

Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

DRAFT Meeting Notes

January 24, 2008 9:30 am



1) **Welcome:** Craig Lyon of Taylor opened the meeting. In attendance were:

Designated or Alternate Community Representative:

Allen Park
Belleville
Berlin Township
Brownstown Township
Dearborn Heights
Ecorse
Flat Rock
Gibraltar
Grosse Ile Township
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

- Bob Bartok, City of Lincoln Park
- Lorinda Beneteau, Grosse Ile Township
- Lianne Clair, Van Buren Township
- James Gorris, City of Gibraltar
- Neil Greene, Woodhaven-Brownstown School District
- Kurt Heise, WCDOE
- Mark Kowalewski, City of Wyandotte
- Rick Lang, City of Allen Park
- Craig Lyon, City of Taylor
- Roy Schrameck, City of Rockwood
- Greg Tupancy, Urban Engineering for City of Southgate
- Bryan Wagoner, WCAA
- Tim Walsh, Village of South Rockwood
- Eric Witte, City of Melvindale
- Kevin Buford, City of Westland
- Kelly Cave, WCDOE (alternate)
- Brent Florek, Grosse Ile Township (alternate)
- Rod Julian, Brownstown Twp (alternate)
- Derrick Schueller, Romulus (alternate)

Other Interested Parties:

- Dan Brooks, Wade Trim for Dearborn Heights
- Robert Burns, Detroit Riverkeeper
- Patricia, Huddas, MDEQ Water Bureau
- Michelle LaRose, OHM for Huron Township
- Ric Lawson, HRWC
- Patrick McCauley, Giarmarco, Mullins, & Horton, for Taylor and Dearborn Heights
- Kelly McRobb-Ackland, Wade Trim for Allen Park
- Donna Petry, Wayne Conservation District
- Vicki Putala, OHM
- Elizabeth Thacker, OHM for Romulus and Westland

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. Role Call of Alliance Members and Alternates Present – role call was performed and a quorum was present.
- b. Additions or Changes to Draft Agenda - There were no proposed changes to the meeting agenda (distributed to members via email prior to the meeting).
- c. Approval of December 11, 2007 meeting notes – **ACTION:** there was a motion by Southgate to accept the December 11, 2007 meeting notes. The motion was 2nd by Romulus. Passed unanimously.

2) **Status Report on Membership in Alliance of Downriver Watersheds**

- a. Updated List, Budget, and Map.
 - A handout was distributed that provides a summary of ADW membership. Twenty-five (25) entities have joined the ADW (out of a total of 28).
 - Since the last meeting, Rockwood has joined the ADW
 - Inkster is currently reviewing the bylaws. *Kelly Cave will be following up with them.*
 - Huron Township is expected to pass a resolution to join the ADW in February.
- b. Update on letters to non-members – discussed above.

3) **Standing Committee Reports**

- a. Finance
 - Kevin Buford summarized a handout was distributed that provides a summary of those that have been invoiced and those who have paid. Also included in the handout is a summary of payments that the ADW has made to date.
 - Three communities (Belleville, Rockwood, and Van Buren Township) were just sent invoices.
 - The ADW currently has in hand \$258,892.
 - At the last meeting, a draft fiduciary agreement between the ADW and Wayne County was distributed. In the agreement there was referenced a dollar amount that was based on full participation in the ADW. The ADW now anticipates that

it will have full participation except for Inkster (\$1500). Craig Lyon stated that it would be acceptable for him to sign the agreement as written with a letter from Wayne County stating that the ADW will not be responsible to pay more than it collects. While not an official amendment, Patrick McCauley stated that a “comfort” letter was appropriate.

- **ACTION:** there was a motion by Allen Park to approve the Chair to sign the fiduciary agreement with a letter from the County stating that the ADW would not be responsible for a dollar amount more than its collected funds. The motion was 2nd by Gibraltar. Passed unanimously.
- b. Ecorse Creek Watershed Advisory Group – the group had not met since the last ADW meeting.
 - Dan Brooks gave a summary of the December 19, 2007 meeting held by the EPA/MDEQ to review the results of the E.coli monitoring.
 - There were about 25 people in attendance at the meeting.
 - There were 9 sites that were monitored between May – October. There were 5 sites on the north branch, 3 sites on the south branch, and 2 sites on the LeBlanc Drain. Sampling was done in both wet and dry weather.
 - Full body and partial body contact was not met 50-70 times during sampling in all locations.
 - In the monitoring process, an illicit connection was located at a trailer park. Wayne County is working to get the problem addressed.
 - The MDEQ is preparing a TMDL plan document. It will be presented to stakeholders this spring. In the summer, it will be submitted to the EPA for approval.
 - Questions about the TMDL can be addressed to Christine Alexander at the MDEQ. 517-373-6794 or alexanderc2@michigan.gov.
 - Dan Swallow suggested having the DEQ present the TMDL plan to the Ecorse Creek WAG prior to releasing the document to the public. ***Dan will follow-up with the DEQ to coordinate.***
 - Dan Swallow encouraged the ADW to follow through with providing comments to the MDEQ based on their presentation.
- c. Combined Downriver Watershed Advisory Group – the group had not met since the last ADW meeting
- d. Lower Huron River Watershed Advisory Group – the group had not met since the last

ADW meeting

4) **ADW Special Committees**

- Public Education Committee: Progress Report. This meeting was held jointly with the technical committee. See summary below.
- Technical Committee: Progress Report
 - Progress Report
 - Ric Lawson stated that the joint public education and technical committees met on January 10, 2008. The meeting was well attended. A meeting summary was distributed.
 - Ric Lawson reported that the joint committees were recommending that the ADW approve Inter-agency agreements (IAA) with Friends of the Detroit River (FODR), the Stream Team (ST), and Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) for their work on the grow zone grant. The proposed IAA's were distributed.
 - **ACTION:** there was a motion by Rockwood to approve the Chair to sign the IAAs with FODR, ST, and HRWC. The motion was 2nd by Westland. Passed unanimously.
 - Also discussed at the joint committees meeting were the RFPs for grow zone sites and a grow zone designer. At the meeting it was decided to release the RFPs sequentially so that sites are selected first and then these sites would be included in the designer RFP in order to provide designers with specific sites.
 - Proposals for project sites will be due February 15. The requirements in the RFP are not complicated. The selection committee will hold a meeting on February 21. Any ADW member that is not an applicant may be on the selection committee.
 - **ACTION:** there was a motion by Westland to approve the RFP for project sites. The motion was 2nd by Rockwood. Passed unanimously.
 - The RFP for project sites will be emailed to the ADW and also posted on the website.
 - It was decided not to advertise the RFP for grow zone designers but to instead to have ADW communities forward the RFP to their consultants.
 - The number of sites in the RFP for project sites and the RFP for the

designer were not consistent. Language in the RFPs will be changed to say “up to 10 project sites.”

- The total number of sites chosen will be decided based on how much the budget allows.
- **ACTION:** there was a motion by Rockwood to approve the grow zone designer RFP with specific sites and the specific number of sites to be later inserted. The motion was 2nd by South Rockwood. Passed unanimously.
- The grow zone designer RFP will be issued after the February 21 project site selection committee meeting.
- The ADW as a whole will approve the designer based on a recommendation by the technical committee.
- The technical committee also discussed the portion of the grow zone grant dealing with green infrastructure imagery. As part of this task, a contractor will be hired to develop imagery for ADW communities. The contractor will be giving a presentation to the technical committee (open to the entire ADW).
- The technical committee discussed detention basin education. They are looking for dates and sites to hold workshops. Please contact Noel Mullett if interested in hosting.
- Ric Lawson commented on the overall monitoring strategy. The monitoring strategy will be coordinated with the work already done as part of the grow zone grant. HRWC and Wayne County will be meeting to discuss methodologies and parameters for monitoring. Sites will be based on grow zone project sites.

5) Status of SWPPI approvals/annual report reviews by MDEQ

- Patricia Huddas reported that she is in the process of reviewing SWPPIs. She is hoping to have the reviews completed by February 1. Once she’s completed the SWPPI reviews, she will begin reviewing the annual reports.

6) Status of Draft Permit – comments to DEQ

- Kelly Cave provided a summary of the status of the draft permit.
- Both the current watershed and jurisdictional-based permits expire in April 2008.

- An informal draft of the permit was released by the DEQ in September 2007. A committee headed by SEMCOG reviewed the draft permit and provided a 30 page response letter with comments. The DEQ then put the draft permit out for public comment with a 30 day review period. Because of the many responses that they received, the DEQ extended the review period until January 31, 2008.
- On January 18, a meeting was held in Lansing between the DEQ and a work group of 20 people from around the state (including Kurt Heise). Meeting notes were distributed. The work group brought with them a list of “deal breakers.” The DEQ and the work group were able to reach a resolution on about half of the deal breakers. While not changing the review period deadline, the DEQ agreed to continue working with the work group.
- It is important that the ADW send a letter and/or resolution to express its disagreement with the draft permit. Communities are also encouraged to individually send letters and/or pass resolutions. A sample letter and resolution were distributed.
- Kurt Heise suggested that the ADW both send a letter and pass a resolution.
- Craig Lyon suggested changing some of the E.coli language in the last paragraph of the draft letter. Patrick McCauley read aloud the revised language.
- Kurt Heise reported that the work group will be meeting again with the DEQ in February. The DEQ is redrafting the permit and is planning to release it on February 8. The comment period is still ending January 31. When asked of the DEQ what would happen if there were comments on the February 8 draft, they were not sure and said it would depend on the comments.
- The current permits still expire on April 1, 2008. The work group had asked the DEQ to extend the current permit through a letter but the idea was not received well by the DEQ.
- There is concern among Counties and drain commissioners that they may lose their rights to appeal. They are currently exploring legal options to cover themselves.
- Kelly Cave stated that under the proposed new permit, permittees must adopt post-construction storm water standards and provides details of what needs to be included. Those that already have a legally enforceable ordinance will be grandfathered into the program and do not have to include the required details. Communities have a few months to develop their own or officially adopt the Wayne County ordinance or else be subject to the requirements.
- **ACTION:** there was a motion by Southgate to approve the Chair to sign the letter (with revisions as read aloud by Patrick McCauley) expressing the ADW’s concerns with the

draft permit. The motion was 2nd by Romulus. Passed unanimously.

- **ACTION:** there was a motion by Southgate to pass the resolution expressing the ADW's concerns with the draft permit. The motion was 2nd by Gibraltar. Passed unanimously.
- ***OHM will email the letter and resolution to the ADW.***

7) **Discussion of Issues Offered by Members**

- Vicki Putala received an email from a Free Press reporter requesting to be added to the email distribution list. She was reluctant to add the contact since many of the documents that are emailed are still in draft form.
- Mark Kowalewski suggested referring the reporter to the website. The group agreed.
Vicki Putala will email back the reporter.

8) **Opportunity for Public Comment**

- There were no comments by the public.

9) **Summary of Action Items and Items for Next Meeting** – the action items that are bolded and italicized in this summary were noted.

10) **Set Next Meeting Date(s)**

- ***The next meeting was set for April 3, 2008 at 9:30 am at the Taylor Meadows Golf Course.***

11) **Adjourn**

Draft notes prepared by Elizabeth Thacker (OHM). ***Please forward comments on the draft notes to elizabeth.thacker@ohm-advisors.com.***