

# Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

## Meeting Notes

April 15, 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: Mark Gahry from Brownstown Township opened the meeting. In attendance were:

### Designated or Alternate Community Representative:

- Brian Arp, City of Gibraltar
- Scott Foland, City of Woodhaven
- Mark Gahry, Brownstown Township
- Rick Lang, City of Allen Park
- Tim Walsh, Village of South Rockwood
- Robert Daniels, City of Wyandotte (alternate)
- Brent Florek, City of Riverview (alternate)
- Michelle LaRose, Huron Township (alternate)
- Noel Mullett, WCDOE (alternate)
- Derrick Schueller, City of Romulus (alternate)
- Dan Swallow, Van Buren Township (alternate)

### Other Interested Parties:

- Robert Burns, Friends of the Detroit River
- Leah Groya, Wade-Trim
- Jessica Koerner, MDNRE
- Jennifer Lawson, ECT
- 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 January 21, 2010 meeting notes. **ACTION:** There was a motion by South Rockwood to accept the January 21, 2010 meeting notes. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Romulus. Passed unanimously.

2) **Finance Committee Report**

- a. Current Budget Status
  - A handout was distributed summarizing the current ADW financial status. The summary is through 04/13/2010. The handout also includes a summary of dues paid to date
  - PEP and Monitoring have overrun on budget slightly, but there are extra funds in other categories
  - Officers agreed to pay final invoices to Wayne County. A final invoice is expected from OHM
  - Two more payments from the state for grant related activities are expected. Approximately \$15,000 will be carried over to the 2010 budget
  - Invoices for ADW dues will be sent again towards the end of 2010; so far almost all communities have paid their dues
- b. Options for conducting an audit
  - A memorandum from Patrick McCauley was distributed
  - An audit is required at least every other year by the Watershed Alliance Act. The fiduciary agreement with Wayne County requires an annual audit, and ADW will use the Wayne County audit process to comply
  - ADW can conduct its own audit, but this is not required
  - ARC went through the same process, for 2011. The ARC is working with SEMCOG to determine areas where SEMCOG may be able to offer services. This would include public education and technical support, but not auditing services
  - ADW may want to consider approaching SEMCOG as well
  - Patrick is not aware of a required timeframe for auditing

3) **Update on Contested Permit**

- a. Progress Report
  - Approximately 70 contested case petitions were filed. Riverview filed a separate lawsuit, which led to a stay on the administrative proceedings until the Riverview case is resolved. The DEQ was granted an appeal, and the Court of Appeals will look at the Circuit Court ruling on the stay. This process could be drawn out for several months.
  - A draft 2010 permit was sent to Riverview. Riverview claimed the court order was violated by the attempt to issue the permit. The court ruled in favor of Riverview and is currently working on the terms and conditions
  - An amended complaint was being filed in an attempt to recover attorney fees and other costs; a decision is expected on April 28.
  - The facilitation team (OHM, Wade-Trim, HRWC) compiled a summary of ADW

activities to show efforts to date and submitted to Patrick McCauley for use with the contested case, if needed. *The final report will be sent to ADW members.*

4) **Status Reports for ADW Budget Framework**

a. IDEP Activities

- Wayne County has started work in Taylor to help MDNRE with a complaint on the Frank and Poet
- Research is being done in Taylor and Lincoln Park to prepare for dye testing; Flat Rock will be next
- If anyone knows of other issues, please contact Wayne County

b. Progress Evaluation Activities

- A progress evaluation presentation was given by Ric Lawson
- Monitoring will continue at the same stations for another year, but monitoring may begin earlier in the spring instead of starting in July

c. Planning and Reporting

i. Update on GLRI Grant Application

- GLRI grant was submitted in January for Elizabeth Park and the Frank and Poet
- 1,049 GLRI applications were submitted, \$942 million was requested, and only \$120 million is available. Projects will be awarded within the next couple of weeks.

ii. SRF Funding

- This funding can be used for stormwater non-point source (NPS) projects. Examples include: rain gardens, porous pavement roads and parking lots, regional underground storage, streambank stabilization, basin retrofits, etc.
- Specifications for eligibility for this funding are as follows: project should have a water quality impact, not just flow reduction
- This program provides a low interest loan (2.5% or less)
- SRF has been a channel for ARRA funding
- MDNRE specified that in order to be eligible for principal forgiveness in 2011, green projects must support a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) that has received CMI approval. The ADW WMPs have received CMI approval.
- After WMPs are updated, it will be more apparent which projects in WMP can be funded through SRF
- The ADW cannot take on a SRF loan, however individual communities may

iii. Other grant proposals:

- South Rockwood was going to submit a project to be funded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. However, it was determined that this was not the best source of funding for this particular project, so no application was submitted. There may be an opportunity with future funding sources.
- An application was submitted to the Great Lakes Basin Program by HCMA, Lower Huron Metropark, and Van Buren Township – waiting to hear back on this one.

5) **Summary of Meeting with MDNRE on the WMP Updates**

- WMP updates are required by the water quality grant; MDNRE wanted to meet before updates are started
- A handout summarizing the proposed schedule for WMP updates was provided
- A goal was set to complete all three updates by the end of the year
- The new land cover data is being used to help determine opportunities for BMPs.
- Meetings will be held with individual communities if the project is within that community
- A more detailed look at water quality benefits for specific project will be required; new TMDLs will also need to be incorporated

6) **Standing Committee Reports**

a. Public Education

- A handout of the recommendations for the 2010 public education budget was distributed.
- **ACTION:** There was a motion by Allen Park to approve the Recommendation for 2010 Public Education Budget as it was presented. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by South Rockwood. Passed unanimously.
- Other Public Education Items:
  - i. DROM- facility managers from the schools will be contacted and displays created with help from Wayne County. Summary cut sheets will be developed for the grow zone sites to educate school maintenance personnel and will also be available to the ADW.
  - ii. ADW has partnered with SEMCOG, ARC, and HRWC to hold a 1-2 day GI conference as part of the grant funding. This conference will be held around September; details are still being discussed. There will be potentially be three different tracks – municipal, residential, and commercial/industrial businesses
  - iii. Public Education money from the grant will help fund the creation of a virtual web tour of GI projects in ADW and other areas of southeast Michigan. Lawrence Tech is working on creating this application, which may include a mapping component with facts, pictures, etc. Communities with Green Infrastructure projects will be contacted to find out more details about their projects.

b. Ecorse Creek Watershed Advisory Group

c. Combined Downriver Watershed Advisory Group

d. Lower Huron River Watershed Advisory Group

- The individual WAGs have not met since the last ADW meeting; therefore there is nothing to report.
- WAG breakout sessions will be held prior to the next ADW meeting on July 15. *(Note: it was later determined that these breakout sessions would not be occurring. Currently there are no WAG meetings scheduled.)*
- It was decided that these standing committee reports are not needed as separate items on the standard ADW agenda. They will be added to future agendas as needed.

7) **Other Items and Announcements**

- A memorandum from Patrick McCauley regarding ADW email voting was distributed. It was determined that voting could not be conducted over email without amending the bylaws. Voting decisions must be done at the ADW meetings. The ADW can authorize the

Officers to take actions, but the voting for this authorization must be done at the ADW meetings. The ADW has decided that it is not necessary to update the bylaws at this time. A subcommittee may be formed to review the bylaws in the future, but any changes will require the approval of the member Councils and Boards. This topic will be revisited at the ADW meeting in November.

- Upcoming Events hosted by the Friends of the Detroit River:
  - Cleanup at Rotary Park in Trenton on Saturday at 9am
  - June 12 - Education forum on native plants, including hands on planting. Lunch is provided.
- The Ecorse Creek flood study is still in progress. There have been ongoing meetings with the Army Corps of Engineers. This effort is being headed by Kelly Cave.

8) **Set Next Meeting Date**

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

9) **Adjourn**

- There was a motion by South Rockwood to adjourn the meeting. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melvindale. Passed unanimously.

Draft notes prepared by Michelle LaRose (OHM). Please forward comments on the draft notes to michelle.larose@ohm-advisors.com.