

# Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

## *DRAFT Meeting Notes*

June 24, 2008 9:30 am



- 1) Welcome: Vicki Putala of OHM opened the meeting. In attendance were:

### Designated or Alternate Community Representative:

- James Gorris, City of Gibraltar
- Mike Kruse, City of Woodhaven
- Tom Wilson, City of Romulus
- Derrick Schueller, City of Romulus (alternate)
- Krystina Kramarz, Dearborn Heights (alternate)
- Roy Schrameck, City of Rockwood
- Mark Gahry, Brownstown Township
- Ron Caryl, Sumpter Township
- Eric Witte, City of Melvindale
- Brent Florek, Grosse Ile Township (alternate)
- Greg Tupancy, Southgate
- Kelly Cave, WCDOE (alternate)
- Noel Mullett, WCDOE (alternate)
- Tim Walsh, S. Rockwood
- Mark Gaworecki, S. Rockwood (alternate)
- Kevin Buford, City of Westland
- Dan Swallow, Van Buren Township (alternate)
- Michelle LaRose, Huron Township (alternate)
- Mark Kowalewski, Wyandotte

### Other Interested Parties:

- Ric Lawson, HRWC
- Patrick McCauley, Giarmarco, Mullins, & Horton, for Taylor and Dearborn Heights
- Kelly McRobb-Ackland, Wade Trim for Allen Park
- Jack Franzil, Dearborn Heights
- Vicki Putala, OHM
- Dean Tuomari, WCDOE
- Rick Miner, METCO

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

**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 – **ACTION** –there was a motion by Brownstown to add an agenda item to give a TMDL update under “Status Reports”. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melvindale. Passed unanimously.
- c. Approval of April 3, 2008 meeting notes – **ACTION**: there was a motion by Romulus to accept the April 3, 2008 meeting notes. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brownstown. Passed unanimously.

2) **Discussion on New Permit**

- a. Review of 6/19 SEMCOG workshop/permit changes
  - The DEQ had revised the permit in order to compromise with the concerns of the permittees. The watershed permit provides room for flexibility; however, it is unpredictable how much flexibility will be allowed. The permit does not explain what is needed to approve an alternative approach.
  - The DEQ was not able to answer all the questions asked at the workshop. Communities need to consider if they are comfortable moving forward with these unknowns.
- b. Options
  - Permittees have until July 21, 2008 to file a contested case. The deadline for submitting the permit application is August 1, 2008.
  - Wayne County drafted an example petition (distributed as a handout) to contest the permit. This petition was also mailed to all ADW communities.
  - There will be a meeting on July 1 2008 at the U of M Dearborn for attorneys to meet and discuss legal options for contesting the permit.
  - Communities may need council/board approval to contest the permit or apply for a new permit.
  - If the permit is contested, the existing permit remains in effect (communities will not be in non-compliance). *The DEQ later indicated that all communities are required to submit a permit application by the 8/1/08 deadline, regardless of whether or not they are contesting the permit.*
  - There will be a hearing before an Administrative Rules Judge where both sides state their issues (if several communities contest, they may have one hearing instead of individual hearings).
  - Brownstown Township asked if the ADW could contest the permit as a group since it is a governing body recognized by the State. Kelly Cave responded that the ADW is a governing body but it is not a permittee and therefore the ADW itself cannot contest the permit.
  - Other communities outside the ADW and the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) have also expressed concern with the permit. Wayne County has shared the draft petition with Oakland County and others.
  - The question was asked what would happen to a community that files for a watershed permit while others in the watershed are contesting. The DEQ could not answer the question but the community that applies may have to wait until the contested cases are resolved.
- c. How to proceed
  - **ACTION** – Brownstown made a motion for *Patrick McCauley to draft a letter to*

*elected State officials and the DEQ expressing the ADW's disapproval of the permit.* The letter will be emailed to the group for review and authorization for the Chair to sign and submit. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wyandotte. Passed unanimously.

- The July 1, 2008 meeting discussion will include what are the options for filing separate contested cases and consider the resources/costs required to contest versus costs to accept and implement the permit.

### 3) Status Reports

#### a. IDEP Activities

- 21 ADW members attended the IDEP training that was held.
- \$1275 of the \$5800 budgeted was spent on vouchers for the IDEP training.
- A map was distributed that showed the original monitoring locations, follow-up areas, and prioritized areas based on sampling data

#### b. PEP Activities

- There was a revision in the proposal for the detention basin workshop and printing/distributing manuals.
- The Tech/PE Committee determined that they wanted more detention basin maintenance manuals. Instead of 350 manuals, the ADW will partner with the ARC to purchase 1500 manuals in total (500 for the ARC and 1000 for the ADW). There was a cost savings by purchasing a larger number of manuals.
- **-ACTION-** Westland made a motion to amend the budget item for the manuals from \$1500 to \$2000. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rockwood. Passed unanimously.
- After the detention basin workshops, the remaining manuals will be distributed to the members.
- Grow Zones
  - The contract for the grow zone designer was approved.
  - The committee is working on 2 conditional approvals and anticipates plantings this Fall.
  - ECT and Nancy Gregor from Wayne County are currently visiting sites and meeting with grantees.

#### c. Monitoring

- A handout was distributed that contained the results of the bug hunt monitoring. Monitoring was performed at 20 sites and there were 6 Stream Team schools involved.
- Ric Lawson presented the results of the spring macroinvertebrate monitoring. There were 6 total sites in the Lower Huron Watershed that were monitored. Five of these sites were on tributaries and 1 was on the main branch. All sites were stable with some seeing improvements.
- Wayne County and HRWC are working on a protocol for flow monitoring. All equipment has been ordered and received. They have designed the first vandal-resistant apparatus and are hoping to get all of the apparatuses in the field in the next few weeks. HRWC has equipment for installation and are waiting to receive sensors from Wayne County.
- Land cover mapping – we are proceeding with the Sanborn contract. The imagery flight was performed. Initially it appeared that it was going to cost more than \$4000 above what was budgeted; however, negotiations brought the cost down to the budgeted amount.
- Geomorphology – the ADW was able to pay for equipment through a Rouge grant, which was a cost savings to the ADW.

#### d. Ecorse Creek TMDL Update

- A presentation was made at the last meeting.
  - A handout was distributed with Wayne County comments on the TMDL. These comments were sent to the DEQ during the public notice period.
  - The CMI grant for eliminating illicit discharges has expired and Wayne County has not had any success in trying to get the grant extended so it could be used for correcting illicit connections in the Ecorse Creek. Wayne County will be sending a letter to the higher management at the DEQ.
- 4) **Summary of Action Items and Items for Next Meeting** - the action items that are bolded and italicized in this summary were noted.
- 5) **Set Next meeting Date(s)**
- *The next meeting was set for August 14, 2008 at 9:30 am at the Taylor Meadows Golf Course.* – This meeting has been postponed until further notice.
- 6) **Adjourn**
- There was a motion by Westland to adjourn the meeting. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Romulus. The motion passed unanimously.

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