  
**Shawn Keenan (to Everyone):** 1:31 PM: Shawn Keenan  
**Timothy Pollizzi (to Everyone):** 1:31 PM: Tim Pollizzi, Rochester Hills  
**Robert Belair (to Everyone):** 1:31 PM: Bob Belair  
**Brandy Siedlaczek (to Everyone):** 1:32 PM: Brandy Siedlaczek, City of Southfield  
**Jack Cotrone (to Everyone):** 1:32 PM: Jack Cotrone, EGLE  
**Daniel Gold (to Everyone):** 1:33 PM: Dan Gold, GLWA on behalf of Sherri  
**Allen, Ashley (to Everyone):** 1:33 PM: Ashley Allen (HRC) - representing Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Franklin, Troy, and Lathrup Village  
**Alex Kozlowski (to Everyone):** 1:33 PM: Alex Kozlowski, West Bloomfield Township  
**Karen Mondora (to Everyone):** 1:38 PM: Karen Mondora - Farmington Hills  
**Sermed Saif (to Everyone):** 1:38 PM: Sermed Saif - Orchard Lake  
**Paul Horen (to Everyone):** 1:38 PM: Paul Horen - Redford Township  
**Noel Mullett (to Everyone):** 1:38 PM: Noel Mullett, Wayne County  
**Marie McCormick (to Everyone):** 1:38 PM: Marie McCormick, Friends of the Rouge  
**John Selmi (to Everyone):** 1:39 PM: John Selmi Dearborn Heights  
Patrick Fellrath – Plymouth Twp.  
Brad Lear – Canton Twp.  
John Deslippe – OHM for Westland