

MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS
Public Education Committee Meeting

June 24, 2010
10:30 am – 12:00 pm



The Alliance of Downriver Watersheds Public Education Committee held a meeting on June 24, 2010.

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 DPS |
| Mike Flowers | Wayne County DPS |
| Tim Walsh | Village of South Rockwood |
| Bob Burns | Friends of Detroit River |
| Kevin Buford | City of Westland |
| Elizabeth Riggs | HRWC |
| Brent Florek | Charles E Raines Co |
| Leah Groya | Wade Trim |

1) ADW PE Activities Budgeted for 2010

There are 3 primary PE activities budgeted for implementation in 2010:

a) Distribute Pollution Prevention Literature – Focus on Schools

A discussion was held as to what schools to try to target to help distribute literature. The idea is that the literature will go home with the kids and reach the parents. It was agreed that for this year, and with the limited available budget, that schools where Wayne County or PE Committee members have contacts should be the ones targeted. Potential schools for distribution include:

- a. 13 “Green Schools” in the ADW (elementary)
- b. Grow Zone School sites
- c. Schools where PE members have contacts

Budget exists to distribute approximately 3 pieces of material over a period of a few months. It was suggested to look at the MDNRE website – they have a one-page, comprehensive flyer that could be reprinted and distributed as one of the pieces of educational materials.

Action Items:

- *Noel email Leah list of ADW Green Schools*
- *Leah circulate list of Green Schools to meeting attendees and ask to add to list based on their contacts.*
- *Leah compile list of schools to target for pollution prevention literature.*

b) Creek Crossing/Entering Watershed Signage

A significant amount of discussion took place regarding a coordinated effort for assist with a bulk order of signage for installation within the ADW. The ADW budget for this year and this task will cover the staff time to fill out the permit paper work and coordinate the bulk purchase.

Several ADW members have committed in their SWPPIs to install creek crossing and/or entering watershed signage, and several that don't have a permit requirement to install signage are interested in doing so. Wayne County (Mike Flowers) distributed their standard ordering form and discussed pricing, ordering and installation. Each sign is made of durable metal construction, are reflective and are 24" x 36" in size. The cost is \$80/sign. Each sign needs at least one post (cost is \$12/post if supplied by Wayne County). Installation is typically handled by the individual community, however, once there is a better understanding of the number of signs the ADW wants to purchase, Wayne County will look into the possibility of the County doing installation. The location of the signs, and how many each community wants to purchase is up to each community. Once information on number and location is gathered and organized, Wayne County will look into approving a single "blanket" permit for all the signs installed within Wayne County right-of-way.

The ADW would like to keep track of where signs are located so that the sign locations can be mapped for annual reporting purposes and to determine priority sign locations in coming years.

Wayne County needs the following information in order to proceed with investigating the use of a "blanket" permit and potential for installation:

- Need exact sign location (coordinates/GPS would be ideal)
- How many feet away from the road the sign will be located
- Contact person for each community

Action Items:

- *Leah develop form and language to distribute to all ADW members describing the program, information needed and deadline for returning ordering information.*
- *Once ADW ordering information is compiled, Mike Flowers (Wayne County) will coordinate and investigate issues surrounding blanket permit and installation of signs.*

c) Volunteer Monitoring

The final public education action item budgeted for 2010 within the ADW are various volunteer monitoring efforts. An update of these efforts was given to the PE Committee. In the Lower Huron:

- January Winter Stonefly monitoring was completed
- April Spring River Round Up
- Temperature Monitoring is beginning
- Flow monitoring data are being collected at two sites
- Stream mapping and measuring is getting underway again this summer

In the Ecorse Creek and Combined Downriver Watersheds:

- Completed Spring Bug Hunt (4 sites with volunteers; 11 sites with WC staff)
- Flow Monitors are out (put in in May)
- Working to solicit LTU students to assist in geomorphology monitoring

2) Grant Related Education Efforts (Updates)

There are several public education efforts happening due to funds the ADW received via the CMI grant. These include:

a) Downriver Operations Managers Conference

This is a one day expo/conference for managers and maintenance workers primarily at school properties within the downriver region. The expo was held on June 23rd. A booth

highlighting the ADW Grow Zones, and particularly those completed on school properties was manned by Wayne County staff. Staff from SEMCOG, ECT and Beckett & Raeder did a presentation at the conference (3 sessions of the same presentation) on the various grow zone projects. It was asked whether attendees completed evaluations of the conference; Noel planned to find out if evaluation results are available for the Grow Zones session.

b) Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Design Conference – September 24th

The ADW has joined together with Wayne County, SEMCOG, LTU, and the Alliance of Rouge Communities to pull resources to organize and hold a one-day conference on various Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Design topics. The Conference is scheduled for September 24th and will be held at Lawrence Tech University. The goal is to highlight various green infrastructure efforts and technologies with two tracks – one for municipal staff and one for professional engineers and planners. A sub-committee is developing the agenda and meets on a regular basis. There is some discussion about possibly holding a 2 hour session geared toward residents on Saturday, September 25th somewhere in the downriver region where a site visit could also easily be accommodated.

c) Grow Zone Profiles

Summaries have been completed for each of the 10 Grow Zone Sites (one page, 2 sided). The summaries are posted on the ADW website. Wayne County will inform the Grow Zone coordinators that they are completed and available for printing, use and distribution.

d) Green Infrastructure Virtual Tour

LTU is assisting in the development of an interactive, web-based map that will illustrate the location of various GI projects (i.e. Grow Zones, Green Roofs, etc.) within the ADW and SE Michigan. LTU has hired a summer intern to begin the work.

3) Next Meeting

No Public Education Committee Meeting has been scheduled at this time. Follow up and action items will be handled via email unless the need for a meeting is determined.