

John O'Meara, P.E.
Executive Director



DRAFT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

May 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. – Livonia DPW Office

1. **Welcome** – Doug Moore, Chair

2. **Roll Call of Members**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves by stating their name and the community they represent. A quorum was present.

ARC Executive Committee			
Officers			Attended Meeting
Chair	Doug Moore	Livonia	☒
Vice-Chair	Charles Markus	Birmingham	☒
Treasurer	Rebecca Runkel	Novi	☒
Past Chair	Brandy Siedlaczek	Southfield	☒
Counties			Counties
Oakland Co. – Rep.	Jim Nash	OCWRC	☐
Oakland Co. – Alt.	Jacy Garrison	OCWRC	☒
Washtenaw Co.- Rep.	Gretchen Driskell	WCWRC	☐
Washtenaw Co.- Alt.	Heather Rice	WCWRC	☐
Wayne Co. - Rep.	Patrick Cullen	WCDPS	☒
Wayne Co. - Alt.	Vacant	WCDPS	-
SWAGs			SWAGs
Main 1 & 2 - Rep.	Brandy Siedlaczek	Southfield	☒
Main 1 & 2 - Alt.	Vacant		-
Main 3 & 4 - Rep.	Tom Rowland	Redford Twp.	☒
Main 3 & 4 - Alt.	Vacant		-
Upper - Rep.	Tyler Sonoga	Farmington Hills	☒
Upper - Alt.	Trisha Gabriel	Livonia	☒
Middle 1 - Rep.	Bob Belair	Northville Twp.	☒
Middle 1 - Alt.	Rebecca Runkel	Novi	☒
Middle 3 - Rep.	Nicholas Bayley	Westland	☒
Middle 3 - Alt.	vacant		-
Lower 1 - Rep.	John Selmi	Canton Twp.	☒
Lower 1 - Alt.	Patrick Fellrath	Plymouth Twp.	☐
Lower 2 - Rep.	Dave Schmidt	Wayne	☒
Lower 2 - Alt.	Jerome Bivins	Inkster	☐
Lower 2 - Alt.	Don Straub	Romulus	☒

Others Present:

Chris O'Meara, Tennille Newsome, Emily Levine, Noel Mullett, Alice Bailey, Amy Funck - ECT Staff

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

A 501(c)(3) Organization – www.allianceofrougecommunities.com

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3. Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda

None

4. Summary of November 20, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting

The motion was made by Charles Markus, Birmingham to accept the November 20, 2025, meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Dave Schmidt, Wayne and passed unanimously.

5. Executive Director Report (ARC Staff)

a. Grant Report

Noel Mullett reviewed the grant report that was included in the handouts to Committee Members. Some highlights were:

- Noel highlighted the kick-off of the Merriman Hollow and Inkster Park Habitat restoration projects
- Perrin Park is in the design phase; Wayne County Parks is interested in designing in some amenity features. Patton restoration is also in the design phase. The design of both should be completed by the end of the year.

b. MS4 update

Noel Mullett reported the following:

- Executive Director and biannual progress reports have been completed, and everyone should have submitted their final biennial report. MS4 reporting is going from biennial to annual progress reports next year.
- ARC has been supporting SEMCOG, MWEA, and EGLE in putting an MS4 statewide stakeholder group together. The first meeting of the core team met in April in Lansing, and will generally meet quarterly.

c. ARC Identified Staffing Update

Noel Mullett reported the following:

- John and Chris O'Meara are retiring. This will be their final round of meetings as full time employees. As detailed in the April 15, 2026, letter to ARC Officers, effective June 1, 2026, the following will be the named staff:

Executive Director: Noel Mullett

ARC Financial Coordinator: Tennille Newsome

ARC Administrative Coordinator: Tennille Newsome

MS4 Public Information Coordinator: Maria Kuenzer

MS4 Technical Coordinator: Emily Levine

Other Technical Services Coordinator: Alice Bailey

Amy Funck, Project Coordinator has recently joined the ECT Team and will be helping support the ARC with administration and public education.

6. Standing Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee (R. Runkel, Treasurer/C. O'Meara)

1. A/P, A/R Report & Profit/Loss Report

Rebecca Runkel stated the A/R, A/P and profit/loss reports are attached to the agenda handouts.

2. 2026 ARC Dues

All dues have been sent out.

3. 2025 Single Audit

The single audit is in process.

4. Ratify E-mail Votes

Rebecca Runkel reviewed the following email votes:

- i. 2/13/26-9 yea and 0 nay: Approval of bid award for EPA18 Rouge River AOC Merriman Park Implementation to DMC as the contractor
- ii. 2/13/26-9 yea and 0 nay: Budget adjustment to EPA18 Rouge River AOC Merriman Park Implementation adding \$23,580 to ECT Work Order 2025 HABITAT ECT2
- iii. 2/13/26- 9 yea and 0 nay: Budget adjustment to EPA10- Rouge River AOC Wilcox/Phoenix Implementation adding \$30,055 to ECT Work Order 2022-2 and \$43,500 to Entact Change Order No. 3
- iv. 2/26/26-10 yea and 0 nay: Approval of bid award for EPA15-Rouge River AOC Inkster Park Wetland Implementation to Anglin Civil as the Contractor in the amount of \$2,846,525
- v. 3/27/26-11 yea and 0 nay: Budget amendment adding \$53,250 for FC1 EPA16 Rouge River AOC Perrin Park Design to the 2026 budget and corresponding ECT Work Order 2024-HABITAT ECT1 rev1
- vi. 3/27/26-11 yea and 0 nay: Budget amendment adding FC2 WCP1 Vegetation Maintenance \$375,724 to the 2026 budget

The motion to ratify the five email votes was made by Patrick Cullen, Wayne County. The motion was seconded by John Selmi, Canton, and passed unanimously.

5. Budget Adjustments / Amendments

- i. FC4-SPAC13 Budget Amendment \$115,000: Chris O'Meara stated that it is adding the budget line item as paperwork was received from EGLE for the PAC support grant. The motion to recommend to the full ARC was made by Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield and seconded by Charles Markus, Birmingham. The motion passed unanimously.
- ii. FC5-EPA14 Inkster Design Budget Amendment - \$70,325: Noel Mullett explained that EPA is requiring additional cultural section 106 SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) work that needs to be performed and the EPA is providing the additional money to perform the additional work. The intent is to complete that within the time period of the grant. The motion was made by Jerome Bivins, Inkster, and seconded by Charles Markus, Birmingham. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Contract Revisions/Amendments

- i. ECT Work Order 2026-ECT 2 - WCP1 Vegetation Maintenance \$52,339: Wayne County Parks has issued a P.O. to the ARC to support the maintenance of GLRI projects. ECT will perform site monitoring and coordinate with Plantwise to implement the effort. The county is using the interagency agreement used for the GLRI projects.
- ii. Plantwise, LLC Agreement - WCP1 Vegetation Maintenance \$323,385: Wayne County Parks has issued a P.O. to the ARC to support the maintenance of GLRI projects. ECT is working with Plantwise to implement that effort. The county determined that they wanted the Plantwise contract to be separate agreement similar to other GLRI implementation/construction projects, so the Plantwise effort is a separate PO. It was originally proposed as single agreement through ECT. No change in total dollar amount.

The motion was made by Tyler Sonoga, Farmington Hills, to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the WCP1 Vegetation Maintenance amendments. The motion was seconded by Nicholas Bayley, Westland, and passed unanimously.

- iii. SPAC13 FOTR Work Order 2026 \$64,000 – Noel Mullett reported that these correspond with the budget amendments for the PAC support grant, for monitoring and public education efforts

- iv. SPAC13 ECT Work Order 2026-ECT4 \$51,000- to facilitate the logistics of the RRAC and support public engagement.

The motion was made by Jacy Garrison, Oakland County to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the Friends of the Rouge Work Order 2026-2 and ECT Work Order 2026-ECT4. The motion was seconded by Charles Markus, Birmingham and passed unanimously.

- v. EPA14 Inkster Design Revision 2 - ECT Work Order 2024-HABITAT ECT1 - \$70,325 Noel Mullett reported that this is the adjustment for the additional SHPO work that is required and grant funded.

The motion was made by Jerome Bivins, Inkster, and seconded by Dave Schmidt, Wayne. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Organization Committee (Gabriel /C. O'Meara)

Chris O'Meara reported the following:

Annual Budget Preparation & Budget Amendment and Adjustments Procedure: As Chris and John O'Meara have prepared to retire, they have developed a full procedure to be followed. The motion was made by Jerome Bivins, Inkster. The motion was seconded by Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield and passed unanimously.

c. PIE (Public Involvement and Education) Committee (Garrison /C. O'Meara)

Jacy Garrison reported there is an upcoming septic system workshop, any efforts to promote within communities are appreciated as interest has been low. Plans are being made for a detention pond workshop next year. There is a pending survey that currently has 400 responses and may be extended to try to get more responses. The goal is at least 1000 responses. A mailing of the Watershed Wisdom pamphlet will be made to realtors in the fall. Education materials can be ordered through the website. The ARC now has an Instagram account.

d. Technical Committee

Tyler Sonoga reported the following:

- 40 of 1,061 outfalls were above the limit for *E.coli*; all were resampled. Two humans sources have been identified. 11 sites remain suspicious for human sewage. The remaining 27 are likely to be animal sources.
- EGLE reported their 2025 in stream sampling showed high *E.coli* in Southfield so that area has been area of focus for outfall screening this spring.
- As mentioned by Noel Mullett, the MS4 focus group was held in Lansing and productive dialogue with EGLE occurred.
- An MS4 permit introduction training was provided last week. A recording is available that can be shared. There is a survey for those that participated.
- Any stormwater GIS updates should be shared with the ARC.

Noel Mullett reported that currently the ARC works with Oakland University for outfall samplings; sometimes they are not available. A master services agreement was reached with Wayne State last year but they could not be as flexible or price competitive as Oakland University (OU) is so they have not been utilized. The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences reached out about working with them. They are another option, they are not as flexible as Oakland but more flexible and price competitive than Wayne State. It may make sense to have them as an option. Every sample is analyzed for human biomarkers regardless of how high *E.coli* level is but is more cost competitive when the biomarker is needed. Would make the most sense if utilized when

most samples are likely to need the human biomarker analyzed. The agreement would be between ECT and the University of Wisconsin. With the billing the same as OU services.

Emily Levine reported that there was an in-person outfall screening training provided in Romulus. The ARC is still collaborating with GLWA, Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland County on advancing IDEP and TMDL alternative approaches for microbial source tracking through GLWA's Watershed Hub Work Group. Their annual report, summarizing the 2025 work, has been released and there will be a webinar on June 11 at 1pm summarizing the work.

e. Nomination Committee

Doug Moore, Rebecca Runkel and Charles Markus all agreed to run as Officers for the 2027-2028 term. However if anybody else has interest, please let Tennille know.

7. Report from Counties

Oakland County

Jacy Garrison reported the following:

- A regional stormwater seminar is being offered on October 16.
- MS4 permit was public noticed and public comment period has passed.

Wayne County

Patrick Cullen reported the following:

- Johnson Intercounty drainage district has been working for the last 5 years on a stream restoration project and have been negotiating for over two years with EGLE on permit conditions. EGLE is imposing lots of conditions on a voluntary stream restoration project. There are extensive post construction monitoring requirements. ECT is the design engineer. There is money in place from the EPA, but with the additional requirements from EGLE, more money will have to be requested.
- EGLE sent the County an email regarding the County's MS4 re-application requesting a meeting.
- The ARC survey is being put on Wayne County social media.
- Canton Township, Van Buren Township, City of Belleville, Romulus, and Wayne County were successful in achieving a permanent injunction from receiving Manhattan Project waste. This is ultimately a win for water quality in Wayne County.

8. Other Business

Chris O'Meara reported the following:

- New permits must be posted to websites, and posted/linked on the ARC website as well.

9. Summary of Executive Committee Actions

- The November 20, 2025, meeting summary was approved.
- The E-mail votes from 2/13/26, 2/26/26 and 3/27/26 were ratified
- Approved recommending the following Budget Amendments:
 - FCA-SPAC13 RRAC PAC Support \$115,000
 - FC5-EPA14 Inkster Design Budget Amendment - \$70,325
- Approved the following Contract Revisions:
 - WCP1 Vegetation Maintenance – ECT Work Order 2026-ECT2 \$52,339
 - WCP1 Vegetation Maintenance – Plantwise, LLC Agreement for \$323,385
 - SPAC13 FOTR Work Order 2026-2 - \$64,000
 - SPAC13 ECT Work Order 2026-ECT4 - \$51,000
 - EPA14 Inkster Design Revision 2 - ECT Work Order 2024-HABITAT ECT1 - \$70,325

10. Upcoming Meeting(s)

Full ARC Meeting – June 1, 2026; Plymouth Cultural Center

11. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Charles Markus, Birmingham, and seconded by Jerome Bivins, Inkster, and passed unanimously.