



Working together, restoring the river

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES**  
 December 12, 2007  
 Costick Center  
 28600 Eleven Mile Rd.  
 Farmington Hills, 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  
 Orchard Lake Village  
 Plymouth  
 Plymouth Twp.  
 Pontiac  
 Redford Twp.  
 Rochester Hills  
 Romulus  
 Southfield  
 Superior Twp.  
 Troy  
 Van Buren Twp.  
 Walled Lake  
 Washtenaw County  
 Wayne  
 Wayne County  
 Wayne County Airport  
 Authority  
 West Bloomfield Twp.  
 Westland  
 Wixom  
 Ypsilanti Twp.

**1. Welcome – Kurt Giberson, ARC Chair**

- a. **Roll Call /Determination of Quorum** - Roll call was taken. The 31 members listed below were in attendance; sufficient for a quorum.

**The following were in attendance:**

Auburn Hills	Farmington Hills	Pontiac	Village of Orchard Lake
Bingham Farms	Garden City	Redford Twp.	Walled Lake
Birmingham	Inkster	Rochester Hills	Washtenaw County
Bloomfield Hills	Livonia	Southfield	Wayne
Bloomfield Twp.	Northville Twp.	Superior Twp.	Wayne County
Canton Twp.	Novi	Troy	West Bloomfield Twp.
Dearborn	Oakland Twp.	Van Buren Twp.	Westland
Farmington	Plymouth Twp.	Village of Beverly Hills	Ypsilanti Twp.

**The following were not in attendance:**

Allen Park	Lathrup Village	Romulus	Wayne County Airport Authority
Commerce Twp.	Northville	Village of Franklin	Wixom
Dearborn Heights	Plymouth	Washtenaw County Road Commission	

- b. **Approval of June 27, 2007 Meeting Summary.** - A motion was made to approve the meeting summary. It was seconded, and passed unanimously.
- c. **Additions or changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda** – There were no additions or changes made to the draft meeting agenda.

**2. Treasurers/Finance Committee Report (T. Faas - Treasurer)**

- a. **Status of Alliance Invoice Payments** – Information was given on the payments. No changes were made and no questions were asked.
- b. **2007 Budget/Expenditures Status Report** – Information was given on the 2007 Budget/Expenditures Report. No changes were made and no questions were asked.
- c. **2007 Budget Amendments** – Two recommendations were made for the 2007 Budget Amendments: 1) for payment to ECT for out-of-scope services provided to the ARC for

the TMDL public Notice & Comments to the MDEQ; and 2) for carry-over of the IDEP activities to 2008 resulting in a budget reduction.

Michelle Bononi from Washtenaw County asked that there be a formal policy put into place to handle amendments more transparently. Of interest was the specific requirements to extend the Executive Director services contract. Per Tim Faas, there was a policy adopted about two years ago for such items.

Michelle also requested an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director (currently ECT) with documented performance criteria to assess ECT on their service provided during 2008.

An electronic copy of the existing policies will be sent to all members and be posted to the ARC web site.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to review and modify existing policy to address budget amendments in a more transparent manner, to notify all ARC members when there is a change in the Executive Director's contract and to conduct an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director.

- d. **2008 Fiduciary Services** – a copy of the proposed amendment #4 to the Fiduciary Services Agreement with Wayne County was reviewed. The motion was passed, seconded and approved.
- e. **2008 Extension to ECT service contract** – A memo was distributed about the consideration for approval to extend the contract with ECT for Executive Director Services in 2008. These services would be the same as those received in 2007 and will include the required updates to the watershed management plans. The budgeted amount is realistic according to J. Ridgway.

M. Bononi asked if a separate evaluation could be done on ECT and the Executive Director for services and keep it separate from the watershed work plan. She would like to make sure that all milestones are met in the work plan. It was also suggested that an operations policy be established. It was noted that the current Executive Director contract includes written tasks and deliverables. It was decided that the Executive Committee would further document the specific services to be provided under the extension of the contract.

The motion to extend ECT's contract was passed, seconded and approved.

- f. **2008 Budget Recommendations** – A copy of the final recommended budget was distributed in the meeting packet with \$707,000 for the coming year; no increase in membership dues; numbers include the ECT amendment and watershed plan update. A motion to approve the 2008 budget was passed, seconded and approved.

### 3. Executive Director Report

a. TMDL and *E. coli* update

b. NPDES Phase II permit update

J. Ridgway reported that the communities, the counties, sEMCOG, and the SEM consulting community continue to negotiate with the MDEQ over the proposed permit language. The ARC staff has prepared several draft position papers, modified permit language, and note supporting the proposed language. The deadline for the public comment period is January 31, 2008. The upcoming meeting with senior MDEQ officials on the above two items will provide

better insight into what the MDEQ might offer to provide some relief to the communities. The discussion will focus on several key concerns. They are as follows:

- The technical concerns will be divided into two major categories; those for which the Director has sufficient authority to change, and those for which legislative (or judicial) relief will be required.
- The Technical Committee will address the items that are viewed on a watershed basis and recognize that the communities and the counties may view some items differently;
- The ARC will recognize that the Water quality standards must be met;
- The MDEQ will need assurance that progress is being made toward achieving WQS.;
- The ARC must suggest how best to measure the effectiveness of our program.

J. Ridgway said the challenges at the meeting will be those items that can be addressed by the Director currently, and those that the Director does not have the authority to change. (requirements that may have to go to legislature for action.)

There were three draft position papers in the meeting packet showing how to approach the DEQ with watershed decisions. There have been preliminary discussions with the DEQ which shows that they have heard the concerns.

A document listing the three areas to be addressed will be given to the Technical Committee. They are:

- A cover letter that summarizes the changes we think should be made;
- A summary of why TMDL/E.coli documents are of concern, and,
- An edited permit with suggested changes and notes explaining why terms were changed.

This document is due to MDEQ on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The ARC members will have a chance to review and make comments before the deadline. Any revisions/concerns with the three position papers can be sent to J. Ridgway, Z. Ball or K. Karll.

Jack Barnes said ARC members have only so much money and resources to work with.

D. Swallow suggested that a financial analysis be performed.

J. Ridgway stated that the DEQ has no memory of the discussions pertaining to the failures of the Phase I permits that were completed and why flexibility was incorporated into the Phase II regulations. All of those people have left.

K. Heise asked if a letter should be sent out now from the ARC to the communities suggesting what a local government should do? J. Ridgway replied that yes, a letter should be sent out with a summary of our concerns and a draft letter or resolution for communities to enact. The ARC staff will draft the letter for everyone to review. The final list of comments will be presented as coming from the group as a whole, not as separate communities.

J. Ridgway indicated that four (4) documents are being prepared for submittal to the MDEQ, including a cover letter, a summary of permit changes requested, a summary of issues that cannot be addressed specifically by the permit and an actual edited permit.

K. Heise stated that the ARC communities should be rewarded for being organized under the Watershed Alliance legislation. Wayne County is drafting letter regarding this suggestion and

is prepared to go to Court to push this if necessary. He would like watershed alliances to be blessed by the DEQ.

**4. Rouge Program Office Report (K. Cave)**

K. Cave said the annual report will be completed in January.

**5. Standing Committee Reports (K. Giberson)**

**a. Organization Committee (K. Heise/D. Payne – Co-Chairs)**

- i. ARC – County In Kind Contributions Policy – This policy needs to be reviewed with the whole group. K. Cave went over her summary of in-kind services by Wayne County. The County would like it sent out electronically. Oakland County will send their version out as well.

Kurt Giberson indicated that the document reflects a compromise and has been agreed upon by all the Counties involved in the ARC.

There was discussion of a County cash requirement which was determined to be equivalent to approximately \$18,000. The Counties all indicated that they can document services above and beyond this cash requirement.

Shawn Keenan objected to the Counties receiving credit for in-kind services that are identical to those activities that communities participate in, such as meeting attendance. Why wouldn't communities get the same credit? It was noted that all funds available to the Counties came from the communities and thus additional county fees would eventually lead to additional costs to the communities. A motion was made to accept the in-kind services policy as written, seconded and passed with a single NO vote (by the City of Auburn Hills)

- ii. Draft ARC Strategic Plan – The Strategic Plan was passed out as part of the meeting packet. All changes should be sent to Z. Ball.

**b. PIE Committee (J. Lawson, Chair)**

J. Lawson went over updates and upcoming activities for the PIE Committee. The posters were complete and distributed at Rouge 2007. Jennifer summarized the 2008 PIE activities, including the HHW web-based guide for the Rouge, the Septic Education direct mail and workshops in 2009 and the last Measuring Success Poster for the Main 3-4. The next meeting will be January 17, 2008 in Northville Township at 1:30 p.m.

**c. Technical Committee (G. Zorza, Vice Chair)**

The main topic of the TMDL/Permit issues was already discussed. Stated that everyone on email will get a progress report from J. Ridgway on what is happening with MDEQ and the permit.

**d. Grants Committee (P. Sanzica, Chair)**

Nothing to report.

**6. Opportunity for Public Comment (K. Giberson)**

There was a State-wide Public Advisory Council meeting attended by Bill Craig and he commented on the successful job done by Roy Schrameck in his presentation. Said the posters were very helpful and very well received.

The Friends of the Rouge GIS mapping project is complete and they have been sent out. Others can request one if needed.

**7. Summary of Actions of Full Alliance (K. Giberson)**

All actions were summarized by K. Giberson.

**8. Upcoming Meeting Schedule (K. Giberson)**

No future meeting date was available.

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.