

Draft
Rouge River Advisory Committee (RRAC) Meeting Summary
4/29/2015

I. Introductions/Attendees:

Dan Ballnik, RRAC Chair
Jeff Braunscheidel, MDNR-Fisheries
Rebekkah Munchow, Farmington Hills
Rose Ellison, EPA Representative
Annette DeMaria, ARC staff
Heather Rice, Washtenaw County WRC

Bill Craig, SPAC Rep
Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge
Jennifer Tewksbury, MDEQ Coordinator
Cory Borton, Hubbell Roth and Clark, Inc.
Noel Mullett, Wayne County DPS
Jacy Garrison, Oakland County WRC

II. Old Business

- DeMaria gave a brief summary of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) and Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) Reorganization Investigation Committee (RIC) effort which is being funded through a grant to FOTR from the Erb Foundation.

- DeMaria also gave a brief status summary of the current Public Advisory Council Support Grant from the Great Lakes Commission indicating that grant contract expires at the end of June and the Habitat Committees efforts are on schedule and should meet the obligations of the contract.

- J. Tewksbury to follow up with MDEQ permit staff regarding providing RRAC with CSO outfall location GIS data layer.

III. Officers Election

N. Mullett announced the nominating committee's recommendations for the 2015-2017 RRAC Chair and Vice-Chair positions as Dan Ballnik, Chair and Rebekkah Munchow, Vice-Chair. The RRAC accepted the nominations and passed the motion electing the new officers effective immediately and serving until May 2017.

Dan Ballnik, RRAC Chair, re-appointed Bill Craig as SPAC representative.

Although not present at the meeting, Brandy Siedlaczek's service as Vice-Chair was praised and appreciated by Bill Craig and agreed to by the rest of the RRAC committee members present.

IV. Update from Habitat Committee

A. DeMaria distributed the summary table of Rouge River AOC Proposed Habitat Projects that have project descriptions written. The summary is broken out by branch and includes 20 projects (see meeting handouts attached) with an approximate cost of roughly \$20 million. She gave a summary of the recent RRAC Habitat Committee meeting held April 15, 2015 which included:

- The removal of eight projects that were being considered for inclusion on the list.
- Identification that ARC staff and MDEQ would be working with stakeholders to generate project descriptions and preliminary cost estimates for several of the long standing habitat projects (e.g. Fordson Island Dredging and Habitat Restoration, Concrete Channel

Modifications, Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage, Oxbow Restoration) for inclusion on the final list.

- Project descriptions and cost estimates for any outstanding projects are to be submitted to N.Mullett (nmullett@waynecounty.com) by May 29th for inclusion on the Rouge AOC Priority Habitat Projects (2015) List.
- The completed list with project descriptions will be provided to MDEQ for review in June prior to close out of the current public advisory council grant.
- Notes from the Habitat Committee will be distributed soon and available on the RRAC website.

V. EPA/MDEQ Update (Rose and Jen)

a. 2015 PAC Support Grant RFP: Federal funding for the AOC program is still being negotiated between EPA and the Great Lakes States. Upper EPA management wants to reduce the AOC program funding to the States. All the Great Lake States have sent a letter to EPA urging full funding of the AOC program but the budget available for this round of PAC support grants is not yet known and could be less than desired. Therefore, award decisions may not be able to be made until October 2015 and funding may only be adequate to support the PAC facilitation services. The May 8th deadline for submission of PAC support grants however, remains in tacked. MDEQ guidance to PACs is to apply as if the program will be fully funded but to segment Support Grant applications so that facilitation tasks and budget can be easily identified and awarded if funding does get reduced.

b. Future GLRI funding: There is still strong bi-partisan support for the GLRI and funding for MDEQ AOC staff is secure through FY2016 (September 30, 2016). President Obama again requested \$250 million which congress increased to \$300 million in the last budget. FY2017 and beyond is being debated with some congressional leaders considering re-naming the program to develop and/or ensure on-going support.

c. Non-Habitat BUI Status Update: see handout (attached).

d. NOAA Habitat Proposals Update: No word yet from NOAA. Rose has received and call and will be following up with NOAA shortly. June has typically been when potential awardees are contacted by NOAA staff.

e. Lower Rouge River Old Channel (LRROC) Sediment Clean-up Update: Project is in design phase. Goal is to have design complete by end of the calendar year; negotiate implementation agreement with project partners in spring 2016 with construction to start in the fall of 2016 and continue until fall 2018 (2 years). Current estimate is for approximately 90,000 cubic yards of sediment to be dredged out for proper disposal.

VI. SPAC Meeting Update

B. Craig gave a brief summary of the Fall 2014 SPAC meeting. The meeting focused on the status of the White Lake AOC delisting. Bill and others attended the March 2015 AOC Conference at the University of Toledo. At the conference there was interesting video of the microcystin contamination that occurred last summer to the City of Toledo's water intake. Bill

will be attending the May 3-4 SPAC meeting in Port Huron but will not be able to attend the June SPAC meeting and legislative briefing June 3-4.

VII. New Business

- 2015-16 SPAC Grant Application: A. DeMaria and N. Mullett will develop a new Public Advisory Council (PAC) grant application for ARC RRAC facilitation services by the May 8th deadline.
- Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's offices was approved as a member

VIII. Comments

a. Members:

- Friends of the Rouge and City of Detroit were awarded a MDEQ river clean up grant (\$2,600) to support river clean up in Rouge Park.
- New Michigan fish consumption advisory information has been developed and issued. Fish consumption advisory information can be found at:
https://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-54783_54784_54785_58671-255931--,00.html

b. General Public: no comments

IX. Review of Action Items

- J. Tewksbury to send A. DeMaria the CSO GIS outfall data layer.
- Project descriptions and cost estimates for any outstanding projects are to be submitted to N.Mullett (nmullett@waynecounty.com) by May 29th for inclusion on the Rouge AOC Priority Habitat Projects (2015) List.
- The completed list with project descriptions will be provided to MDEQ for review in June prior to close out of the current public advisory council grant.
- Notes from the Habitat Committee will be distributed soon and available on the RRAC website.
- A. DeMaria and N. Mullett will develop new PAC support grant application for submittal May 8th.
- J. Tewksbury to sent A. DeMaria the fish tumor report.
- R. Ellison to send the Middle Rouge impoundments report to J. Tewksbury.
- Meeting notes to include link to the latest Michigan fish consumption advisory information.