

Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

Meeting Notes

December 3, 2024 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 – John Danci
- Ecorse – David Hall, Brent Kraft, Giffels Webster
- Flat Rock – Eric Holtz, Brent Florek
- Gibraltar – Marsha Kozmor, Brent Florek
- Grosse Ile – Brent Florek
- Lincoln Park – John Kozuh
- Riverview
- Rockwood – Brent Florek
- Trenton – Kevin Sargent, Brent Florek
- Van Buren Township – Ron Akers
- Wayne County – Patrick Cullen
- Westland – Dean Keffer
- Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools – Kaitlyn Steeves
- Wyandotte – Greg Mayhew

Other Interested Parties:

- Leah Groya, L Groya Consulting
- Jennifer Kangas, HRWC
- Pam Labadie, HRWC
- Valerie Novaes, OHM Advisors
- Andrea Paine, HRWC
- Elizabeth Thacker, OHM Advisors
- McKenzi Waliczek - Friends of the Detroit River
- Maaik Wielenga, HRWC
- Mary Trzeciak, OHM Advisors
- Lishba Varughese, EGLE
- Casey Jezewski, EGLE

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 May 21, 2024 and October 8, 2024 meeting notes – **ACTION: There was a motion by Flat Rock to approve the May 21, 2024 and October 8, 2024 meeting notes. Seconded by Wyandotte. Passed unanimously.**

2) Finance Committee Report

- a. Financial Status Report
 - Jennifer Kangas stated that the next financial status report would be provided at the first full ADW meeting in 2025.
- b. ADW Officers
 - The Vice-Chair position is currently vacant. Don Straub from the City of Romulus contacted the ADW and expressed his willingness to fill this position.
 - Approval of Don Straub from the City of Romulus to serve as Vice-chair of the ADW – **ACTION: There was a motion by Gibraltar to approve Don Straub from the City of Romulus to serve as Vice-chair of the ADW. Seconded by Wyandotte. Passed unanimously.**
- c. 2025 Budget/Dues
 - We are still waiting for comments from EGLE on the ADW Collaborative plans that were previously submitted (permit applications were submitted in April 2024 and the collaborative IDEP was sent to EGLE in October 2023).
 - Based on the fact that the ADW does not know what changes will be made to the Collaborative Plans, a “business as usual” budget for 2025 was presented. This budget assumes no major changes to the activities currently being performed. If the ADW receives comments in 2025 that requires changes to planned activities, we may need to revisit the budget mid-year.
 - Valerie Novaes presented the proposed 2025 budget. She noted most of the tasks are requirements of the current MS4 permit.
 - The total budget proposed is \$331k. The expected dues collected are \$276k, resulting in a shortage of funds. The ADW has a healthy fund balance but it is not recommended that the ADW operate in the red and deplete these funds. Therefore, a 4-year plan to increase dues was proposed.
 - Approval of the 2025 budget – **ACTION: There was a motion by Wyandotte to approve the presented 2025 budget. Seconded by Riverview. Passed unanimously (roll call taken).**
 - Approval of the 2025 dues – **ACTION: There was a motion by Trenton to approve the presented 2025 dues. Seconded by Riverview. Passed unanimously (roll call taken).**
 - 2025 Facilitation Contract – **ACTION: There was a motion by Lincoln Park to authorize the ADW Chair to sign the 2025 facilitation contract after review. Seconded by Gibraltar. Passed unanimously.**

- 2025 Fiduciary Contract – **ACTION: There was a motion by Gibraltar to authorize the ADW Chair to sign the 2025 fiduciary contract after review. Seconded by Trenton. Passed unanimously.**

3) Status Reports per ADW Budget Framework

a. Planning and Reporting

- Leah Groya reminded the ADW members that their biennial progress reports will be due April 1, 2025. In February, the ADW facilitation team will send out an email with instructions and a summary of all collaborative activities to include with their report.

b. IDEP Activities

- Currently working on tracing 1 potential illicit discharge. Will be performing follow up field work to evaluate previously inundated outfalls.

c. Progress Evaluation

- On Saturday March 22, there will be volunteer training session held for the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds' Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Program. Registration will be open mid-January.

d. Public Education Tasks

- The ADW educational displays are available and making the rounds. Contact Maaike Wielenga if you'd like to reserve.
- Schools for Clean Water – there were 2051 pledges and continuing to reach a broader audience. There were 7 new schools. This year it was opened to all schools, not just green schools. 72% of pledges were first timers even though the contest has been running for several years.
- E-newsletter – went out in December
- Photo Contest results are on the ADW website

4) Other Items and Announcements

- a. Stormwater Utility Act – There is currently a Senate bill (660) that provides a road map for Michigan communities to create a legally defensible stormwater utility if they choose, but does not mandate adoption of a utility by any community. The ADW recently sent out an email with info if you want to show support for the bill.
- b. Friends of Detroit River/Ecorse Creek Committee Updates – McKenzie Waliczek reported that they have now prioritized 11 sites (spanning 6 communities) for potential projects. They are submitting a grant application to develop 2 concept plans. The Detroit River Water Festival is being held in Trenton on May 6-7. They are targeting downriver environmental justice schools to attend the outdoor educational field trip. The Wayne County Ecorse Creek north branch restoration is wrapping up. Work on the second reach has been delayed and is anticipated to start up again in a couple months.
- c. 2025 Meeting Schedule – February 11, May 13, October 14, December 2 (budget adoption)

5) Summary of Action Items and Other Announcements

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

6) Adjourn