

Rouge River Remedial Action Plan Advisory Council



RRAC Meeting
1:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 26, 2012
Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills

Meeting Summary

Introductions: RRAC Chair Dan Ballnik opened the meeting and introductions were made

2011 PAC Support Grant Deliverables: Zachare Ball, ARC staff, discussed the Upper Rouge Delisting Strategy and Rouge Delisting Strategy, which were deliverables under the 2011 Public Advisory Grant received by the ARC. These products will be put up on the ARC website and transmitted to Patty Birkholz, Office of the Great Lakes and John Perricone, EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office. A draft transmittal letter was distributed to the committee for review with comments due to Z. Ball on July 6, 2012. Jen Tewkesbury, Rouge AOC Coordinator, said that Rick Hobrła, MDEQ will need to review the letter before it is sent to EPA.

2012/13 PAC Support Grant: A copy of the grant application was passed around for members review. It will be distributed to members via email. The tasks for the current grant are: RRAC Facilitation; Website Development; Lower Rouge Delisting Strategy and Rouge Watershed BUI Report Card . Deliverables include development of a Five- Year Vision for RRAC and revision of the bylaws, which will be distributed to the committee.

Status of Projects: Z. Ball and J. Tewkesbury gave updates on the following AOC-related grant projects:

- Wayne Road (NOAA) & Danvers Pond Dam (GLRI) Removals
- Transforming the Rouge (GLRI)
- HF Estate Fish Passage Planning Grant Application (NOAA)
- Lower Channel Great Lakes Legacy Act Projects (EPA)
- Concrete Channel Modifications Section 1135 Project (Army Corp)

J. Tewkesbury distributed the Lower Rouge Old Channel Site Source Evaluation Report as well as a graph showing MDEQ funding history. Amy Mangus, SEMCOG, reported that SEMCOG is a finalist for an EPA Technical Assistance Grant to determine storm water volumes for various types of green infrastructure.

Advice and/or Appreciation Items: Bill Craig, SPAC representative, said he would write a letter of appreciation to thank the Alliance of Rouge Communities for providing fiduciary services for the current PAC grant. Committee members discussed the Green & Grey Infrastructure Investment Campaign, but no action was taken. **Closer collaboration between AOC, MS4 Permit & NPS programs (Noel: I have nothing in my notes about this)**

Other Items:

Spring Public Advisory Council Workshop B. Craig reported that he and other RRAC members attended the PAC workshop in Roscommon in May.

Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Study: J. Tewkesbury reported that MDEQ has completed a statewide assessment of BUIS with the following results:

- Aesthetics BUI: A final report has been completed. In the Rouge AOC, this relates to the Legacy Act area;
- Beach Closings: No Michigan AOC met the 1st tier for removal, so MDEQ is reviewing the AOCs for second tier removal.
- Dredging: A final report has been completed.
- Fish and Wildlife Deformities: This does not apply to the Rouge AOC.
- Fish Tumors: RRAC had requested that this impairment be removed in the Rouge AOC. J. Tewkesbury said MDEQ is trying to determine how to remove this BUI in the Rouge AOC.

Five Year Vision: Noel Mullet, RRAC Vice-Chair, reviewed the draft Five Year Vision with members. J. Tewkesbury asked the members if the ARC serving as RRAC was the direction the group wanted to take. B. Craig, N. Mullett and D. Ballnik said it was. The Five Year Vision will be reviewed by the group for discussion at the next RRAC meeting.

Pending Legislation to allow grants and loans for water and sewer improvements: A. Mangus reported that SEMCOG is working on state legislation which would make funding available to local governments to help them increase the level of investment in sewer infrastructure and water quality protection. The bills create a grant program (90 percent state, 10 percent local) to support storm water planning and asset management programs. She said she would forward the information and a template letter to ARC staff for distribution.

A motion was made to draft the following letters from RRAC (N. Mullett, motion; A. Mangus, second):

- A letter to the Statewide Public Advisory Council to support statewide environmental bond funding, and
- A letter supporting House Bills 5673-5676 and Senate Bills 1155-1158 which would allow grants and loans for water and sewer improvements.

The motion was approved.

Next Steps/ Next Meeting:

- Vision & Bylaws (September, 2012)
- Elect RRAC Officers (December, 2012)

The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. September 18, 2012 at the Farmington Hills City Hall Community Room.