

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS**  
**Technical Committee Meeting**

January 15, 2009  
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm



The Alliance of Downriver Watersheds Technical Committee held a meeting on January 15, 2009.

Allen Park  
Belleville  
Berlin Township  
Brownstown Township  
Dearborn Heights  
Ecorse  
Flat Rock  
Gibraltar  
Grosse Ile Township  
Huron Township  
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

Attendance:

Noel Mullett	Wayne County DOE
Susan Thompson	Wayne County DOE
Dean Tuomaci	Wayne County DOE
Andra Mealey	Wayne County DOE
Kevin Buford	City of Westland
Patrick McCauley	GMH Law
Robert Burns	Friends of Detroit River
Ric Lawson	HRWC
Pam Labadie	HRWC
Brent Florek	Charles E Raines Co
Michelle LaRose	OHM/Huron Twp
Vicki Putala	OHM
Kelly McRobb-Ackland	Wade Trim

**1) Status of Grow Zones and Monitoring**

A brief reminder of the original budget was given regarding the breakdown between the CMI IDEP Grant and the Grow Zone Grant. An amendment was passed during the October 2008 ADW meeting shifting the budget. The provided status report had not yet been updated to include effort expended by Wayne County. The necessary Maintenance Agreements and MDEQ approval have been received for the 2009 projects. The Woods Creek planting date has been set for June 6, 2009; the remaining sites have yet to be scheduled. A concern that was raised and will require further discussion closer to the planting season is the coordination of plant delivery.

Preliminary flow metering data (July 17, 2008 – December 18, 2008) was summarized by Wayne County for the Blakely Drain at Racho Road, Brownstown Creek east of Hall Road, the south branch of Ecorse Creek at Reeck Road and the Frank and Poet Drain at Homeister. Barometric conversions are still needed in order to complete the discharge curves. Concern was expressed over high flow conditions. Data was further presented by Ric Lawson for Woods Creek and the Bancroft-Noles Drain. The data collected at the Bancroft-Noles Drain site suggests it may not be a good monitoring location as a significant portion of the graphed data suggests “no discharge”.

The results from the 2008 fall bug hunt were presented. 20 sites were investigated with fairly consistent findings; good to fair throughout, with a few “excellent” ratings. It was noted a new dragon fly was observed during the hunt.

**2) Summary/Review of Fall 2008 CMI Grant Applications**

Three grant applications were submitted by Wayne County on behalf of the ADW on October 29<sup>th</sup>. A grant application was submitted for implementation of three green roofs and associated monitoring at the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District, as well as updating the three WMPs to 319 compliance, outreach via the Michigan LID Manual. The grant application requested \$611,875 in funding with a local match of \$291,803. A grant application was submitted for planning projects within the ADW including updating the 3 WMPS to 319 compliance, outreach via the Michigan LID Manual, and the creation of a riparian corridor acquisition program. The grant application requested \$267,083 in funding with a local match of \$57,553. The third application included an IDEP Grant that may be used in combination with the E Coli TMDL strategy. It is anticipated the Grant recipients will be announced in May 2009.

The spring 2008 Green Infrastructure Imagery has been collected and includes a combination of leaf-on and leaf-off imagery. The data set is to be forwarded by the end of March (per contract). The imperviousness classification will be included. The entire ADW was included in the study. Analysis with City Green is to begin in April.

**3) Discuss New Budget Activities and Logistics**

Significant discussion occurred in regard to an amendment request presented by the OHM Team for ADW facilitation services. Additional effort associated with the preparation of the CMI Grant Applications, completion of the associated "Letters of Intent", contested case undertaking and a review of the estimated effort to complete the contract scope have prompted the team to request consideration of an amendment increase of \$14,500 or methodology to reduce the remaining contract scope (i.e. fewer meetings, etc.). A formal letter was issued to raise the awareness that there will be a budget issue and request guidance as to how to move forward with the remaining effort. The discussion concluded with an agreed upon action that the request would be presented to the full ADW for consideration.

The new budget year begins May 2, 2009. It was suggested the assessed fees to each community remain the same as the previous assessment while maintaining the two-year budget within a range of \$300,000 to \$330,000. Noel Mullet suggested the existing budget framework is still viable; what needs to be reviewed is the budget allocation by task. This will require the input of the Finance Committee. Some discussion also occurred in regard to remaining fees, budget rollover and invoicing for the next budget.

**4) Contested Case Update**

Patrick McCauley provided an update to the Technical Committee regarding the case. On January 6, 2009, the selected group of representative Attorneys met with representatives from MDEQ to discuss the concerns with the format and scope of the new permit and to further discuss settlement opportunities. A detailed summary of the January 6, 2009 meeting was presented to the Technical Committee. In the summary, Mr. McCauley indicated, as presented by the MDEQ, new permit applications of contested case petitioners were being temporarily shelved. The "ball" is essentially back in the

communities' court whereby a written response/proposal pertaining to elective options is to be submitted to the MDEQ by March 13, 2009, followed by a meeting with MDEQ prior to the end of March. A brief report was subsequently filed with the Court on January 14, 2009.

*Due to attorney-client privilege, this document provides an overview summary of discussion topics.*

Following the January 6, 2009 meeting, it was suggested that collaborative efforts between the ADW and the ARC may prove to be beneficial for both coordination and to reduce potential duplication of effort. It was further suggested that the Technical Committee recommend a subcommittee be created to work with the ARC in developing elective options for the permit by the March 13<sup>th</sup> date. Recommended members include Mark Gahry, Ric Lawson, Noel Mullet and Brent Florek. It was suggested that a representative member be selected from each of the three watersheds (Combined Downriver, Ecorse and Lower Huron). Vicki Putala volunteered to also be present. The resultant action is to propose the creation of the subcommittee and present the proposed members to the full ADW for approval. The level of technical involvement necessary from the consultants was further discussed and is to be forwarded to the full ADW for consideration, as an amendment to the contract will be required.

**5) Other Items**

Pam Labadie from the Huron River Watershed Council presented some of the mass media public outreach material that has been used by the Council. A pooling of resources was discussed as a potential. They are currently in the process of preparing a 2010 calendar at an estimated cost of \$0.90 per calendar. The calendar is due out in September 2009. General discussion in regard to public outreach (PEP) included coordination with SEMCOG efforts, the "Green and Grey" awareness campaign, the County's proposed PEP efforts and website links to HRWC's NPS Pollution Prevention materials and .PDF versions of newsletter articles for use by participating communities.

**6) Next Meeting**

No Technical Committee Meeting has been scheduled.