

Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

Meeting Notes

February 13, 2024 1:00 pm

VIRTUAL MTG



- 1) Welcome: John Danci from Sumpter Township opened the meeting. In attendance were:

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

Designated or Alternate Community Representatives from:

- Allen Park – Brent Florek
- Dearborn Heights – Ali Dib, Robert Conrad
- Flat Rock – Brent Florek
- Gibraltar – Brent Florek, Marsha Kozmor
- Grosse Ile – Brent Florek
- Lincoln Park - Tony Serinto for John Kozuh
- Riverview – Brent Florek
- Rockwood – Brent Florek
- Romulus – Don Straub
- Sumpter Township – John Danci
- Taylor – Kelly McRobb- Ackland
- Trenton – Kevin Sargent, Brent Florek
- Van Buren Township – Ron Akers, Larry Lockett
- Wayne County – Sue Thompson
- Woodhaven-Brownstown School District – Brent Florek
- Wyandotte –Greg Mayhew

Other Interested Parties:

- Robert Burns, Friends of the Detroit River
- Jack Cotrone, EGLE
- Leah Groya, L Groya Consulting
- Jennifer Kangas, HRWC
- Pam Labadie, HRWC
- Ric Lawson, HRWC
- Kelly McCabe, HRWC
- Valerie Novaes, OHM Advisors
- Kathleen Sexton, EGLE WRD
- Elizabeth Thacker, OHM Advisors
- Mary Trzeciak – OHM Advisors
- Lishba Varughese, EGLE WRD
- McKenzi Waliczek - Friends of the Detroit River
- Liz Whiddon, OHM Advisors
- Maaiké 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 – the ADW welcomed its newest member, the City of Trenton
- c. Addition or changes to draft agenda – there were no changes
- d. Approval of October 10, 2023 meeting notes – **ACTION: There was a motion by Grosse Ile Township to approve the October 10, 2023 meeting notes. Seconded by Van Buren Twp. Passed unanimously.**

2) Finance Committee Report

- a. Financial Status Report
 - Jennifer Kangas provided the financial status report, which was included in the packet.
 - It is projected that approx. \$80k will carryover into 2024.
 - Inkster and Belleville have outstanding dues
- b. ADW Officers
 - Ron Akers from Van Buren Township has volunteered to be the ADW Chair. John Danci will continue to serve as the ADW Treasurer.
 - **ACTION: There was a motion by Wyandotte to approve Ron Akers as ADW Chair and John Danci as ADW Treasurer. Seconded by Rockwood. Passed unanimously.**

3) Status Reports per ADW Budget Framework

- a. Progress Evaluation
 - There is a 2024 ADW Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Marketing Toolkit available. Information was provided in the meeting packet.
 - Kelly McCabe from HRWC presented Chemistry and Flow results from 2023.
 - TP: High across the ADW (Improving: Huron River – Unchanged Ecorse creek and the Combined Downriver creeks, Highest: South Branch Ecorse Creek)
 - E. coli: High at all urban sites and unchanging
 - TSS: Moderate to good across all sites
 - Conductivity: High at all urban sites, especially Ecorse Creek
 - Dissolved Oxygen: Low DO at Brownstown, event-based low DO at other sites
 - Virtual Orientation for volunteers for the 2024 monitoring season will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, 1-2:30 PM
- b. Public Education Tasks
 - ADW Educational Displays – a reminder that the ADW displays are available and can be used by ADW members in their facilities or at events.
 - The 2023 Schools for Clean Water Contest successfully ran from October 16 – November 3. The final report was included in the packet.
 - ADW Calendars - In November the ADW distributed 20,000 educational calendars with the help of ADW members and community partners. 21 schools participated and over 1600 pledges were made. The winning school was Chapman Elementary.

- Stream Crossing and Watershed Signs
 - Targeted sign locations were determined based on a previous inventory report that indicated those signs in poor condition.
 - The facilitation simplified the signs down to 5 different graphics in order to be efficient.
 - No permits will be needed from Wayne County to replace the sign faces.
 - 28 signs in total will be replaced
- c. IDEP Activities
 - A summary of recent IDEP investigation activities was included in the packet.
 - Map updates are ongoing. ***Please email any updated GIS storm data to Elizabeth Thacker.***
 - 29 outfalls were screened. 19 of those were ruled out for possible illicit connections. Follow up sampling continued, and no illicit connections were found. Elevated E. coli levels are suspected to be due to natural causes such as animal waste.
- d. Planning and Reporting
 - Most ADW members will have to submit a permit reissuance application in April 4, 2024
 - As part of the permit renewal, the ADW will be updating its Collaborative IDEP, PEP, PPP, and TMDL plan. The updated IDEP was already sent out to the membership for review and subsequently sent to EGLE for their initial review. The remaining finalized collaborative documents will be emailed to members along with some general instructions for completing the application in MiEnviro.
 - Lishba Varughese is the EGLE contact for most ADW members. There are several members that are primarily in the Rouge that are under Kathleen Sexton.

4 Other Items and Announcements

- McKenzi Waliczek from Friends of Detroit River/Ecorse Creek Committee discussed the upcoming Ecorse Creek cleanup day on April 27. Contact McKenzi if anyone is interested in attending.
- McKenzi invited ADW members to come to the Ecorse Creek Committee meetings. Reach out to her if you're interested.
- McKenzi thanked the ADW for supporting the Detroit Water Festival.
- 2024 Meeting Schedule –May 21 in person at Wade Trim, October 8, December 3 (if needed)

5) Summary of Action Items and Other Announcements

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

6) Adjourn

- **ACTION:** There was a motion by Grosse Ile Township to adjourn the meeting. **Seconded by Wyandotte. Passed unanimously.**