

Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

DRAFT Meeting Notes

December 16, 2009 1:30 pm



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

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

Designated or Alternate Community Representative:

- Mark Gahry, Brownstown Township
- James Gorris, City of Gibraltar
- Neil Greene, Woodhaven-Brownstown School District
- Mark Kowalewski, City of Wyandotte
- Rick Lang, City of Allen Park
- Roy Schrameck, City of Rockwood
- Bryan Wagoner, Wayne County Airport Authority
- Tim Walsh, Village of South Rockwood
- Eric Witte, City of Melvindale
- Brian Arp, City of Gibraltar
- Brent Florek, Grosse Ile Township (alternate)
- Mark Gaworecki, City of Southgate (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
- 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
- Razik Alsaigh, Wayne County

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 September 23, 2009 meeting notes. **ACTION:** There was a motion by Rockwood to accept the September 23, 2009 meeting notes. The motion was 2nd by Gibraltar. Passed unanimously.

2) **Finance Committee Report**

- a. Current Budget Status
 - A handout was distributed summarizing the current ADW financial status. The summary is through 12/11/09, and invoices from the facilitation team and others are still expected.
 - The handout includes a summary of dues paid to date. Some members have paid the first installment and still need to pay the second installment.
 - Berlin Township has not paid dues. Based on an email, they are believed to have opted out of the Phase II permit and are expected to withdraw from the ADW as a result. **ACTION:** There was a motion by Melvindale to have the facilitation team draft a letter to Berlin Township as a follow up to the email. The motion was 2nd by South Rockwood. Passed unanimously.
- b. Amendment #4 to the Current Budget
 - A handout of Amendment #4 was distributed.
 - The IDEP budget was reduced because not all of the vouchers have been used. There was also some budget leftover on the grow zone contract with ECT and grow zone workshops/projects. Amendment #4 reduces the total budget from \$626,400 to \$622,400. **ACTION:** There was a motion by Melvindale to approve Amendment #4. Motion was 2nd by Romulus. Passed unanimously.
- c. Amendment #1 to the 2010 Budget
 - A handout of Amendment #1 was distributed.
 - \$12,000 was added to the 2010 budget for finalizing the grow zones grant. **ACTION:** There was a motion by Melvindale to approve Amendment #1. Motion was 2nd by Rockwood. Passed unanimously.
- d. Membership Dues and Invoicing Options for 2010-2011
 - The ADW invoicing schedule has been skipping every other year. The Finance Committee recommendation for the future dues is to reduce the dues and invoice once per year. **ACTION:** There was a motion by Allen Park to send invoices each year on October 1 with payments due on January 1. The annual dues will be based on a budget that is developed by September 1 each year. Motion was 2nd by Melvindale. Passed unanimously.
- e. Review/Ratification of Fiduciary Agreement with Wayne County
 - A handout of the fiduciary agreement was provided. This agreement is similar to the original agreement and has been reviewed by Patrick McCauley.
 - Consensus of the group was to continue to bring discussions like this to the ADW for approval.

f. Other Discussion Items

- ***Razik needs to continue to work on contracts for the 2010 activities.***
- The 2010 grant activities cannot begin until there is a contract with the State. The State is still working on the language of the contract.
- The Officers need to review the Facilitation Services proposal. There will need to be a meeting in late January to approve the state contract and the proposal.
ACTION: There was a motion by Melvindale to allow the Executive Committee of the ADW to sign the agreement with OHM for Facilitation Services once the agreement is finalized. The motion was 2nd by Gibraltar. Passed unanimously.

3) **Update on Contested Permit**

- MDEQ does not intend to modify the permit but will consider alternative approaches. There is concern that alternatives that are accepted this round might not be accepted next time. Discussions have halted.
- The City of Riverview filed a complaint as a class action. The State, as a result, filed a challenge that the allegations were improper. The State's motion to throw out the Riverview case was denied. Communities were given the opportunity to file a new complaint or intervene with their own attorneys. The City of Novi submitted a request to issue a stay of the administrative proceedings. The State filed an opposing request. This will be heard by the Ingham County Circuit Court Judge on December 17. A new scheduling order is expected after the December 17 ruling. *Note: Since the meeting, the Ingham County Circuit Court Judge issued an injunction staying the Administrative Contested Case Appeal to allow the issues to be tried in Court.*
- A handout summarizing the ADW activities to date was provided. This was submitted to Patrick McCauley for review to potentially use with the contested case, if needed. ***The OHM Team will work with Patrick to finalize the document.***

4) **Status Reports**

- a. IDEP Activities
 - Contracts are in place for the IDEP grant.
 - ***ADW members should send feedback to Noel Mullett on suggestions for IDEP investigation locations.***
- b. PE Committee Recommendation for 2010 Budget
 - A Public Education Committee meeting was held on November 4 to discuss the focus of the PE efforts. A handout was provided with recommendations.
- c. Progress Evaluation
 - A Benthic Monitoring handout for the Lower Huron River watershed was provided. This report includes the results of the most recent monitoring efforts in October 2009.
 - This information is being pulled into a comprehensive report for grow zone reporting and as an initial report to provide a baseline status of the ADW. This can be used with the long-term monitoring plan and will help measure effectiveness.
 - A handout was also provided showing a slideshow of efforts in the Middle Rouge Watershed. This is an example of what was pulled together for the Hines Park grow zone grant.
- d. Planning and Reporting
 - i. GLRI Grant Opportunity
 - A handout was provided summarizing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant opportunity.
 - The MDEQ is applying for this funding, and if awarded, they may decide

to roll out the funding to the local communities.

- SEMCOG is working with Counties to apply for 3 grants relating to green infrastructure.
- The ADW may be able to use the Wayne County Elizabeth Park project as an anchor to use with other projects throughout the ADW.
- **ACTION:** There was a motion by South Rockwood to authorize the facilitation team to use the rest of the 2009 grant application budget to submit an application for this grant program (\$7,400). Motion was 2nd by Woodhaven-Brownstown School District. Passed unanimously

5) **Standing Committee Reports**

None of the WAGs have met since the last ADW meeting. There will be discussions in the coming year about updates to the Watershed Management Plans.

- a. Ecorse Creek Watershed Advisory Group
- b. Combined Downriver Watershed Advisory Group
- c. Lower Huron River Watershed Advisory Group

6) **Other Items**

- *OHM will be sending out an email with the ADW sign-in sheet for each ADW member to update with the correct contact information.*

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

- *The next meeting was set for Thursday January 21, 2010 at 1:30 pm at the Wade-Trim office in Taylor.*

8) **Adjourn**

- There was a motion by Melvindale to adjourn the meeting. The motion was 2nd by Romulus. Passed unanimously.

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