

Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

Meeting Notes

January 21, 2010 1:30 pm



Allen Park
Belleville
Brownstown Township
Dearborn Heights
Ecorse
Flat Rock
Gibraltar
Grosse Ile Township
Huron Township
Inkster
Lincoln Park
Melvindale
Riverview
Rockwood
Romulus
Southgate
South Rockwood
Sumpter Township
Taylor
Van Buren Township
Wayne County
Wayne County
Airport Authority
Westland
Woodhaven
Woodhaven-Brownstown
School District
Wyandotte

- 1) Welcome: Craig Lyon from City of Taylor opened the meeting. In attendance were:

Designated or Alternate Community Representative:

- Brian Arp, City of Gibraltar
- Mark Gahry, Brownstown Township
- Neil Greene, Woodhaven-Brownstown School District
- Craig Lyon, City of Taylor
- Roy Schrameck, City of Rockwood
- Tim Walsh, Village of South Rockwood
- Eric Witte, City of Melvindale
- Mark Gaworecki, City of Southgate (alternate)
- Michelle LaRose, Huron Township (alternate)
- Noel Mullett, WCDOE (alternate)
- Derrick Schueller, Romulus (alternate)
- Dan Swallow, Van Buren Township (alternate)

Other Interested Parties:

- Razik Alsaigh, Wayne County
- Robert Burns, Friends of Detroit River
- Leah Groya, Wade-Trim
- Demetria Kimball, ECT for WCAA
- Jessica Koerner, MDNRE
- Ric Lawson, HRWC
- Patrick McCauley, Giarmarco, Mullins, & Horton, for Taylor and Dearborn Heights
- Kelly McRobb-Ackland, Wade Trim for Allen Park and Taylor
- Vicki Putala, OHM

OFFICIAL ACTIONS of the ADW taken at the meeting are shown in bold capitalized letters. *Action Items* for the future are shown in bold italics.

1) **Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Roll Call of Alliance Members and Alternates Present – roll call was performed and a quorum was present.
- b. Addition or Changes to Draft Agenda – there were no proposed changes to the agenda
- c. Approval of December 16, 2009 meeting notes. **ACTION:** There was a motion by Brownstown to accept the December 16, 2009 meeting notes. The motion was 2nd by Taylor. Passed unanimously.

2) **Finance Committee Report**

- a. Current Budget Status
 - A handout was distributed summarizing the current ADW financial status. The summary is through 01/19/2010. The handout also includes a summary of dues paid to date.
 - ***Razik will email the detailed budget to everyone, as requested by the group.***
 - There was discussion about auditing procedures for the ADW. Several options were mentioned – obtain proposals from outside firms, use Wayne County auditing process, have an internal audit committee within the ADW. ***Patrick McCauley will check if the watershed alliance act allows the ADW to use the County's auditing methods.*** Having an outside firm conduct the audit was thought to be a more legitimate option than an internal committee within ADW. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
- b. Approval of OHM Contract for 2010 Facilitation Services
 - A handout of the contract was distributed.
 - The contract was developed with the assistance of Patrick McCauley. Dan Swallow, ADW Treasurer, provided minor comments, including allowing ADW to provide input if staffing changes are required of the facilitation team.
 - The cost for facilitation services is approximately the same as in previous years. The total budget is higher because of the effort to update the Watershed Management Plans.
 - **ACTION:** There was a motion by Brownstown to approve the OHM contract for 2010 facilitation services. The motion was 2nd by South Rockwood. Passed unanimously.
- c. Approval of Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools Agreement
 - A handout of the agreement was distributed.
 - The budget numbers in the contract match those from the grant application. The purpose of the agreement is to allow the funding to flow through ADW to the Schools. The contract was reviewed by Patrick McCauley.
 - **ACTION:** There was a motion by Brownstown to approve the Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools agreement. Motion was 2nd by Rockwood. Passed unanimously.

At this point in the meeting, Neil Greene, representing Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools, had to leave the meeting. Razik Alsaigh, Wayne County, was assigned as proxy to vote on behalf of the Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools in Neil's absence in order to maintain a quorum.

- d. Approval of HRWC existing agreement extension
 - A handout of Amendment #2 to the existing HRWC agreement was provided.
 - The amendment extends the contract through the end of February to provide funding to HRWC for their continued efforts on the CMI grant.
 - **ACTION:** There was a motion by Romulus to approve Amendment #2 to the existing HRWC agreement. Motion was 2nd by Melvindale. Passed unanimously.
- e. Approval of HRWC 2010 Agreement
 - A handout of the agreement was provided.
 - The contract includes providing services through 2010 on progress evaluation and monitoring. The scope of work covered under this contract is not included in the facilitation services contract. Items under this contract include field data collection, coordination with Wayne County, data management, and reporting.
 - **ACTION:** There was a motion by Brownstown to approve the HRWC 2010 agreement. Motion was 2nd by Gibraltar. Passed unanimously.
- f. Approval of LTU Agreement
 - A handout of the agreement was provided.
 - The scope of services includes monitoring by LTU as part of the green roofs grant. The agreement was reviewed by Patrick McCauley.
 - **ACTION:** There was a motion by Rockwood to approve the LTU agreement. Motion was 2nd by Brownstown. Passed unanimously.

3) Update on Contested Permit

- An update on the contested case was provided by Patrick McCauley. The City of Novi had requested a stay of the administrative hearing, which was granted by the Ingham County Circuit Court Judge on December 17.
- A group was tasked with looking at new services the state has imposed and how it has not complied with the Headlee Amendment. The final report states that \$2.2 billion was imposed onto local units of government and no funding was provided. Stormwater was one of the items mentioned.
- Communities that filed are in a class action suit unless they chose to file separately.

4) Status Reports

- a. IDEP Activities
 - Contracts are in place for the IDEP grant.
 - ***ADW members should send feedback to Noel Mullett or Dean Tuomari on suggestions for IDEP investigation locations.***
 - Wayne County asked for a letter from the ADW in support of an IDEP project for which they are submitting a grant application. **ACTION:** There was a motion by Brownstown to authorize Craig Lyon, ADW Chair, to send a letter of support to Wayne County on behalf of the ADW. Motion was 2nd by Wayne County. Passed unanimously. ***Noel Mullett will send the letter of support to Craig Lyon for his signature.***
- b. Progress Evaluation Activities
 - Ric Lawson is working on a report to close out the grow zone grant and develop a strategy for long-term evaluation monitoring. Monitoring will begin in the spring and will include stonefly searches for the second year in the ADW.
- c. Planning and Reporting
 - i. Update on GLRI Grant Application

- GLRI grants are due January 29. The projects in South Rockwood and Van Buren were determined to be not well-suited for this funding program. Upcoming GLRI funding opportunities are a better match for those projects.
- SEMCOG emailed Vicki Putala asking for a letter from the ADW in support of a green street project for which they are submitting a grant application. The project will include green projects and public education throughout Macomb, Oakland, Monroe, and Wayne counties. **ACTION:** There was a motion by Brownstown to authorize Craig Lyon, ADW Chair, to send a letter of support to SEMCOG on behalf of the ADW. Motion was 2nd by Melvindale. Passed unanimously. *Vicki Putala will send the letter of support to Craig Lyon for his signature.*

5) **Standing Committee Reports**

a. Public Education

- Recommendations for spending the PE budget were developed by the public education committee at the November 4, 2009 meeting and include: public education materials (cost-sharing), river crossing signage (apply for one permit), and volunteer monitoring efforts. The ADW will need to decide how they want to proceed.
- Eric Witte mentioned that Melvindale Days will be occurring on June 13. There has been discussion in the past about allocating ADW budget for displays and staffing to provide public education at these types of events. Wayne County offered to provide display boards but cannot provide staffing at this time. SEMCOG may offer this service. It was decided that this would be discussed further at a later date.
- A handout was provided by MDEQ/SEMCOG for an upcoming training event. The event provides an opportunity to learn how state and federal regulations may be affecting municipal operations. The event will take place March 9 in Clinton Township or March 16 in Canton Township. The cost is \$25. Register online at: www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops.

b. Ecorse Creek Watershed Advisory Group – nothing to report

c. Combined Downriver Watershed Advisory Group – nothing to report

d. Lower Huron River Watershed Advisory Group – nothing to report

6) **Other Items**

- A question was raised as to whether or not the ADW can conduct a vote by email to approve an action. Patrick McCauley stated that this is not an acceptable form of voting based on the current bylaws. To be able to vote by email would require an amendment to the bylaws, and each ADW member would need to have a resolution adopted by Boards/Councils in support of the new bylaws.

7) **Set Next meeting Date(s)**

- *The next meeting was set for Thursday April 15, 2010 at 1:30 pm at the Wade-Trim office in Taylor.*

8) **Adjourn**

- There was a motion by Brownstown to adjourn the meeting. The motion was 2nd by Melvindale. Passed unanimously.