

Rouge Alliance Meeting Summary
August 23, 2006



Working together, restoring the river

Meeting Summary
ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

August 23, 2006

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

The Summit on the Park

Grand Ball Room

46000 Summit Parkway

Canton, 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
 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** – Wayne Domine, Acting ARC Chair. The Acting Chair thanked the City of Canton for hosting this meeting of the Full Alliance.

- a. **Roll Call /Determination of Quorum** - Roll call was taken. The 28 members listed below were in attendance and sufficient for a quorum.

Auburn Hills	Farmington	Northville Twp.	Walled Lake
Beverly Hills	Farmington Hills	Novi	Washtenaw County
Bingham Farms	Garden City	Plymouth Twp.	Wayne
Birmingham	Inkster	Rochester Hills	Wayne County
Bloomfield Twp.	Livonia	Southfield	West Bloomfield Twp.
Canton Twp.	Melvindale	Superior Twp.	Westland
Dearborn	Northville	Troy	Ypsilanti Twp.

The following members were not in attendance at the meeting:

Allen Park	Franklin	Pontiac	Wayne County Airport Authority
Bloomfield Hills	Lathrup Village	Redford Twp.	Wixom
Commerce Twp.	Orchard Lake	Romulus	
Dearborn Heights	Plymouth	Van Buren Twp.	

A number of guests were in attendance at the meeting. The guest attendance list is shown in Attachment “A”.

- b. **Approval of January 6, 2006 Meeting Minutes** - A motion was made to accept the January 6, 2006 meeting minutes by Livonia, it was seconded by Washtenaw County, and it passed unanimously.
- c. **Additions or Changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda** - A request was made for additions or changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda for this meeting. No changes were requested to the agenda.
- d. **Chair’s Report**
 - i. **Resolution of Tribute to Robert Beckley.** Wayne Domine reminded the group that he was serving as Acting Chair due to the resignation of Chair Robert Beckley, who recently took on a new position out of state. In recognition of Mr. Beckley’s contribution to the ARC and watershed protection,

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Mr. Domine read a proposed Resolution of Tribute to Mr. Beckley. A motion was made by Livonia to adopt the Resolution, it was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

- ii. **Alliance of Rouge Communities Status.** Mr. Domine reported that we now have 42 ARC members, including the addition of the City of Orchard Lake and the Wayne County Airport Authority. He thanked ARC members and staff support for all their hard work, noting that the ARC now has its own Tax ID number.
 - iii. **Alliance awarded CMI Grant** - Mr. Domine reported that the ARC was awarded a CMI Grant for Bacterial Source Tracking and that the Quality Assurance Project Plan for this Bacterial Source Tracking study was approved by the MDEQ July 19, 2006 and work is proceeding.
 - iv. **U.S. EPA grant freeze status update** –U.S. EPA grant funding was discussed by Wayne County later in the meeting.
 - v. **Summary of Executive Committee Meetings** – Mr. Domine reported that three Executive Committee meetings had been held since the last Full ARC meeting in January and that much has been accomplished. The remainder of this agenda reflects most of these activities. Meeting minutes are available on the website.
- 2. Election of 2007 Officers.** The Executive Committee felt if new officers were elected in the summer they could contribute to the development of the budget for the year in which they will be serving as an officer. The By-Laws were reviewed and the 2-year term for which officers serve would not have to coincide with the end of the year. An ad hoc nominating committee developed a list of potential candidates and made the following recommendations: Kurt Giberson as Chair, Gary Mekjian as Vice Chair, and Tim Faas as Treasurer. The Acting Chair and Executive Committee moved to vote on the recommended officers. A motion was made from Birmingham to approve the recommended officers; it was seconded by Beverly Hills. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.
- 3. Executive Director Request for Proposals.** There is a provision in the By-Laws for hiring an Executive Director for the ARC. An Organization Committee meeting was held on July 27, 2006 to review the recommendations of an Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Acting Chair to develop a recommendation as to how to go about procuring an Executive Director. The Organization Committee presented a proposed approach and tentative schedule for the procurement of services that included issuing a request for proposals and the formation of a selection committee. It was suggested that the selection committee would include the three newly elected officers of the ARC along with at least three other ARC members. It was suggested that all 3 counties should be represented. The following members volunteered to

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participate: Kurt Heise, Wayne County; Michele Bononi, Washtenaw County; Jennifer Lawson, Troy; Jim Anulewicz, Plymouth Township; Tom Wilson, Westland and Dan Swallow, Van Buren Township. The RFP has been drafted and will be finalized by the selection committee. The goal is to have the Executive Director hired and working by January 2007. The Executive Director could be an individual, a consultant, or non-profit. The selection committee will not necessarily serve as the interview committee. Melvindale made a motion to approve, Livonia seconded, and it passed unanimously.

4. Round VII Sub-grants.

a. **Notification of awards** - Kelly Cave, Wayne County, gave background on the sub-grant application and review process including an update on the status of the grant freeze. A list of the projects recommended for funding was provided. Although grant funds have been informally unfrozen earlier in the year and Wayne County has moved forward with grant notification, they have yet to receive official notice from EPA. They have proceeded with initiating IAA's, but cannot sign off until official notice is received from Region V.

b. **Resolution regarding eligibility for Round VII and future sub-grants** - Kelly Cave presented concerns raised during the evaluation of sub-grant applications regarding eligibility, specifically with regard to Oakland County, who at the time of application was a member of the Assembly but did not become a member of the Alliance. Ms Cave read a resolution recommended by the Executive Committee. Kurt Heise moved to formally adopt the Resolution as read, Wayne Domine supported, and it was adopted with a unanimous vote. In response to further concerns relating to grant eligibility and ARC membership standing, Washtenaw County recommended the Organization Committee further define eligibility for future grants. Ms. Bononi's referral follows:

Alliance of Rouge Communities members receiving grant funding via the ARC shall remain members of the ARC in good standing through the term of the grant implementation to close out.

Washtenaw County added that grant eligibility should also be dependent on members having paid their assessments.

5. **Ad Hoc Grants Committee.** At the request of Acting Chair, Wayne Domine an Ad hoc Committee developed an interim draft procedure for the pursuit and acceptance of grants. After discussing the rationale, a question regarding it's interim status and whether it should be considered a procedure or a policy was raised. A motion was made by Canton to approve the approach as a policy until amended, City of Wayne seconded, and a vote was taken which passed unanimously.

6. Treasurer's/Finance Committee Report.

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- a. **Audit Requirements under Watershed Alliance Act** - Mr. Giberson discussed the audit requirements under the Watershed Alliance Act. Wayne County reported the status of audits being performed as fiduciary. A consensus was reached that the audit being done by Wayne County should suffice and the Treasurer will monitor the status of the audits and notify the ARC if any concerns that audit regulatory requirements may not be met.
- b. **Status of Alliance Invoice Payments.** Only four members have not paid. Of these most are in process and one is under discussion.
- c. **2006 Budget/Expenditures Status Report** – The task and financial status report for 2006 was presented and discussed.
- d. **2006 Budget Amendment Requests** – Several budget amendments for 2006 were presented and discussed. Livonia moved to approve the budget amendments, Melvindale seconded, and the vote was approved unanimously. Mr. Bails added that federal grant match funding cannot be used to pursue additional federal funding.
- e. **Addendum to Fiduciary Services Agreement for 2006.** As fiduciary for the ARC, Wayne County recommended the ARC establish a work plan authorization protocol that includes ARC sign off on work plans to be executed by consultants. A draft addendum to the fiduciary agreement was proposed. A question regarding whether such an addendum would need to be formally approved by both the ARC and the Wayne County Commission was raised. Wayne County confirmed that both parties should approve it for it to become effective. Discussion also included who should be authorized to approve. Westland moved to approve the addendum, and that the ARC send a letter to Wayne County designating signing authority to the three ARC officers. Ypsilanti seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
- f. **2007 Preliminary Budget Recommendation.** The Treasurer presented a preliminary 2007 budget proposed by the standing committees in response to a request from Acting Chair, Wayne Domine. Mr. Domine felt that a preliminary budget should be presented to the Full ARC at this August meeting to allow opportunity for comment and revision before the December meeting when a 2007 budget will be proposed for approval. Northville Township recommended including budget for updating Sub-Watershed Management Plans (SWMPs) suggesting that the ARC might follow the template approach similar to SWPPI templates prepared earlier this year. There was concern with the possibility of a dues increase, and a consensus was reached that budgeting for this item should not result in an increase in dues. A recommendation was made for the new officers should meet with SWAG facilitators to assess costs for updating SWMPs. Other ARC members suggested additional budget to support responding to MDEQ comments regarding SWPPI permit updates. The Full ARC was reminded that the budget did not need to be

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approved at this meeting, but should be provided to the new officers to give direction to the Finance Committee.

7. Standing Committee Reports.

- a. **Request for increased member participation in standing committees -**
The Acting Chair requested more member participation in standing committees. The roles and responsibilities of the ARC committees were outlined. A list of the current committee members was provided including a sign up form.
- b. **Organization Committee.** (Co-Chairs Kurt Heise, WCDOE /Dave Payne, Bloomfield Twp.)
 - i. **Cooperating Partners Policy** – A draft policy was presented regarding cooperating partners. Washtenaw County suggested some possible inconsistency in the wording relating to eligible partners and partnership on grant applications.
 - ii. **Open Meetings/FOI Acts implementation policy** –It was noted that as a legal governmental entity, the ARC must now comply with the OMA/FOIA. A policy was presented.

The Executive Committee reviewed both policies and recommended their adoption, Birmingham seconded, and they were adopted unanimously.

- c. **PIE Committee.** PIE Chair, Jennifer Lawson, announced that orders for public education materials were ready for pickup, noting that an order form is available for communities to place orders for publications. Ms Lawson provided a brief report on the status of projects, and upcoming meetings.
- d. **Technical Committee.** Technical Committee Vice Chair, Gary Zorza, reported that work is proceeding on the IDEP alternative analysis and made a request for additional IDEP information from the ARC members. The current Five Year Plan will be completed in 2007, and next year will be important time for assessing future programs. Data sharing opportunities are of interest. Kelly Cave reported on a recent meeting with the MDEQ to explain IDEP investigations and corrections noting that MDEQ is looking very carefully at IDEP. Dearborn reported that they were notified that they were selected to produce a report to EPA on the SWPPI process. Other cities across Michigan were also selected.

8. **Appoint new ARC RRAC delegate.** Meghan Bonfiglio requested the appointment of new RRAC delegate to replace her. Brandy Bakita is currently Vice Chair of RRAC. Jim Zoumbaris of Livonia volunteered.
9. **Resolution of Appreciation to Wayne Domine.** Tom Biasell read a resolution of appreciation for Wayne Domine and moved that it be approved by the ARC. It was supported by Birmingham, and unanimously approved.
10. **Rouge Green Corridor Presentation.** Nina Misuraca Ignaczak described progress and distributed information about the Rouge Green Corridor. Rouge Green Corridor website can be accessed at:
http://www.oakgov.com/peds/program_service/es_prgm/rip_green/rgc_main.html

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11. Opportunity for Public Comment.

Phil Sanzica (OCDC) informed the ARC that OCDC is fully committed to the ARC and that the Drain Commissioner has a full staff committed to stormwater management. His goal is to resolve the technicality regarding OCDC membership decision in the ARC. Mr. Domine confirmed that the OCDC has been very supportive of the interests of ARC despite non-membership.

Bill Craig (RRAC) attended RAP Summit Conference on July 11. He shared the Rouge Watershed story with other watersheds that drain to Lake Erie. Mr. Hiese gave a PowerPoint presentation about the ARC. He presented the subwatershed posters, which were well received. Mr. Craig commented that RRAC has been working closely with the MDEQ on the Rouge Area of Concern and that the Rouge River watershed could be delisted in the near future. Mr. Craig offered to share discussions about our continued challenges with MDEQ to facilitate progress.

Kelly Cave commented that Wayne County is working with 26 downriver communities in three separate watersheds to create another Watershed Alliance. They have used the ARC By-Laws as a starting point and 8 of 26 have approved it. Ms. Cave is optimistic that we will soon become the second Watershed Alliance in Michigan. At a WEF Collection System Conference where Judge Fiekens was a keynote speaker, there was a surprise report from the Judge that the Rouge River watershed has made the progress that it has without his forcing it. The date for Rouge 2006 is October 6, 2006. The agenda will highlight the ARC and officers will be invited to speak.

Kurt Giberson made a presentation on regional cooperation of the ARC at a WEF conference.

A Cyahoga representative is looking to go to Ohio legislature to propose a Watershed Alliance Act similar to that passed into law in Michigan.

Tracy Slintec commented that Bay City and Grand Rapids are having similar SWPPI challenges and that an Executive Director might help to connect with them to collaborate.

12. Summary of Actions of Full Alliance

- Resolution of Tribute to Robert Beckley approved.
- 2007 Officers elected.
- Approach for procurement of Executive Director approved.
- Resolution regarding eligibility for Round VII and future sub-grants was approved.

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- A suggestion was referred to the Organization Committee to consider stricter alignment of membership status, including dues payment, with eligibility for grant applications in the future.
- The policy for the pursuit and acceptance of grants was approved.
- Audit requirements under Watershed Alliance Act will be monitored by the Treasurer.
- An addendum to the Fiduciary Agreement with Wayne County was approved including a charge to prepare a letter designating the ARC officers as having signing authority on work plans to be executed by consultants.
- The Cooperating Partners and Open Meetings/FOI Acts Implementation policies were approved.
- A Resolution of Appreciation to Wayne Domine was approved.

13. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Executive Committee	Livonia DPW offices	November 15, 2006	1:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend 2007 budget• Recommend 2007 ARC staff services plan
Full Alliance	Troy	December 6, 2006	1:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve 2007 budget• Approve 2007 ARC staff services plan

14. Adjourn

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Attachment "A"

Alliance of Rouge Communities
Guest Sign In Sheet

Name	Agency	Phone	E-mail
NINA IGNACZAK	OCPEDS	248 858 2490	misuracan@oakgrove.com
Jill Rickard	Norville Twp	248 662 0497	jr.rickard@norville.twp.mi.us
Vay Sibby	Ypsi Twp	734-368-3173	jsibby@twp.ypsilanti.mi.us
Mark Kubay	Melvindale	313-429-1059	cityadmin@melvindale.org
AARON STAMP	Novi	248 347-5270	astamp@ci.novi.mi.us
Tracy Sliutak	City of Farmington Hills	248-871-2860	tsliutak@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us
C. McCaughey	FOTR	313-792-9627	cd@therouge.org
Anne Thomas	Tetra Tech / MDOT	517-377-0066	anne.thomas@tttaps.com
Kevin L. Buford	Westland	734-469-3242	Kbuford@ci.westland.mi.us
Michelle J. Bononi	WASHTENAW COUNTY	734-222-6833	bononim@cwash.waenaw.org
Deb Kuehn	Superior Twp	734 462-6099	planning@superior-twp.org
BUB BELAIR	CANTON	394-5150	
Demetria Janus	Startec	214-1885	DJanus@startec.com
Elizabeth Thacker	OITM	734-522-6711	thacker@ohra-cng.com
Ramzi El Ghorib	City of Wayne	734-728-9100	rghorib@ci.wayne.mi.us
Gary Mackjian	Southfield	248 796-4801	gmackjian@cityofsouthfield.com
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BILL CRAIG	R.R.A.C	248-476-5127	ENVIROWHC@SBCGLOBAL.NET
Jen Lawson			
NEALE SANZICA	TROY	248 524 3885	
PHILIP SANZICA	OCOL	248-858-1031	sanzicap@oakgrove.com
MIKE BUTTON	City of Wayne	734-728-9100	mibutton@ci.wayne.mi.us