



Annette DeMaria, P.E., PMP
Executive Director

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

DRAFT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

July 25, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. – Livonia DPW Office

- Welcome** – Doug Moore, Chair
- Roll Call of Members**
ECT took roll call of members and others in attendance. A quorum was present.

ARC Executive Committee			
Officers			Attended Meeting
Chair	Doug Moore	Livonia	Y
Vice-Chair	Charles Markus	Bloomfield Twp.	N
Treasurer	Rebecca Runkel	Novi	Y
Past Chair & Interim Treasurer	Brandy Siedlaczek	Southfield	Y
Counties			
Oakland Co. – Rep.	Jim Nash	OCWRC	N
Oakland Co. – Alt.	Jacy Garrison	OCWRC	Y
Washtenaw Co.- Rep.	Evan Pratt	WCWRC	N
Washtenaw Co.- Alt.	Heather Rice	WCWRC	Y
Wayne Co. - Rep.	Patrick Cullen	WCDPS	Y
Wayne Co. - Alt.	Vacant	WCDPS	-
SWAGs			
Main 1 & 2 - Rep.	Brandy Siedlaczek	Southfield	Y
Main 1 & 2 - Alt.	Vacant		-
Main 3 & 4 - Rep.	Tom Rowland	Redford Township	Y
Main 3 & 4 - Alt.	Vacant		-
Upper - Rep.	Karen Mondora	Farmington Hills	Y
Upper - Alt.	Trisha Gabriel	Livonia	Y
Middle 1 - Rep.	Bob Belair	Northville Township	Y
Middle 1 - Alt.	Rebecca Runkel	Novi	Y
Middle 3 - Rep.	Ramzi El-Gharib	Westland	N
Middle 3 - Alt.	Vacant		-
Lower 1 - Rep.	John Selmi	Canton Township	N
Lower 1 - Alt.	Vacant		-
Lower 2 - Rep.	Mike Buiten	Wayne	Y
Lower 2 - Alt.	Jerome Bivins	Inkster	N

Others Present:

Annette DeMaria, Emily Levine, Tennille Newsome, John O'Meara, Noel Mullett - ECT Staff

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

46036 Michigan Ave., Suite 126, Canton, MI 48188 – Ph: 734-272-0291 Email: info@allianceofrougecommunities.com

3. Friends of the Rouge Coordination

Doug Moore reported that Friends of the Rouge was not in attendance.

4. Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda

None.

5. Summary of March 31, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

The motion was made by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, to accept the March 31, 2023 meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Mike Buiten, Wayne and passed unanimously.

6. Executive Director Report (ARC Staff)

a. Executive Director Staff

Annette DeMaria informed the group that she is in the process of retiring and is currently on-call. John O'Meara stated he will assume the role of Executive Director unless there are objections from the group. There were none. John also informed the group that Noel Mullett has joined ECT.

Annette asked if there were any questions, there were none. Doug congratulated Annette and John O.

b. MS4 Permit

Annette DeMaria informed the group that a lot of communities have been audited. There are issues with dye testing and that there isn't much documentation proving the dye testing of municipal facilities was completed. EGLE is continuing to ask for the records and the ARC is unable to produce them to their satisfaction. Annette stated Emily Levine with ECT is developing a spreadsheet of facilities based on what is their stormwater management plan and what facilities have records for on dye testing. This spreadsheet will be sent out by Emily to the communities to fill in any data gaps. Annette stated if the community is being audited then that community would be moved to the top of the list for assistance. Unfortunately, that means EGLE will require dye testing of facilities unless there is proof. Annette had heard that plumbing plans may suffice instead of backup, Noel confirmed. Karen Mondora stated Farmington Hills was audited a month ago and the locations that were visited that had as-builts or plumbing plans were accepted. Karen stated that EGLE would also accept CCTV records.

Tom Rowland asked about the proof of dye testing that would be acceptable to EGLE if they didn't have a set of plumbing plans. Annette responded that EGLE does not have guidance on what documentation is needed for dye testing, since it is not a standard permit requirement. However, it is a requirement in the ARC's Collaborative IDEP Plan. Therefore, we will use that document as our guidance. The ARC will provide the permittees with a table showing the necessary information. The ARC will provide this table to the permittees. Annette also added that the work can be done internally.

Side note: EGLE has an opportunity to provide comments on the dye testing procedure as they review the updated Collaborative IDEP Plan, but it is not acceptable for them to request more documentation once the IDEP plan is approved.

Emily stated there was a lot of focus on cart washing at golf courses. EGLE may ask that a community pursue a groundwater permit if they are washing or rinsing on vegetated areas. Annette stated that they are minimum flow requirements for a groundwater permit. As such, golf courses may be exempt from obtaining a permit.

Karen Mondora also mentioned Farmington Hills received comments from EGLE regarding animal sources of E. coli. EGLE wants them to respond on how they will handle sources of E.coli from animals that are not domestic. Emily stated that it is not an illicit discharge and if there is a concentrated animal issue that there are some strategies to address that. However, animal E. coli from nonpoint sources is not a MS4 issue.

Annette stated that in terms of reviewing the permit applications that were submitted in April 2023, EGLE has 18 months to review them per Christe Alwin.

c. Investigational Sampling Update

Annette reported sampling has begun in a portion of Evergreen-Farmington area that the Evergreen Farmington Sanitary Disposal System-EFSDS is paying for. WTUA's board has approved the scope of work, pending approval all sewer districts. Wayne County (on behalf of RVSDS) would like to be included but the bigger challenge is procurement. . Erb was interested in funding this work in disadvantage areas; therefore, the ARC submitted a grant application to fund the work. We hope to hear by September.

d. PCB Settlement Checks

Annette DeMaria reported PCB settlement checks was brought up at the Finance Committee meeting. Annette stated all non-townships received settlement checks in the amount of \$17,047.47 with the counties receiving \$27,024.47 totaling \$545,734.10 for ARC members. The language in the settlement agreement indicates the money is to be spent for identifying/investigating sources of PCBs. Annette stated since some communities have a limited way of being able to do that, her thought was if the communities wanted to pool the funds to the ARC, they would be able to incorporate PCB sampling in the IDEP work and could fund it for several years. An email was sent a couple months ago regarding pooling funds and we only received response from 9 members (7 yes and 2 no). If communities decided to pool funds, the communities and counties with multiple watersheds could be prorated. Annette sees the settlement checks as an opportunity to fund IDEP work for the next few years.

Karen Mondora stated the guidance she received from their City attorney was that since they were a part of the general settlement and that the restriction to use monies towards PCB sampling wouldn't apply and that the funds could be used for any type of mitigation or sampling and that the funds could be used at the city's sole discretion. Annette agrees with this.

For communities/counties who needed to know if they received a settlement check, the checks were mailed out in the middle of April and would have come from Huntington National Bank and in the memo line indicated "PCB Settlement".

John O'Meara suggested another round of discussion of pooling funds be sent out. Karen Mondora suggested all communities contact their community's legal counsel/city

administration to discuss and she is not opposed to pooling funds. Tom Rowland thought that since the settlement funds were water related that funds should be used for water.

e. Grant Report

John O'Meara reported the following:

- 5 projects wrapping up construction
- 2 projects ready for construction
- 4 projects in design habitat process
- EPA sent additional funds for 2 new projects
- Bob B./Brandy S./Chris O./John O. met with EPA in June for an audit and the EPA was satisfied with how the ARC operates. The EPA sent a letter to the ARC indicating everything was good
- USDA Forest Service – Reducing Runoff Grant was extended. Alice B. and Tennille are working with communities to complete plantings and GI work

Grant Applications

Annette DeMaria reported on the following grants applications:

- **USDA Forest Service Urban & Community IRA** – The ARC submitted an application titled Tree Canopy Investment in Underserved Communities in Southeast Michigan (grant amount is \$3,425,330). Award Pending. Recognizing the disproportionality of impacts from climate change on disadvantaged communities, the ARC will work with 13 disadvantaged ARC communities, Wayne County and Michigan Green Schools to develop strategies that support the realization of an equitable urban tree canopy at three levels: local government, academia, and residential. Specifically, this project will achieve the following objectives:
 - o Distribute trees to municipalities, Wayne County, residents, and schools (more than 11,000)
 - o Create educational content for distribution to partners
 - o Organize public engagement events to plant trees
 - o Demonstrate a framework for building an urban forestry program
- **EGLE Watershed Council Support Grant** – The ARC submitted an application for Southeast Michigan MS4 Training Program with support from SEMCOG (grant amount is \$40,000). Award pending this summer. No update has been received yet.
- **Erb Family Foundation** – The ARC submitted an application titled Employing Training and Investigational Sampling To Improve Water Quality In The Rouge River Watershed (grant amount is \$375,000). The ARC was invited to submit a Full Proposal for their September Board meeting. This project would identify where sanitary sewage is entering the Rouge River and provide training to municipal staff on how to comply with their stormwater permit. Award pending this fall. Work would begin in November.

John O'Meara reporting on the following grant applications:

- **USDA Forest Service – Reducing Runoff in the Rouge River AOC** grant and it was not awarded to the ARC. This grant was focused on disadvantaged communities. Annette stated the ARC took the feedback received in March and incorporated it into the larger grant.

- **EPA Environmental Justice Underserved Communities** – ARC working with WC Parks, City of Inkster, and FOTR submitted 3 grant packages (approximately \$17 million) for community connectivity/park amenities layer associated with the Colonial/Inkster Park Habitat Restoration and Venoy Park Habitat Restoration projects. The ARC has been following up with EPA on one of the packages, the one for Inkster Park. ARC anticipates hearing on the Inkster Park by end of July 2023. If awarded work anticipated to start in early Fall.

f. Great Lakes Restoration Celebration 9/22/23

John O'Meara reported that the summit is being planned for September 22, 2023 at The Henry Ford in the morning. Save the dates have gone out and invites will go out next week. This is the 4th summit that the ARC has sponsored that will showcase the restoration projects in Southeast Michigan. Attendees will be local, state and federal elected officials. Local watershed groups will be celebrated along with the work they are doing with GLRI funding. There is no cost to the ARC for the event. The Henry Ford, SEMCOG and ECT are providing in-kind services. The ERB is also sponsoring the event for expenses, as well. There will be multiple speakers. There will also be a fish restocking at the Oxbow with The Henry Ford Academy.

John O'Meara stated if anyone had any questions to get a hold of Chris O'Meara.

7. Standing Committee Reports

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

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

Rebecca Runkel reviewed the A/R, A/P and profit/loss reports.

2022 Single Audit (Related Party Questionnaire)

Rebecca Runkel reported that the audit is expected to be completed in the next few months and ARC staff continue to work with the accountants as needed.

2023 ARC Dues

Rebecca Runkel reported that the second round of dues went out in May. Reminders have been sent to those that haven't paid their dues from the first round that was sent in February.

Ratify E-mail Votes

Rebecca Runkel reported on the following email votes to ratify: There was no discussion.

- 4/17/23: 9 yea 0 nay – Budget Amendment adding \$50,000 to the ARC's 2023 budget to conduct Investigational Sampling in the Evergreen Farmington Sanitary Sewer District 4.
- 4/26/23: 9 yea 0 nay - Adding Work Order 2023-3 for \$50,000 to ECT's contract to complete the work under the previously approved 2023 budget amendment for the Investigational Sampling in the Evergreen Farmington Sanitary Sewer District.
- 6/7/23: 8 yea 0 nay – Budget Amendment adding EPA GL-00E03452 EPA12 Merriman Hollow Restoration Design in the amount of \$215,000 and EPA13 Wallaceville West Restoration Design in the amount of \$150,000 along with the associated for ECT Work Order 2023-4.

- 6/28/23: 9 year – Budget Adjustment associated with ECT Work Order 2019-4 for EPA4 Tamarack/Fish Hatchery and Work Order 2019-3 for EPA5. Both adjustments will be 100% paid for by the EPA Grant funds using some of the unallocated EPA grant dollars with no change to the overall grant budgets.

The motion was made by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills to ratify the email votes. The motion was seconded by Patrick Cullen, Wayne County, and passed unanimously.

2023 Budget Amendments

John O'Meara reviewed the two budget amendments. The first one is for EPA-7 adding \$894,273 for Wayne County Parkland grant on additional work.

The motion was made by Bob Belair, Northville Twp to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the 2023 Budget Amendment to EPA7 Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation-Wayne County Parkland adding an additional \$894,273 to the project budget as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Jacy Garrison, Oakland County, and passed unanimously.

John O'Meara reviewed the second Work Order to add \$17,500 adding PIE3 media support for on call work to assist the ARC in publicizing work. A description is in this meetings packet handout.

The motion was made by Trisha Gabriel, Livonia, to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the 2023 Budget Amendment adding PIE2 Media support in the amount of \$17,500 to the budget as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, and passed unanimously.

Contract Revisions/Amendments

Revision to ECT Work Order 2020-5 EPA7

John O'Meara reviewed the Work Order for 2020-5 EPA7 Wayne County Parkland which will increase ECT's overall contract amount and is 100% grant funded.

The motion was made by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the revision to the ECT Work Order 2020-5, adding \$100,000 for the work associated with amendment FC4 adding funds to EPA7 Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation-Wayne County Parkland, as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Trisha Gabriel, Livonia, and passed unanimously.

Adding ECT Work Order 2023-5 Media Support

John O'Meara reviewed the Work Order for 2023-5 ARC Media Support will be through ECT as a sub for Chris O'Meara's coordination.

The motion was made by Patrick Cullen, Wayne County, to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the ECT Work Order 2023-5, adding \$17,500 for the work associated with Amendment FC5 adding PIE3 Media Support, as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Bob Belair, Northville Twp, and passed unanimously.

EPA7 Riverview Contract Award to Anglin Civil

John O'Meara reported the Riverview Restoration project was put out to bid on June 19th and a total of 3 bids were received. The Engineer reviewed the bids and found them responsive and acceptable. There were a few discrepancies in some calculations but nothing that changed the low bid. For this project Anglin Civil was the low bidder. The base bid was for habitat work for a total of \$1,727,415. There is a second part of the project for Wayne County Park amenities. The ARC and Wayne County have an IAA that allows the ARC to do the habitat work and if Wayne County chooses to add additional amenities work at that time on their property that they are allowed to do so as long as Wayne County pays the ARC for that work. The amenities portion was \$962,659.50 for a total contract recommended to Anglin Civil is \$2,690,074.50. Anglin Civil is in process with five current projects with the ARC and Wayne County and ECT as the engineer is satisfied.

Annette DeMaria asked if all the funds would go through one contract. John O. stated it goes through one contract and there is two separate accounts. Anglin will turn in Pay Apps as related to Habitat and Amenities separately. The ARC pays the Pay Apps to the contractor. The grant pays the habitat portion and the ARC invoices Wayne County for their portion and Wayne County will pay the ARC.

The motion was made by Bob Belair, Northville Twp, to approve the contract award to Anglin Civil, LLC in the amount of \$2,690,074.50 for the construction at Riverview Park which is part of the GLRI funded Rouge River AOC Habitat Implementation-Wayne County Parkland project. The motion was seconded by Jacy Garrison, Oakland County, and passed unanimously.

2024 ARC Budget Process

- **5-Year Work Plan**

Rebecca Runkel reported ARC staff are beginning the budget process for the next 5-year work plan beginning in 2024 to coincide with the new 5-year permit.

Annette DeMaria reported that Noel Mullett, Emily Levine and Chris Bobryk are currently working on the 5 year plan which will be based off of the collaborative plans that were drafted and submitted on April 1st.

Annette is ready to develop the scope and budget based on what was submitted and if EGLE has edits, she can revise. The goal is to have it final by the end of September and should be available for the other Committees. This will also include the Executive Director Services as well.

- **Habitat & Executive Director Procurement Services**

Discussion of procurement of Habitat and Executive Director Services was held.

c. Organization Committee (T. Gabriel/C. O'Meara)

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

d. PIE Committee (J. Garrison)

Jacy Garrison reported the following PIE activities that are planned in 2023:

- ARC Staff will be developing the PIE budget for 2024 and 5-year plan for the new permit. These should be ready for review by the PIE Committee within the next month.

- New article, ad graphic and banner are planned for the fall.
- All Ours to Protect road signs have been installed! Map of new locations being created as part of Collaborative PEP requirement.
- ARC brochures have been restocked.

d. Technical Committee

Karen Mondora reported there are ongoing investigations:

- Beverly Hills is coordinating with a homeowner to get access to the basement to dye test the sump pump
- Novi NO-20 resampled an outfall twice. The first time was with elevated E.coli with human DNA and the second time there was nothing. Resampling is planned.
- Livonia L16-19 was resampled last week and identified a drain that showed up on older maps that they thought was removed. Investigation is ongoing.
- Livonia has an inlet to a storm drain that has been identified as a source of surfactants and are working with the city to determine when it is coming from
- Inkster is following up on a suspicious tap on Helen Street from last December. It was sampled twice with both times with low E.coli. They will resample one more time to rule out as a potential illicit connection.
- Dearborn Heights had two locations. One is a CSO that the city is in the process of addressing and the second needs additional mapping so they can continue the investigation.
- Plymouth: the Holbrook location no illicit connections have been identified after televising despite complaints, no further investigations required.

8. Report from Counties

Oakland County

Jacy Garrison, Oakland County reported the following:

- Marketing department is in the process of updating the Pollution Prevention Hotline brochure and will distribute when available. Annette asked if the phone number will change, Jacy indicated that it will stay the same.
- The Stormwater Summit at Lawrence Tech will be Friday, October 20th; registration will be open in August and will send out save the dates
- The Rouge River Water Festival at Cranbrook will be half days in the morning only on September 19-22. Jacy asked if anyone would like to present to please let her know.

Washtenaw County

Heather Rice reported they held their native plant expo in June with the Conservation District. Pre Orders had 14,000 plants and over 2,200 people showed up at the event. Heather reported they are excited to have the expo again next year. In July, they will have their cleanup days. www.washtenaw.org/cleanup.

Jacy included that Washtenaw County put together a GIS application for SE Michigan for everyone to add locations of rain barrels, etc. The official rollout is in September.

John O'Meara included as Washtenaw County's GLRI Grant for the Johnson County Intercounty Drain is moving forward to be bid this fall with construction next year. Annette asked if any PFAS was detected, John O. stated no. Bob Belair asked if John had results, John indicated yes and will forward on.

Wayne County

Patrick Cullen mentioned that the County is currently spending a lot of money on construction activity for improvements to the Rouge Valley Sewage Disposal System.

9. Other Business

Annette DeMaria reported that SEMCOG will hold two sets of IDEP training classes in October, as well as Pollution Prevention class. SEMCOG will look to Washtenaw and Macomb Counties for locations for trainings to be held.

10. Summary of Executive Committee Actions

- The March 21, 2023, meeting summary was approved.
- The motion was approved to ratify the Executive Committee email votes of 4/17/23, 4/26/23, 6/7/223, 6/28/23
- The motion was approved to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the 2023 Budget Amendment to EPA7 Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation – Wayne County Parkland adding an additional \$894,273 to the project budget as presented by the Finance Committee.
- The motion was approved to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the 2023 Budget Amendment adding PIE3 Media support in the amount of \$17,500 to the budget as presented by the Finance Committee.
- The motion was approved to recommend to the Full ARC the approval of the revision to the ECT Work Order 2020-5, adding \$100,000 for the work associated with amendment FC4 adding funds to EPA7 Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation – Wayne County Parkland, as presented by the Finance Committee.
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- The motion was approved to approve the contract award to Anglin Civil, LLC in the amount of \$2,690,074.50 for the construction at Riverview Park which is part of the GLRI funded Rouge River AOC Habitat Implementation – Wayne County Parkland project.

11. Upcoming Meeting(s)

None scheduled at this time.

12. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills, and seconded by Mike Buiten, Wayne, and passed unanimously.