

Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

Meeting Notes

September 16, 2025 9:30 am

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
- Belleville - Melissa Frierson
- Dearborn Heights – John Danci
- Ecorse – David Hall
- Flat Rock – Brent Florek
- Grosse Ile – Brent Florek
- Riverview – Brent Florek
- Rockwood – Brent Florek
- Southgate – Phil Ferro
- Taylor – Kelly McRobb-Ackland
- Trenton – Kevin Sargent, Brent Florek
- Van Buren Township – Ron Akers
- Wayne County – Patrick Cullen
- Westland – Dean Keffer
- Wyandotte –Greg Mayhew

Other Interested Parties:

- Jennifer DePaulis, Wayne County
- Leah Groya, L Groya Consulting
- Jennifer Kangas, HRWC
- Pam Labadie, HRWC
- Ric Lawson, HRWC
- Valerie Novaes, OHM Advisors
- Andrea Paine, HRWC
- Kaitlyn Reedy, StormWATER Team for Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools and Romulus Community Schools
- Elizabeth Thacker, 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
- c. Addition or changes to draft agenda – there were no changes

2) **Finance Committee Report**

- Jennifer Kangas provided a financial summary report that was included in the meeting packet.
- The fund balance as of 9/14/25 was \$410k. There are currently \$12k pending to be paid and \$59k left on the contract for this year. By the end of the year once all invoices are paid, it is anticipated that there will be a fund balance of \$234k.

3) **Collaborative Plan Updates**

a. IDEP Revisions

- The updated Collaborative IDEP was initially submitted in October 2023. Comments from EGLE were received in July 2025. The facilitation team made updates to the Collaborative IDEP based on EGLE's comments. This updated plan was included in the packet and a summary page of the changes was also provided.
- The most impactful change is that all permittees will have to perform outfall inspections at all outfall locations over the next two permit cycles (an abbreviated permit cycle plus a full permit cycle ~ 7 years). EGLE indicated to the facilitation team that this task was not-negotiable.
- EGLE indicated that they have seen discrepancies between the outfall maps maintained by the communities and the map maintained by the ADW. A task has been added for the facilitation team to meet with each member to ensure that they have the most up-to-date map to use for their outfall inspections.
- Other changes include the removal of references to priority areas, updated training requirements, faster response times for potential issues, and changes to threshold amounts for surfactants and E. coli.

b. TMDL Revisions

- The updated Collaborative TMDL plan was included in the packet along with a summary of the changes.
- EGLE indicated that the previous plan does not appear to show progress toward the TMDL goals for E. coli and biota.
- In discussions with EGLE, there were two approaches presented and the facilitation team decided on an implementation approach (as opposed to additional monitoring).
- The Plan focuses on a suite of 9 implementation activities. New activities include pilot rain garden and pet waste reduction education campaigns. These activities will require new ADW tasks and budget allocation to support this work.
- A survey link was included in order to gather information on activities already being performed by ADW members. ***ADW members should complete the survey by September 23.***

c. PEP Revisions

- The updated PEP was included in the meeting packet as well as a summary of changes.
- In general, EGLE felt that the frequency of activities of activities needed to be increased.
- There is a new Activity #11 created as a catch-all activity and allows us to fill in the gaps where necessary.

d. PPP Revisions

- The updated PPP was included in the meeting packet along with a summary of the changes.
- Changes to the PPP were minor and included changes to language for clarify.

e. Draft 2026 Budget

- A draft budget for 2026 was presented. The overall budget proposed decreased from 2025 to 2026. This is due to reduced budgets for IDEP and PEP.
- Last year the ADW had discussed a gradual increase in dues over the next 4 years. Based on the draft 2026 budget, the executive committee felt that the current dues could remain at the same level for 2026.
- We will hold a meeting in December to adopt the 2026 budget to ensure that there are no major changes necessary as EGLE continues to review the collaborative plans.
- The updated collaborative plans will be submitted to EGLE by September 30.

4) Public Education Updates

- The ADW 2026 Community Calendar will be printed at the end of this month. Please provide any comments to Maaike Wielenga by the end of this week.
- Schools for Clean Water Campaign is the annual pledge campaign that encourages schools to collect pledges to maintain storm drains. The schools with the most pledges can win prizes.
- There are already a handful of schools signed up but we need your help reaching the schools. Maaike sent out an email with information. Sept 30 is the deadline to sign up and the campaign kicks off on Oct 8.

5) Announcements and Member Sharing

- a. SEMCOG Memo to EGLE – SEMCOG recently tried to gain an understanding of EGLE’s authority in the MS4 regulations in light of IDEP and TMDL requirements. Their assessment was provided in a memo to ELGE and was included in the meeting packet. This memo will likely result in further discussions with EGLE and the possible resurrection of a statewide advisory committee.
- b. Upcoming IDEP and Good Housekeeping Training – upcoming training opportunities for November were shared and information was included in the packet.
- c. 2025 Meeting Schedule –December 2 (budget adoption)
- d. 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