

ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS

Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 30, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

Taylor Meadows Golf Course

25360 Ecorse Road

Taylor, MI



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

Allen Park
Belleville
Berlin Township
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

Designated or Alternate Community Representative:

- Bob Daniels, City of Wyandotte (new designate)
- Scott Foland, City of Woodhaven (new designate)
- Mark Gahry, Brownstown Township
- James Gorrid, City of Gibraltar
- Rick Lang, City of Allen Park
- Craig Lyon, City of Taylor
- Roy Schrameck, ECT, City of Rockwood
- Bryan Wagoner, Wayne County Airport Authority
- Tim Walsh, Village of South Rockwood
- Kevin Buford, City of Westland (alternate)
- Brent Florek, City of Gibraltar, Gross Ile (alternate)
- Noel Mullett, WCDOE (alternate)
- Derrick Schueller, City of Romulus (alternate)
- Dan Swallow, Van Buren Township (alternate)

Other Interested Parties:

- Dan Brooks, Wade Trim for Dearborn Heights
- Ric Lawson, HRWC
- Patrick McCauley, Giarmarco, Mullins and Horton, PC, for Taylor and Dearborn Heights
- Kelly McRobb-Ackland, Wade Trim for Allen Park
- Betsy Nightingale, MDEQ
- 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. Role call of Alliance Members and Alternates Present – role 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 the January 22, 2009 meeting notes – **ACTION:** passed unanimously.

2) Election of New Officers

ACTION: The election of new Officers as presented was carried:

Chair: Craig Lyon
Vice-Chair: Mark Gahry
Treasurer: Tim Walsh
Secretary: Dan Swallow

ACTION: Following the meeting, a vote was taken via e-mail to approve the following change in Officers:

Treasurer: Dan Swallow
Secretary: Tim Walsh

3.4) Officers Meeting Report and ADW Budget Status

The following was provided as information to the ADW:

- Action items presented in the agenda under item 4 were discussed concurrently with the summarized discussion resulting from the Officers Meeting (as presented below).
- It was reported that the Officers determined there was no need to change the existing bylaws at this time.
- There was discussion in revising the ADW fiscal year to be consistent with the calendar year. There will be no request for additional funding from ADW members for the duration of activities anticipated through the remainder of 2009.
- Dues for the 2010 calendar year are due by December 31, 2009 (2-year budget). These dues may be paid in two (2) installments.
- It was stated that the second installment from Huron Township remains outstanding and that a letter was issued approximately a month ago.
- Discussion occurred to extend the existing OHM contract, with a budget amendment and additional funding request. Vicki Putala spoke on the proposal to provide the following services from May 1, 2009 through to December 31, 2009:

➤ ADW Facilitation, Staff Support and Administration	\$20,700
➤ Website Consolidation and Maintenance	\$ 1,900
➤ Annual Report Sections	\$ 3,400
➤ Progress Evaluation Strategy Planning	<u>\$ 2,900</u>
Total Base Services	\$28,900

The proposal letter further detailed an estimate to provide the following additional services:

➤ Grant Application	\$ 9,400
➤ Contested Case Assistance and Other Compliance Support	<u>\$10,000</u>
	\$19,400

ACTION: Carried unanimously

- Discussion occurred to extend the existing HRWC contract, with a budget amendment and additional funding request. The submitted tasks outlined in the proposal is summarized below:

➤ Implementing and marketing Grow Zone events	\$ 1,560
➤ Evaluation/Assessment	<u>\$ 7,800</u>
Total Services	\$ 9,360

ACTION: Carried unanimously

- Contract extensions for FODR, Stream Team and ECT were briefly discussed and requested, noting no additional funds were attached to the requests.

ACTION: Carried unanimously

5) Update on Contested Permit

Patrick McCauley presented a status update in regard to the Contested Case Permit, noting the following points:

- A status report of the discussion/movement to date with the MDEQ is to be submitted to the Administrative Law Judge by May 15th, 2009. The intent is to meet with the MDEQ prior to this date.
- Discussion at the meeting with MDEQ is anticipated to suggest that a “one size fits all” approach may not work for everyone and that perhaps the development of varying templates/alternate approaches may be an option. Concerns lie with MDEQ’s authority and current permit requirements. Additional discussion suggested there is a seemingly disregard for the efforts of the watershed groups to date.
- Kevin Buford inquired as to whether there was anything further needed from the ADW for the May 15th meeting; Patrick McCauley suggested nothing was needed at this time.
- Work product has/will be reviewed by sub-committee.
- Kevin Buford extended thanks to all the Attorneys for their effort to date.

6) Status Report per ADW Budget Framework

a. IDEP Activities

- It was reported that the Lincoln Park corrections were verified in March.
- It was reported that Wayne County received a \$192,000 CMI grant for IDEP investigations in the ADW, with a focus on the Ecorse Creek.
- A motion was made to approve vouchers for ADW members for the upcoming IDEP training programs for staff. The discussion evolved to allow a not to exceed amount of \$3,000, estimating this may equate to approximately 40 vouchers. **ACTION:** Carried Unanimously
- It was reported that Kurt Heise is trying to further support for the Ecorse Creek Project which is currently on hold.

b. Public Education Activities

- Encouragement was given to the communities to contact Wayne County for literature for placement within public buildings, etc.
- The “Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection” flyer and program were highlighted; emphasizing the program puts landscape companies through an audit process for “Healthy Lawn care”. Earth friendly fertilizers and retailers are endorsed by the Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA). Flyers may be obtained from Wayne County.
- Design for the ten (10) grow zone sites is complete, noting that specific planting dates are still required. It was further emphasized that planting shouldn’t really occur until after May 15th, 2009. Permanent signs will be placed at each of the sites.
- Discussion occurred in regard to continuing the mini-grant fund program into next year. Mark Gahry suggested the preparation of a guideline for the grow zone process to assist in continuance of the program.
Action: Forward to the PEP subcommittee for consideration. Further consider the inclusion of industrial areas and schools.

c. Progress Evaluation Activities

- Ric Lawson reported that headway has been made on the long term monitoring initiative. The discharge curves, preliminary results and development of a 5-year monitoring plan were discussed. It was suggested these results will be of assistance for use in future grant applications.
Action: Forward to the Technical Subcommittee for review and discussion.
- A question arose as to the overall goal of the monitoring and whether a report would be generated upon completion. It was suggested and estimated that another year of monitoring and data collection for loadings and flow is still needed. The intent is to take the concentrations from 2007, compare the flow data and try to “tell a system story” with what may be transpiring. It is a long term methodology to see if there are system responses and changes to the implementation of the practices being undertaken. What is currently being developed is essentially a “base line” for future comparisons.
Action: Ric Lawson will meet with Wayne County to discuss how to move forward with the data.

d. Planning and Reporting

- There is no update on the two (2) CMI grants submitted by the ADW. It was suggested this may still be two (2) months out.

7) Standing Committee Reports

a. Ecorse Creek Watershed Advisory Group

- No activities were reported.

b. Combined Downriver Watershed Advisory Group

- No activities were reported.

c. Lower Huron River Watershed Advisory Group

- No activities were reported.

8) Other Items and Announcements

- Betsy Nightingale from the MDEQ indicated she would remain as the point of contact until mid August.
- Vicki Putala indicated she had attended an April 23rd, 2009 meeting with the Kresge Foundation where she learned of several categories for which there may be potential funding. She provided information to the Foundation outlining the purpose and goals of the ADW and further discussed the challenge of adequate funding.
Action: Vicki indicated she would follow up with the Kresge Foundation.
- OHM and Wade Trim have been asked to complete a preliminary QA/QC review of the Sanborn land cover data. Comments will be forwarded to Wayne County.

9) Summary of Action Items and Items for Next Meeting

Action items are highlighted throughout the document.

10) Set Next Meeting Date(s)

A specific meeting date was not set; however, it was suggested that the budget should be discussed at a summer meeting with a vote for approval set for the fall meeting. It was further suggested that the Joint Committee meet to draft the budget and then present to the full ADW.

Action: Set a meeting date in June for the Officers with a full ADW to be scheduled thereafter. Dates will be e-mailed to members.

11) Adjourn

There was a motion by Brownstown, seconded by Westland to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.