

Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

Meeting Notes

February 11, 2025 1:00 pm

VIRTUAL MTG



- 1) Welcome: Ron Akers from Van Buren Township opened the meeting. In attendance were:

Designated or Alternate Community Representatives from:

Allen Park
Belleville
Dearborn Heights
Ecorse
Flat Rock
Gibraltar
Grosse Ile Township
Inkster
Lincoln Park
Melvindale
Riverview
Rockwood
Romulus
Southgate
Sumpter Township
Taylor
Trenton
Van Buren Township
Wayne County
Westland
Woodhaven-Brownstown
School District
Wyandotte

- Allen Park – Brent Florek
- Dearborn Heights – Ali Dib
- Flat Rock – Brent Florek
- Gibraltar – Brent Florek
- Grosse Ile – Brent Florek
- Riverview – Brent Florek
- Rockwood – Brent Florek
- Romulus – Don Straub
- Taylor – Kelly McRobb-Ackland
- Trenton – Kevin Sargent, Brent Florek
- Van Buren Township – Ron Akers
- Wayne County – Patrick Cullen, Sue Thompson
- Westland – Dean Keffer
- Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools – Kaitlyn Steeves
- Wyandotte – Greg Mayhew

Other Interested Parties:

- Robert Burns, Friends of the Detroit River/Detroit Riverkeeper
- Leah Groya, L Groya Consulting
- Jennifer Kangas, HRWC
- Pam Labadie, HRWC
- Ric Lawson, HRWC
- Kelly McCabe, HRWC
- Renee Mulcrone, OHM Advisors
- Valerie Novaes, OHM Advisors
- Andrea Paine, HRWC
- Elizabeth Thacker, OHM Advisors
- Mary Trzeciak, OHM Advisors
- McKenzi Waliczek - Friends of the Detroit River
- Maaike Wielenga, HRWC

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. Roll call of Alliance Members and Alternates present – roll call was performed and there was a quorum present.
- b. Introductions of meeting attendees
- c. Addition or changes to draft agenda – there were no changes
- d. Approval of December 3, 2024 meeting notes – **ACTION: There was a motion by Dearborn Heights to approve the December 3, 2024 meeting notes. Seconded by Trenton. Passed unanimously.**

2) **Finance Committee Report**

- Jennifer Kangas provided a financial summary report that was included in the meeting packet.
- The bank balance as of 12/31/2024 was \$318,172.41. There are pending disbursements of \$46,472.13 and remaining 2024 that may still get billed. Therefore, the estimated fund balance for the completion of 2024 is \$265,159.08. Given the projected dues and budget for 2025, the projected fund balance at the completion of 2025 will be \$223,952.93.
- Valerie Novaes reminded the membership that at the last full ADW meeting, it was proposed to gradually increase dues so that the budget and dues are eventually aligned.

3) **Status Reports per ADW Budget Framework**

- a. Planning and Reporting
 - Permit update – reminder that collaborative plans were submitted in April 2024 (IDEP in October 2023). We expect revisions based on EGLE comments but so far we have not gotten any feedback from EGLE.
 - Leah Groya reminded the ADW members that their biennial progress reports will be due April 1, 2025 in MiEnviro. The reports will cover the time period of February 2023 – December 2024. The ADW facilitation team is preparing a summary of collaborative ADW activities that you will add to your individual report. The ADW is also preparing instructions to help you with the process. An email will be sent out from Elizabeth Thacker to membership by March 3.
 - In addition to the biennial report, the annual post-construction report is also due April 1. This report is also submitted in MiEnviro and the name of the report is listed as “MS4 Annual Report for Alternative Channel Protection Control Performance Standard”. You can utilize SEMCOG’s tracking tool. Any projects reviewed by Wayne County were also submitted to SEMCOG. If you did not have any post-construction projects in your community, you still must submit a report stating that is the case.
- b. IDEP Activities
 - The facilitation team is currently working through locations to screen for 2025. The team will also be working with Wayne County to identify facilities for dye testing.
- c. Progress Evaluation
 - Kelly McCabe gave a presentation on the 2024 Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Results. A copy of the presentation was included in the packet. The main summary points included:
 - TP: High across the ADW –
 - Improving: Huron River main stem and Smith Creek –

Unchanged: Ecorse creek and the Combined Downriver creeks

Highest: North Branch Ecorse Creek

- E. coli: High at all urban sites and unchanging
- TSS: Moderate to good across all sites, exceedances only in Ecorse Creek in last several years
- Conductivity: High at all urban sites, especially Ecorse Creek
- Dissolved Oxygen: Low DO at Brownstown, N. Ecorse, and Silver Creeks, event-based low DO at other sites

- On Saturday March 22, there will be volunteer training session held for the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds' Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Program. It will be held from 10:30-12:30 pm at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
- Brent Florek asked if an analysis could be done on how the data changes with water level. Ric Lawson said we have the ability but did note that the water quality standards don't change based on water level. However, this may give a better understanding of whether sources are naturally occurring.

d. Public Education Tasks

- The ADW educational displays are available and making the rounds. Contact Maaike Wielenga if you'd like to reserve.
- E-newsletter –the next edition goes out in March. If you have any announcements or interesting projects, please contact Maaike by February 19.
- 2026 Calendars – this year will be producing the 2026 calendar. The 2024 photo contest winners will be featured in the calendar.
- Detroit River Water Festival May 6-7 – the ADW is planning to support transportation needs and other costs for students within the ADW to attend the festival being held at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

4) Other Items and Announcements

a. Friends of Detroit River/Ecorse Creek Committee Updates

- McKenzie Waliczek reported that there is still school availability for the upcoming river festival (targeting 4 – 5th graders). Contact McKenzie if there is interest.
- The EC committee has prioritized 5 projects in Romulus/Taylor.
- There will be local cleanups during the summer on the Ecorse Creek. They are still trying to determine 1 additional site for the cleanups – contact McKenzie
- Wayne County north branch Ecorse Creek – moving forward with a flood control basin – dependent on funding. Bob Burns asked if the proposed basin volume was known. Patrick Cullen responded that it will be roughly 5 million gallons and they are exploring options for increasing.
- Ecorse Creek maintenance (Wayne County) – project is strictly clearing access and restoration. Hoping it will turn into bigger habitat/restoration projects.

b. 2025 Meeting Schedule – May 13, October 14, December 2 (budget adoption)

c. Opportunity for member sharing - none

5) Summary of Action Items and Other Announcements

- The action items, as identified above in bold/italics, were reviewed.

6) Adjourn