

# Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

## *DRAFT Meeting Notes*

September 23, 2009 1:30 pm



- 1) Welcome: Mark Gahry from Brownstown Township opened the meeting. In attendance were:

### Designated or Alternate Community Representative:

- Ron Caryl, Sumpter Township
- Mark Gahry, Brownstown Township
- James Gorris, City of Gibraltar
- Neil Greene, Woodhaven-Brownstown School District
- Scott Foland, City of Woodhaven
- Rick Lang, City of Allen Park
- Bryan Wagoner, Wayne County Airport Authority
- Tim Walsh, Village of South Rockwood
- Eric Witte, City of Melvindale
- Brent Florek, Grosse Ile Township (alternate)
- Noel Mullett, WCDOE (alternate)
- Derrick Schueller, Romulus (alternate)
- Dan Swallow, Van Buren Township (alternate)

### Other Interested Parties:

- Dan Brooks, Wade Trim for Dearborn Heights
- Robert Burns, Friends of Detroit River
- Leah Groya, Wade Trim
- 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
- Vicki Putala, OHM
- Demetria Janus, ECT for Rockwood
- Razik Alsaigh, Wayne County
- Brian Harnos, City of Westland

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 – there were no proposed changes to the agenda
- c. Approval of April 30, 2009 meeting notes. Note: The ADW Officer elections were corrected through an email vote. Tim Walsh is now the ADW Secretary, and Dan Swallow is now the ADW Treasurer. **ACTION:** There was a motion by Gibraltar to accept the April 30, 2009 meeting notes. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Allen Park. Passed unanimously.

2) **Finance Committee Report**

- a. Current ADW Financial Status
  - A handout was distributed summarizing 2009 dues paid-to-date by agency.
  - A handout was distributed that provides a financial status report for all budgeted ADW activities.
- b. 2010-2011 Financing Plan & Future Assessments
  - A handout was distributed that provides the 2010-2011 Financing Plan for the ADW.
  - Dan Swallow discussed the financing plan. The plan provides the total amount budgeted for each activity, the amount of ADW funds going toward each activity, the amount of grant dollars that will be received, and the amount provided by other entities other than the ADW.
- c. 2010 Budget
  - i. 2010 Budget Approval
    - The bylaws state that there will be yearly assessments. However, there was not a 2008 assessment. The hope is to stretch the 2009 assessment through 2010 and possibly partly into 2011.
    - There will need to be an assessment again in 2010 in order to cover 2011 costs.
    - When dividing the 2010-2011 plan into yearly budgets, the 2010 budget will be greater than 2011 because some grant activities (such as green roof installation) will occur in 2010.
    - **ACTION** – There was a motion by Allen Park to adopt the 2010 budget. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melvindale. Passed unanimously.
  - ii. Upcoming Contracts
    - Contracts will be necessary for the group to work with OHM, HRWC, Wayne County (fiduciary), and Lawrence Tech.
    - For those agencies currently under contract, the new contracts will be similar to those currently in place.
  - iii. Inter-agency Agreements
    - An inter-agency agreement with the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District is necessary for the green roof project.
    - ***Wayne County will be working with Patrick McCauley to develop/draft contracts and agreements for the next meeting. At the next meeting the contracts/agreements will be presented for approval by the ADW.***
    - ***Send concerns with existing contracts/agreements to the ADW***

*officers.*

3) **Update on Contested Permit**

- a. Progress Report - provided by Patrick McCauley
- MDEQ filed a motion to dismiss the Riverview lawsuit (pending the outcome of the other lawsuit and claiming Riverview has not exhausted all resources/avenues)
  - The lawyers have recommended that the judge put a hold on the administrative hearing, but MDEQ wants it to move forward.
  - The administrative hearing will eventually need to be reviewed by the Ingham County Circuit Court
  - The lawyers have been making an effort to defend the work that has been done under the existing permit
    - The permittees in the watershed have been making great strides – why is a new permit necessary
    - The permittees need more time to develop data on the corrective measures taken so far
    - The lawyers have described the approach the permittees have taken so far – formal organization of the ADW/ARC, developing and spending budgets, making progress on water quality, etc.
  - Alternative options were submitted to MDEQ, but no response was received
  - An order was issued September 16 to move the administrative hearing process forward - Patrick needs a statement of position from the permittees.
  - Upcoming dates include the following:
    - Petitioners file a scheduling motion by September 25
    - MDEQ files and serves a response by to the motion by October 15
    - Petitioners file a more definitive statement by November 24
  - The Administrative Law Judge wants to see a more definitive statement of objections. He has not seen any of the submissions to MDEQ so far. This information will be fine-tuned and formally submitted to the Judge.
  - Patrick stated that it would be helpful to have a document summarizing what the watershed group has done to date, what they plan on doing, what are the benefits, why we should continue under the existing permit, etc.
  - Wayne County has assembled a lot of information to date, and the annual reports provide a summary of activities completed each year. ***The OHM team will put together a summary for Patrick and include all the necessary documentation such as maps, budgets, schedules, etc.***
  - There was a suggestion to have the Friends of the Detroit River submit a letter of support for ADW efforts. Bob Burns will solicit input from the organization to see if there is interest.
  - **ACTION:** There was a motion by Allen Park to authorize \$5,000 for the OHM team to compile past efforts of the ADW for Patrick. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by South Rockwood. Passed unanimously.

4) **Status Reports**

- a. IDEP Activities
- A handout was provided showing the locations/prioritizations for advanced IDEP investigations. Feedback on the locations can be sent to Noel Mullet.
- b. Public Education
- There are line items in the ADW budget for river crossing signs and pollution prevention literature. A Public Education Committee meeting will be held to discuss

these and other public education options for the upcoming year. Bryon Wagoner volunteered to schedule the meeting and lead the discussion.

- A presentation was made by Noel Mullet showing statistics and photos of the grow zones.

c. Progress Evaluation

- Data is still coming in from the recent monitoring efforts. A report needs to be developed and submitted with the grow zone grant in order to meet the grant requirements. The report is being drafted in a manner that will also make it useful for ADW needs such as reporting requirements, input for the contested case, etc.
- More details are needed in the long-term monitoring strategy in order to meet the SWPPI requirements. A draft will be prepared by the next meeting.
- The ADW needs to consider future monitoring needs:
  - Do we need to do more or less monitoring?
  - Should the monitoring budget decrease and shift to other activities once a baseline of data is established?
- A handout was provided showing the preliminary results of the land cover data classification. DVDs will be sent to the primary contact for each ADW member.

d. Planning and Reporting

- The ADW was awarded the CMI/319 grant. A handout was provided summarizing the budget for the grant activities.
- A handout was provided for another grant opportunity called “Sustain Our Great Lakes.” There are two options for applications: Community grants that involve smaller projects and Stewardship grants that involve large-scale projects.
  - Wayne County is planning the Elizabeth Park Canal restoration, and this may be a good project to use as an anchor for the Stewardship Grant. The Wayne County Parks Department already has the required match available in their budget. Project ideas for this grant should be sent to Michelle LaRose.
  - A motion was made by Wayne County to authorize the facilitation team to spend \$2,000 on the pre-application for the Stewardship Grant. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melvindale. After some discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- A summary of ADW activities to include in annual reports will be sent out in October.

5) **Standing Committee Reports**

- a. Ecorse Creek Watershed Advisory Group – nothing to report
- b. Combined Downriver Watershed Advisory Group – nothing to report
- c. Lower Huron River Watershed Advisory Group - nothing to report

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

- *The next meeting was set for Tuesday November 24, 2009 at 9:00 am at the Wade-Trim office in Taylor.*

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