

Annette DeMaria, P.E., PMP  
Executive Director



## DRAFT FULL ARC MEETING SUMMARY ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

November 16, 2022, 1:30pm – 3:00pm  
Microsoft Teams

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

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

**a. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum** - Roll call was taken. The 30 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	Y
Bingham Farms	N	Oak Park	Y
Birmingham	Y	Orchard Lake	Y
Bloomfield Hills	N	Plymouth	N
Bloomfield Twp.	Y	Plymouth Twp.	Y
Canton Twp.	N	Redford Twp.	Y
Commerce Twp.	Y	Rochester Hills	Y
Dearborn Heights	N	Romulus	N
Farmington	Y	Schoolcraft College	Y
Farmington Hills	Y	Southfield	Y
Franklin	Y	Troy	Y
Garden City	N	University of Michigan-Dearborn	N
Henry Ford College	N	Van Buren Twp.	N
Inkster	Y	Walled Lake	Y
Lathrup Village	Y	Washtenaw County	Y
Livonia	Y	Wayne	N
Melvindale	N	Wayne County	N
Northville	Y	Wayne County Airport Authority	Y
Northville Twp.	Y	West Bloomfield Twp.	Y
Novi	Y	Westland	Y
		Wixom	Y

*Others in attendance were:* Erin Cassady - Friends of the Rouge (FOTR), Jack Cotrone, Lishba Varughese, Kathleen Sexton- EGLE, Hassan Sheikh - City of Dearborn, Chris O'Meara, Tennille Newsome, John O'Meara, Emily Levine and Annette DeMaria – ECT, John Buszkiewicz, DNR, Stephanie Petriello, OCWRDC, Erma Leaphart

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

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

**c. Approval of August 11, 2022 Meeting Summary**

The motion was made by Auburn Hills, to approve the August 11, 2022 Full ARC meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Rochester Hills and passed unanimously.

**2. Executive Director Report**

**a. MS4 Update**

Annette DeMaria reported that after the last technical committee meeting, a permit application template provided by EGLE was sent to members and EGLE mentioned there should only be

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

slight modifications to it. The permit applications are due on April 1, 2023 and time is included in the 2023 budget for ARC staff to provide support to communities.

Shawn Keenan asked if it was an abbreviated permit. Annette stated yes and that the reapplication process should be straightforward for most communities. However, certain sections for most communities will need to be updated.

**b. GLWA Investigational Sampling Update**

Annette DeMaria provided an update on the ARC/GLWA planning effort. The work has been completed and a draft sampling plan and draft budget was completed to sample across the Rouge and the Clinton River Watershed to look for sources of wastewater getting into the rivers. Annette reported after internal discussions with GLWA, that GLWA gave an option of providing the service on a contractual basis to the sanitary sewer districts or to the counties (Macomb, Oakland, Wayne). The counties were more supportive of doing the work on a county or sewer district level than through GLWA so the work can be customized per county with potential lower costs. Oakland and Macomb counties have already budgeted for the work. Annette met with Wayne County and they are supportive of the program for the area that serves the Rouge Valley Sanitary Sewer District - although it needs the approval of the District. Annette mentioned she has started discussions with the communities in western Wayne County who drain to the Western Townships Utility Authority (WTUA) system about their interest in funding. Annette is in the process of drafting a scope of work for Rouge Valley and Evergreen Farmington Sanitary Sewer Districts . to perform this work through the ARC. Hopefully, WTUA will be interested as well. Annette hopes to get IAA's signed and begin work in 2023.

Annette asked if there were any questions. Patrick with Plymouth Township asked if the sampling plan was a requirement as part of the IDEP. Annette stated it was not a requirement, but would prioritize what areas to do investigations in. This approach would be in addition to the collaborative IDEP plan.

**c. Grant Status Report**

John O'Meara reported there is a grant update document in this meetings packet. John report summarized as follows:

- The ARC has approximately 16 grants and 13 are with EPA. Grant funds with the projects total over \$15,000,000.
- The ARC turned in the grant for the USDA Forest Service – Reducing Runoff in the Rouge River AOC – this is for additional trees and green infrastructure for Rouge communities. Award should be announced next year. Annette reported all trees that communities requested were not included in the grant and that within the grant there was an emphasis on underserved communities. Therefore, if there were communities participating in the grant that are underserved, they were given all trees requested. Annette also stated 5 green infrastructure projects were included.
- EPA reached out to the ARC to gauge interest in applying for a grant under EPA's environmental justice initiative. The ARC is working with WC Parks, City of Inkster, and FOTR on a grant package for community connectivity/park amenities layer associated with the Colonial/Inkster Park Habitat Restoration and Venoy Park Habitat Restoration projects. This will be turned in the first of the year 2023.

**d. Call for Projects**

Annette reminded the members of the form that is available on the ARC's website. Tennille shared her screen and clicked the call for projects link and navigated to the form. Annette stated the form will guide members on the information needed with instructions for any environmental project that members are interested in getting grant funding for.

Annette discussed an opportunity for communities who are interested in performing stream restorations. The State has recently begun enforcing stream mitigation rules resulting in developers needing to find mitigation sites for stream restoration. Mitigation sites require a conservation easement so eliminates

County drains as potential mitigation sites (because the counties won't want to operate under an easement). The State is referring the developers to the ARC for mitigation sites.

Annette reported a good example is that Schoolcraft College reached out to the ARC four months ago and were looking to improve the stream within their campus. ARC staff came up with conceptual ideas. Approximately a few months after that, the ARC was approached by a developer who needed a stream mitigation project in the Rouge. The ARC then matched the developer with Schoolcraft and the project is now in design. Annette stated it is a great opportunity for communities in the Rouge.

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

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

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

#### **b. 2022 Member Dues**

Rebecca Runkel reviewed the 2022 Member Dues that are outstanding.

#### **c. 2021 Single Audit**

Rebecca Runkel reported the 2021 Single Audit has been completed there were no instances of non-compliance.

The motion was made by Auburn Hills, to approve the 2021 Single Audit as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Northville Twp and passed unanimously.

#### **d. Ratify E-mail Vote**

Rebecca Runkel reported on the following email votes to ratify:

- 9/8/22: 22 yay 0 nay- Revisions to ARC policies and the ARC Accounting Procedures Manual to meet EPA and Office of Management & Budget compliance and become pre-award certified (PAC) until 9/12/26
- 9/26/22: 26 yay 0 nay- 2022 Budget Amendment adding \$5,008,595 in grant funds for EPA10 Wilcox/Phoenix Implementation along with the ECT not-to-exceed Work Order in the amount of \$795,850 and \$810,000 in grant funds for EPA11 LTU Wetland Implementation along with the ECT not-to-exceed Work Order in the amount of \$147,810.

The motion was made by Auburn Hills, to approve the ratification email votes of 9/8/22 and 9/26/22. The motion was seconded by Northville Twp and passed unanimously.

#### **e. 2023 Budget Recommendations**

Annette DeMaria reviewed the 2023 budget recommendations and spreadsheet showing the request of \$418,944 for 2023. The recommendations are consistent with the 5-year plan and includes TC4 – Permit Reapplication Support.

Annette asked if there were any questions, there were none.

The motion was made by Dearborn Heights, to approve the 2023 Budget Recommendations as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Auburn Hills, and passed unanimously.

#### **f. 2023 ECT and FOTR Work Orders**

Annette DeMaria reviewed the two Work Orders for ECT and FOTR. ECT's work order is in the amount of \$157,683 which covers TC4 and IDEP investigations. The Friends of the Rouge work order is for \$12,000 and includes a monitoring event, 1 volunteer work day and 1 rain barrel sale.

The motion was made by Rochester Hills to approve the 2023 ECT and FOTR Work Orders as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Inkster and passed unanimously.

#### 4. Standing Committee Reports

##### a. Organization Committee

Chris O'Meara reported that Noel Mullett will be stepping down as Chair of the Organization Committee. Chris thanked Noel Mullett, Wayne County, for his service to the ARC as the Chair of the Organization Committee. Trisha Gabriel with Livonia volunteered to serve as Chair moving forward.

Chris also reported that the ARC Policies and Procedures were updated as part of the ARC's renewal of the EPA's Pre-Award Certification which expires on 9/12/26.

##### b. PIE Committee

Jacy Garrison reported the following:

- Rouge Friendly Business practices brochure is being drafted and should be out to PIE Committee for review within the next few weeks.
- Once brochure is set an ad graphic, newsletter article and traveling banner will be developed. Chris reported the vision of the new brochure will be geared towards Best Management Practices for businesses (inside, outside and under your building).
- Reminder to send Chris an email once your Rouge watershed road signs have been installed.
- Collaborative PEP and PPP are being drafted for the 2023 permit reapplication with activities starting in 2024. Planned activities were approved by the PIE Committee at the meeting on October 3.
- Remember that ARC brochures and giveaways are always available to order from the ARC website or email Tennille Newsome at tnewsome@ectinc.com.

##### c. Technical Committee

Karen Mondora reported the following:

- IDEP training was held on October 19 and November 9 at The HAWK Center in Farmington Hills. There will be two modules hosted by SEMCOG. Karen thanked those who participated and sent representatives from their organizations.
- TMDL sampling data collection has been completed; report is in progress.
- An illicit connection in Livonia had been identified and corrected. Additional sampling shows there is still an issue with surfactants. There will be additional work to see if there are additional illicit connections or dumping occurring.
- L1619 in Livonia - there is an investigation ongoing along with planned televising. Much of the storm drain isn't mapped.
- Beverly Hills - there is a location that no source has been identified. There will be excavation to locate a buried manhole and do additional investigating in the area.
- Holbrook Street in Plymouth - investigating a possible connection - the City is helping to televise the nearby sanitary sewer.
- Updates to the Collaborative IDEP Plan for permit reapplication is in process.
- Spreadsheet documenting dye testing status for all community buildings is in the works.

#### 5. Report from Cooperating Partners

##### Friends of the Rouge

Erin Cassidy for Marie McCormick reported the following:

- Annual Elections for Board Candidates are currently going on.
- Kicked off the Yearend Appeal, \$62,000 was cleared last year.
- FOTR Brand and audit revision (logo, website and color palette) will include some changes. The new website will be live in Fall 2023.
- FOTR will go through their second round of strategic planning in Fall 2023 and their last strategic planning was adopted in 2013. The existing strategic plan is available on their website under Organizational Documents.
- Rouge River Revived panel (Rouge River Revived book) discussion to be held via Zoom on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-8:30pm and is organized by the U of M Dearborn Environmental Center.
- The Rouge store is open and available for Spring plant and rain barrel sale preorders.

- FOTR received a grant from Sustain our Great Lakes for \$338,000 for tree planting; \$65,000 grant from Community Foundation in Southeast Michigan for cross programmatic outreach and education.
- Wrapping up their last EGLE NPS 319 grant for \$48,000 to support closing out the park rain gardens.
- FOTR is working on 2 collaborative grants with the ARC. 1) EPA AOC Environmental Justice project in Inkster Park and Venoy-Dorsey; 2) USFS Grant for Green Infrastructure coordination
- Staff: 10 full time; 5 part time; 6 independent contractors; Hiring 4 additional team members
- Erin thanked the ARC Executive Committee members for attending the FOTR office presentation and tour.

## 6. Report from Counties

### Oakland County

Jacy Garrison reported the County's Stormwater Summit was held on October 21 at LTU with 160 attendees. Jacy stated the event was recorded and will be available on LTU's YouTube channel and if anyone is interested, she will send the link to Chris O'Meara. A second annual virtual Master Rain Gardener course in February/March of 2023 is being planned in partnership with Washtenaw County and area watershed councils, WCRC and OCWRC. Jacy will send out the information to Chris O'Meara for members to promote. Jacy mentioned that the 18<sup>th</sup> annual kids clean water calendar contest had over 700 entries with 42 schools. The calendars will be available in December with 5,500 printed. Jacy asked if you would like some calendars to distribute to let her know.

### Washtenaw County

Heather Rice reported there will be a panel discussion tomorrow, November 17<sup>th</sup> 3:30-4:30pm for Community Conversations Flooding in Southeastern Michigan. The information is on the Washtenaw County Water Resources Facebook page, registration is required.

Heather also reported they are partnering with Oakland County for their online Master Rain Gardener program for 2023. The Master Rain Gardener handbook has been updated and is available online with links provided for rain barrels, etc. Information can be found at: [www.therouge.org/mrg](http://www.therouge.org/mrg)

## 7. Report from EGLE

Kathleen Sexton reported the Clean Watershed Needs Survey is a nationwide survey from EPA and are asking communities to submit their capital improvement plans to help determine allocation of funds to help improve water infrastructure. The survey closes February 2023. The link to the survey is: [Clean Watershed Needs Survey \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/cleanwatershed)

Annette DeMaria asked what the duration of the next permit will be. Kathleen stated they are typically on a 5-year permit cycle.

Jack with EGLE reported they are waiting for proposals for their 319 implementation grant. There were no proposals received within the Rouge watershed but would like to see them for next year regarding nonpoint source. Jack also wanted to remind members to be on the lookout for the watershed council grants. The RFP will be expected to be out early next year.

## 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 motion was approved for the August 11, 2022 Full ARC meeting summary
- The motion was approved for the 2021 Single Audit as presented by the Finance Committee
- The motion was approved for the ratification of email votes from 9/8/22 and 9/26/22

- The motion was approved for the 2023 Budget recommendations as presented by the Finance Committee
- The motion was approved for the 2023 ECT and FOTR Work Orders as presented by the Finance Committee

#### **11. Adjourn**

The motion was made by Auburn Hills, to adjourn the Full ARC meeting. The motion was seconded by Dearborn Heights and passed unanimously.