

Annette DeMaria, P.E., PMP
Executive Director



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

November 18, 2021, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome (Doug Moore, Chair)

a. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum - Roll call was taken. The 27 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	N	Oakland County Road Commission	Y
Bingham Farms	Y	Oak Park	N
Birmingham	N	Orchard Lake	Y
Bloomfield Hills	N	Plymouth	Y
Bloomfield Twp.	Y	Plymouth Twp.	Y
Canton Twp.	Y	Redford Twp.	Y
Commerce Twp.	Y	Rochester Hills	Y
Dearborn Heights	N	Romulus	Y
Farmington	Y	Schoolcraft College	N
Farmington Hills	Y	Southfield	Y
Franklin	N	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	N	Washtenaw County	Y
Livonia	Y	Wayne	Y
Melvindale	N	Wayne County	N
Northville	Y	Wayne County Airport Authority	N
Northville Twp.	Y	West Bloomfield Twp.	Y
Novi	Y	Westland	N
		Wixom	Y

b. Additions or Changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

c. Approval of April 27, 2021 Meeting Summary

The motion was made by Auburn Hills, to approve the April 27, 2021 Full ARC meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Rochester Hills and passed unanimously.

2. Rouge River Archive at Wayne State University

Clayton Hayes shared his screen and presented on the Rouge River Archives (RRA), A Civil and Environmental Engineering Special Collection in the WSU Libraries. This presentation included the History of the RRA, how to find RRA materials online. He reported you can search for "Rouge River Archive" in the library catalog (elibrary.wayne.edu), as well as request the item and advised how to do that by clicking on "Request from Special Collections". In order to view the documents, you must request them.

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

Clayton mentioned the location of the RRA documents are in Room 133 on the first floor of the Purdy/Kresge Library at WSU.

Clayton can be reached at clayton.hayes@wayne.edu

Annette DeMaria asked if an effort was going to be made to scan the materials in to be digitized. Clayton stated they are already behind and would like to digitize them in the future and it will also depend on availability of staff. Annette asked Clayton if the ARC provided digitized documents, would WSU be willing to accept them and make them available. Clayton stated he would like to do that but would need to check with staff. Once they are in a better position with staff, he will get back with the ARC.

3. Executive Director Report

a. MS4 Update

Annette DeMaria reported an email was sent out to the ARC members with a table which provided the status (by community) of the adoption of the county's post construction stormwater management standards (a meeting was held a month ago with good participation) with an indication of whether the communities permit was final. Annette stated on the table that was provided by the state, she added the EGLE's coordinator contact information associated with each community. Annette stated Dearborn Heights and Wixom were the only communities that have not had their permits reissued. Annette also reported final due dates for adopting the county standards are 2-3 months after the draft was due. If your community does not receive any comments on your draft ordinance and the final due date is approaching, it is recommended (by EGLE) to resubmit the draft in MiWaters stating that it is under EGLE review.

Annette also reported that the ARC requested a 12 month delay in completing monitoring required for the TMDL Plan. EGLE denied the request, so monitoring will take place in 2022. She also stated progress reports associated with the collaborative plans (IDEP and PEP) are due April 1, 2022. ARC staff will be reaching out in January to the members to collect the metrics. In addition, most communities have their individual progress reports due on April 1, 2022. Annette reminded communities to check the progress report due date in your permit, if you are uncertain.

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

b. Grant Status Report

John O'Meara reported at the next Full ARC meeting he will give a detailed summary of one of the ARC's restoration projects and asked for suggestions on which one ARC members would like to learn more about. John also reported the following.

EPA Wayne County Rouge AOC Habitat Projects

- **Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage**
 - Contractor is conducting vegetation maintenance. Lowering of the water control will not take place for up to another year depending on vegetation establishment.
 - Working on social media to get message out about public assistance in helping the site get established by not entering the project area. To facilitate the successful completion of this natural area restoration, the footpaths within the adjacent woods will be closed during this establishment phase.

EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Design- Tamarack/Fish Hatchery (\$583,220)

- EPA has accepted all final reporting and issued grant closure notification

EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation - Tamarack/Fish Hatchery (\$3,367,559)

- **Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Restoration**
 - Contractor working vegetation maintenance for 2021, another year of vegetation maintenance has been added for 2022.
- **Tamarack Creek Restoration**
 - Construction began May 2021 & substantial completion anticipated November 2021
 - Contractor will be performing vegetation maintenance in 2022

EPA Rouge River AOC Seeley Creek Habitat Restoration (\$815,000)

- EGLE Permit Obtained
- Coordination with Oakland County for Contract Document Approval and easement development
- Anticipated bidding project late fall 2021
- Requested no-cost grant extension from EPA to extend grant from October 2021 until September 2023

EGLE Rouge River AOC PAC Support (\$95,000)

- Development an electronic project mapping has begun for AOC and other watershed projects
- RRAC meetings held May 3, 2021 and September 10, 2021

Wayne County EPA Rouge River AOC Wayne County Parks (5) Habitat Restoration Design (\$731,000)

- Lower Rouge Restoration design completed
- Sherwood Park habitat restoration design completed & EGLE permit obtained
- Bell Creek Park habitat restoration design completed and construction documents prepared & EGLE permit application submitted
- Lola Valley Park habitat restoration design completed and construction documents prepared & EGLE permit application submitted
- Riverview (Levan Knoll) habitat restoration completed & EGLE permit application submitted

EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat - Colonial & Venoy Restoration (\$1,834,000)

- EGLE Permits obtained
- Anticipated bidding Winter 2021

EPA Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation- Wayne County Parkland (\$4,222,090)

Restoration at the 5 Wayne County parkland sites (Lower Rouge River, Riverview, Bell Creek, Lola, and Sherwood)

- Lower Rouge Reforestation solicitation complete, contractor selected
- Lower Rouge Log Jams solicitation complete
- IAA with Wayne County for construction on Wayne County Parks lands for these and any future project (project specific) at Wayne County Commission has been approved.
- Sherwood construction to be bid Winter 2021
- Bell and Lola construction anticipated 2022 & Riverview construction anticipated 2023

GLRI USDA Forest Service – Reducing Runoff in the Rouge River AOC (\$261,780)

Project will intercept a total of 1.3 million gallons annual runoff by planting of 895 trees and installation of 2.9 acres of green infrastructure, in 17 ARC communities and 3 counties.

- Communities beginning to acquire trees for planting
- Green Infrastructure design and implementation underway

Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration – LTU Wetland Habitat Design (\$125,000)

GLRI grant to design a wetland system on Lawrence Technological University's campus. The design is being developed in collaboration with LTU.

- QAPP submitted to EPA and Approved
- Design underway

Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration – Wilcox/ Inkster/Phoenix Habitat Design (\$785,100)

EPA has awarded a GLRI grant to the ARC to provide restoration designs for habitat at Wilcox Lake, Phoenix Lake and Inkster Park. These activities when implemented will result in restoration/enhancements to 16.5 acres of habitat, which includes lake, wetland/wet meadow, and riparian areas.

- QAPP has been submitted to EPA
- Field work will begin this winter

Regional Investigational Monitoring Work Plan for Southeast Michigan (\$40,000) -

The GLWA was awarded funding in Summer 2021 and GLWA has asked ARC to complete the development of a work plan framework to conduct investigational monitoring in the GLWA wastewater service area to identify stream segments that are being impacted by sewage sources. Approval for the agreement will be send out to the Executive Committee after the meeting.

John O'Meara also reported that in the last couple of years, the ARC received almost \$7 million in grant projects.

4. 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. Rebecca reported that Chris O'Meara has been in contact with all members that have overdue invoices and payment is expected before the end of the year.

b. 2020 ARC Single Audit

Rebecca Runkel reported the 2020 Single Audit was completed with no instance of noncompliance found, a link was provided. Rebecca asked if there were any questions, there were none.

The motion was made by the City of Inkster to accept the 2020 ARC Single Audit as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by the City of Auburn Hills and passed unanimously.

c. 2020 Census

Rebecca Runkel reported that the by laws require 5 months for members to review changes to the ARC dues. The 2020 census population data will be incorporated into the dues calculations and will be provided to members in early 2022. Any adjustment to the dues will be finalized at the first Full ARC meeting after the 5 month review and the dues will go into effect in 2023.

d. Ratify E-mail Votes

Rebecca Runkel reported the below email votes were ratified:

- I. 5/19/21 with 23 yea and 0 nay: 2021 Budget Amendment FC3 adding EPA8 for the LTU Wetland Habitat Design grant in the amount of \$125,000 and ECT contract amendment adding Work Order 2021-3 in the same amount.
- II. 7/28/21 with 22 yea and 0 nay: 2021 Budget Amendment FC4 adding EPA9 Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration – Wilcox/Phoenix/Inkster Habitat Design in the amount of \$785,100 and ECT contract amendment adding Work Order 2021-4 in the same amount.

- III. 9/21/21 with 24 yea and 0 nay: 2021 Budget Amendment FC6 adding GLWA1 for the GLWA Regional Investigational Monitoring Work Plan for Southeast Michigan in the amount of \$40,000 and ECT contract amendment adding Work Order 2021-5 in the same amount.

The motion was made by the City of Farmington to ratify the email votes of 5/19/21, 7/28/21 and 9/21/21. The motion was seconded by Bloomfield Township and passed unanimously.

e. 2021 Budget Amendment & Adjustments

FC5-TC1 & TC2 amendment adding \$10,000

Annette DeMaria reported this request is to conduct and summarize additional IDEP investigations in the priority areas. It includes funding for human biomarker analysis for areas being investigated by Wayne County. This will bring the total from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Rebecca asked if there was any questions, there were none.

The motion was made by the City of Wayne to approve the 2021 Budget Amendment FC5 increasing the budget for TC1-TC2 by \$10,000 to conduct additional illicit discharge investigations support the implementation of the Collaborative IDEP Plan as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by the City of Auburn Hills and passed unanimously.

f. 2021 ECT Contract Amendment

Work Order 2021-1 revision for TC1 & TC2

Annette DeMaria reported this Work Order modification is associated with FC5 as stated above adding \$10,000 to ECT's budget for additional IDEP investigations in 2021.

Doug asked if there was any discussion, there were none.

The motion was made by the City of Wayne to approve the ECT Contract amendment to Work Order 2021-1 which is associated with the FC5 Budget Amendment to TC1-TC2 and adds \$10,000 to ECT's contract. The motion was seconded by the City of Bloomfield Hills and passed unanimously.

g. 2022 Budget Recommendations

Annette DeMaria reported on the draft budget for 2022. The total amount being requested is \$396,565 for the 2022 budget for ARC activities. Annette also reported there is an additional \$30,000 in match provided by Wayne County for IDEP investigations for a total budget of \$426,565 for Executive Director services.

Annette reported the following breakdown of amounts proposed in 2022 as follows:

- Executive Director Services: a budget of \$132,045 for operational services is being requested
- Accounting and Legal Services/ARC Insurance: a budget of \$23,000 is being requested
- PIE Committee: a budget of \$98,560 is being requested
- Technical Committee: a budget of \$142,960 is being requested in dues associated with implementing the collaborative IDEP and TMDL plan in 2022.

Doug Moore asked if there was any discussion, there were none.

The motion was made by the City of Rochester Hills to approve the 2022 Budget Recommendations as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Bloomfield Township and passed unanimously.

h. 2022 ECT Contract Amendment

Work Order 2019-ECT1 revision dated 10/28/21 for 2022 TC3-TMDL activities

Annette DeMaria requested approval of ECT's revised Work Order 2019-ECT1 adding an additional \$37,045 to complete the sampling for TC3 budget request. Annette stated that when ECT signed the work order, the Collaborative TMDL Plan was not finalized and EGLE required more monitoring than was included in ECT's budget. The additional monitoring includes dissolved oxygen monitoring at one site and *E. coli* sampling at 100 locations. Rebecca Runkel asked if there were any questions, there were none.

Annette DeMaria stated there was an error in the motion. The amount being added to the contract should be \$37,045 not \$66,000 as shown in the packet

The amended motion was made by the City of Troy to approve the ECT Contract amendment to Work Order 2019-ECT1 with the 2022 Budget Recommendation for TC3-TMDL and adds \$37,045 to ECT's contract. The motion was seconded by City of Wayne and passed unanimously.

5. Standing Committee Reports

a. Organization Committee

Nothing to report.

b. PIE Committee

Jacy Garrison reported the following for the PIE Committee:

- Pet waste containers and kneeling pads have been restocked and if you need any of these items for distribution contact Tennille Newsome.
- On 11/17/21, a septic systems webinar was held with 17 attendees. Once available, the recording will be posted to the ARC website.
- The Rouge Watershed ARC banners are currently reserved through the rest of the year.
- The One Water campaign video was finalized and produced with SEMCOG. Jacy requested members to promote the video.
- A new giveaway will be available in December/January with the theme of "You Live in a Watershed"

c. Technical Committee

Karen Mondora reported the following:

- Wayne County's IDEP investigations are ongoing.
- IDEP investigations conducted by Executive Director staff are complete. Written reports are being prepared.
- 3 trainings were organized by SEMCOG and held in October. With SEMCOG's support ARC and WC staff were able to update the IDEP presentations and modify them for a virtual audience. Participant numbers:
 - 270 for IDEP Module 1: Alert Observer
 - 200 for IDEP Module 2: Investigator
 - 160 for Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

6. Report from Cooperating Partners

Friends of the Rouge

Marie McCormick reported the following:

- Friends of the Rouge are now back in the office Monday through Thursday 10am-4pm
- Organizational elections are now open for members
- FOTR is working collaboratively with Huron River, Clinton River, Detroit River and the River Raisin on Southeast Michigan Watershed Report Cards which are developing environmental, social and economic metrics to help guide with decision making around watershed issues, etc. Marie thanked Annette for attending those meetings.

- FOTR is making progress with their GSI collaborative and have retained West Michigan Environmental Action Council to help FOTR, Clinton and Huron develop a social enterprise which will create sustainable funding for the watershed organizations in Southeast Michigan and will be available within the next year.
- FOTR has been working with the Ecology Center for healthy fish communities to find location within the watershed to test fish tissue for PFAS and PFOA. FOTR is working to updated "Eat Safe Fish" guidelines for Southeast Michigan residents in the Rouge and Huron Rivers.
- Monitoring Updates
 - Fall Bug Hunt was completed and the calculated scores and data will be available soon.
 - continuing to work with the Isaac Walton League for salt watch that is being integrated with some biological monitoring.
 - Frog surveys in the lakes region of Oakland County and will be done in 2022.
 - Possibility of monitoring Asian jumping worms in the Rouge Watershed
- Trails
 - FOTR is working on built environment for their 29-mile water trail in collaboration with Wayne County and other ARC communities.
 - FOTR is in the process with design development for launches and construction in Dearborn, River Rouge, Melvindale, etc.
 - FOTR is pursuing funding to support Inkster for a kayak launch in Inkster Park in collaboration with Wayne County

Karen Mondora stated she was copied on an email on Rouge Rescue and hoped Marie could elaborate on it, and the decision was made without soliciting feedback from the participating communities. Also, she didn't realize FOTR had a trademark on Rouge Rescue – the letter indicated that communities should not use the Rouge Rescue words or logo if they still wanted to have a clean-up/stewardship event. Marie apologized for not mentioning that the letter.

Marie mentioned Rouge Rescue had not been able to solicit funding or support to have FOTR coordinate volunteers and materials, so the event has been revised to focus on FOTR work, rather than community events. The cost to run Rouge Rescue is about \$30,000 a year. Coordination of the effort has costed the organization a lot of money. Marie also mentioned some of the Rouge Rescue sites are not FOTR events, but rather community partner events and have lost the connection to FOTR. The FOTR wants to continue to support the community and their members. The decision was made to discontinue supporting equipment, supplies and materials due to financial restrictions. Marie mentioned they tried finding funding and have not been able to. Marie stated they could always bring it back as long as they could find a way for support.

Karen is disappointed that FOTR is missing an opportunity to continue the messaging regarding living in a watershed, watershed stewardship, etc. with this watershed-wide event. Marie stated they would still continue to support community events and that Rouge Rescue will look more like a campaign this year, rather than a one-day event. It will, last 4-6 weeks and focus on events that FOTR hosts.

Karen stated she would like to add this topic to a future ARC agenda to see how they can keep the momentum from past Rouge River cleanup activities and still do something on that day as a group. Doug Moore stated Livonia would like to be involved as well.

Annette asked Marie to send her a copy of the letter that went out and assured Karen that the ARC will follow up.

Great Lakes Water Authority

Dan Gold reported they are working on creating an investigational sampling work plan funded by an EGLE grant. Partners include the ARC, Macomb County, Oakland County and Wayne

County. Annette prepares completing the technical work. They will work on a work plan with various communities.

Dan also reported GLWA is applying for several FEMA grants. They are looking into funding for a regional flooding study. Dan also reported they have their GLWA/One Water partnership meeting on November 30 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm and encouraged everyone to attend

Annette reminded the ARC that the Regional Investigational Monitoring Work Plan is state funded and GLWA contracted the ARC to do the work. Annette encouraged members to ask questions on the work plan.

7. Report from Counties

Oakland County

Jacy Garrison reported the following:

- Oakland County held their 8th Annual Stormwater Summit virtually in October. The event was recorded which will be posted on the Stormwater Summit website by the end of November. Jacy will send the Stormwater Summit website link to Chris O'Meara to send out to the members.
- Oakland County's 17th Annual Kids Clean Water Calendar Contest was successful with 600 entries and great art. The calendar will be available for free in mid-December. If you would like copies, please reach out to Jacy or their website. Jacy mentioned if you have a contact at your library, it would be a great way to get the calendars out.
- Oakland County Parks has a new grant program this fiscal year on community park improvements and trailway grants. There will be an informational webinar on December 7 at 2:00 pm. The grant applications are due mid-January of 2022. Jacy will forward the information to Chris O'Meara to forward to the group.

8. Report from EGLE

Kathleen Sexton and Lishba were on the call. Kathleen reported she is the compliance manager for most ARC communities and Lishba is the compliance manager for some communities. Kathleen stated the table that Annette mentioned earlier will have the correct EGLE contact to reference. Kathleen reported the following:

- EGLE MS4 staff continue to review ordinance submissions and comments are forthcoming. Kathleen mentioned as a reminder do not send the ordinance or regulatory mechanism to council for final reading or adoption if you haven't received comments from EGLE. If you are awaiting comments, Kathleen recommends checking out your spam folder or reach out to Kathleen by email or phone.
- Bi-annual progress reports are due April 1, 2022. You can check all your compliance due dates in MiWaters by going to Permits/Schedules.
- Reminder to all ARC communities have an annual report due for channel protection control performance standards. Communities who have adopted the alternative stormwater standards (Wayne or Oakland Counties) will need to submit an annual report for any development or redevelopment activities taken place in the previous year. If no development or redevelopment activities have taken place, you will still need to submit a report stating that.

Annette asked Kathleen what the date of the post construction report is. Kathleen stated April 1, 2022.

9. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

10. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

11. Summary of Actions of the Full ARC

- Approved the April 27, 2021 Full ARC meeting summary
- Approved the acceptance of the 2020 Single Audit as presented by the Finance Committee
- Approved ratification of email votes from 5/29/21, 7/28/21 and 9/21/21
- Approved the 2021 Budget Amendment FC5 increasing the budget for TC1-TC2 by \$10,000 to conduct additional illicit discharge investigations support the implementation of the Collaborative IDEP Plan as presented by the Finance Committee
- Approved the ECT Contract amendment to Work Order 2021-1 which is associated with the FC5 Budget Amendment to TC1-TC2 and adds \$10,000 to ECT's contract.
- Approved the 2022 Budget Recommendations as presented by the Finance Committee.
- Approved the ECT Contract amendment to Work Order 2019-ECT1 associated with the 2022 Budget Recommendation for TC3-TMDL and adds \$37,045 to ECT's contract.

12. Adjourn

The motion was made by the City of Auburn Hills, to adjourn the Full ARC meeting. The motion was seconded by Bloomfield Township and passed unanimously.