

MEETING AGENDA

ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS

Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting

January 12, 2024

1:00pm Virtual



Member Communities

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

- **Introductions**
- **Review Agenda**
- **Housekeeping**
 - Invoicing and payments
 - 2024 Contracts
 - Trenton – new member
 - Officer Vacancies
 - Responding to emails/calls about spills
 - Email update/reminders out to ADW membership
- **Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**
 - Submit to members mid-January for review and comment
- **Permit Applications (any help we can provide the members?)**
- **Updates/Discussion (if any)**
 - Ecorse Creek/Friends of Detroit River Project - McKenzi
 - Stream Crossing/Road Signage
 - Clean Water Green Schools Campaign (Overview 2023)
 - IDEP and Monitoring Activities
 - Taylor and Romulus coordination
 - Dye Testing
 - Additional Investigative Sites
 - Dry Weather Outfall Screening in Priority Areas
 - Rain Catchers Collaborative
 - ADW Website Updates
 - E-newsletter
 - Small Grant Program – School Field Trips
 - Regional Partnerships
- **Next Meeting**

Facilitator

OHM Advisors
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MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS
Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting
January 12, 2024
11:00 am Virtual



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Attendees: Valerie Novaes, OHM; Elizabeth Thacker, OHM; Liz Whiddon, OHM; Andrea Paine, HRWC; Pam Labadie, HRWC; Maaike Wielenga, HRWC; Sue Thompson, Wayne County; Leah Groya, Consultant; Mary Trzeciak, OHM; Brent Florek, Charles Raines Co.; Kelly McRobb-Ackland, Wade Trim; McKenzi Waliczek, Friends of Detroit River; Ron Akers, Van Buren Township; Casey Jezewski, Arch Environmental; Noel Mullett, ECT

- **Housekeeping**
 - **Invoicing** – Get final invoices to OHM by January 25th in order to get them out in the next OHM billing cycle.
 - **2024 Contracts** – Elizabeth sent them out to the subs for review. The ADW/OHM main contract isn't executed yet, but should be within the next month.
 - **Trenton** – new member
 - OHM will:
 - Confirm that a welcome packet was sent out and that they have been invited to the full ADW meeting.
 - Elizabeth will send a note to Trenton rep and add "intro to Trenton" to full meeting agenda
 - **ADW Officers** – Ron Akers, Van Buren Township has volunteered to help lead and serve the ADW. Ron and John Danci will get together in the next week or so to discuss roles and brainstorm recruiting an additional ADW member representative to assist with managing the group.
 - **Responding to Emails/Calls about spills** – Occasionally, the ADW receives via the website form and/or Facebook Messenger a note, request, complaint from the general public. These are typically fielded by HRWC. The group talked through what the general "protocol" should to respond. Moving forward, it was agreed that the correspondence/message should be forwarded to Val and Elizabeth and then decide together how to move forward. The ADW rep for the community that the complaint is from should also be notified.
 - **Email update/reminder** – Elizabeth is sending an email out to the to ADW with a brief wrap up of 2023 and reminders about upcoming items in 2024 such as the permit deadline.
- **Collaborative ADW Plans**
 - Noel reached out about the Collaborative IDEP/TMDL Plans that the ARC received from EGLE. EGLE is indicating they want to require permittees to screen their outfalls every 5 years up to 250 outfalls – which eliminates the collaborative approach. EGLE is also indicating a desire for more wet weather screening for TMDL monitoring. The IDEP Draft for ADW was submitted to EGLE in Fall 2023 – no comments received yet. Pam has PEP and PPP ready for final review. TMDL is updated – just finishing maps – HRWC will get to OHM as soon as possible. HRWC will get everything to OHM by mid next week and OHM will then get it out to ADW members for review and comment. Review at February full ADW meeting and then they can submit with their applications. Walk through summary/overview of changes at February full ADW meeting.
- **Permit Applications**
 - Elizabeth will check MiWaters and reach out to EGLE for abbreviated permit application for ADW members use, fill out what can collectively be filled out and give whatever guidance might be helpful. Jessica DeMillia will not be returning to EGLE after maternity leave.



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• Updates

- Ecorse Creek Project/FDR – completed project identification phase with 91 project locations – in GIS story map. Phase II funding has been received. Seeking Phase III funding for design and construction via a NOAA grant. Applying for another EGLE grant for concept designs for 2 projects. Planning a Spring Water Festival May 7th @ Detroit River Wildlife Refuge for 200+ students. ADW is coordinating with FDR for a small grant program to reimburse ADW schools for field trip transportation expenses to get students to the Water Festival.
- Monitoring and IDEP -2023 report is finalized and on the ADW website. Updated info stream with ADW sites included. Volunteer signups are live. South Huron Valley Authority partnership again in 2024. Working on updating a toolkit for ADW members to distribute to their communities. IDEP initial screening is complete. Targeted 47 outfalls but weren't able to find all. Screened 29 outfalls. 4 potential illicit were sampled. 1 in Romulus on Beverly Rd. Did not find any exceedences except at the outfall – so assuming natural/animal source. Westland did dye testing at houses (8) – have 4 to go. Finishing up this month. 2024 proposing to target historic areas to find potential illicit connections. Identified 40 outfalls along priority reaches.
- Rain Catchers Collective – HRWC, FDR, CRWC, ADW. \$22M proposal to install GSI across SE Michigan through NOAA. Going out in February. **Would like a letter of support from the ADW. Will send to Elizabeth for John Danci's signature. Ric will share out the proposal for the letter of support..**
- ADW E-news will go out in early March – any content ideas should go to Maaike.
- Watershed Signs – 28 signs were ordered via Brimar online. Panels to replace existing poor condition panels. **Leah will work with OHM to have the panels delivered to the 5 ADW members once received.**
- ADW mapping and GIS data. Need to keep master map files in one location. **OHM will schedule a meeting with data people at HRWC and Andra Mealey at Wayne County to keep the conversation going.**

The next PE/Tech meeting will be held March 7, 2024 at 10:00am (virtual).

Facilitator

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MEETING AGENDA

ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS

Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting

March 7, 2024

10:00am Virtual



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- **Housekeeping**
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 - 2024 Contracts
- **Permit Applications and Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**
- **Updates/Discussion (if any)**
 - Ecorse Creek/Friends of Detroit River Project - McKenzi
 - Downriver Water Festival – Detroit International Wildlife Refuge – May 7th
 - ADW DWF School transportation support
 - Other ADW financial support?
 - ADW Schools Small Grant program
 - Transportation for FODR Canoemobile event at Lake Erie Metropark- May
 - Stream Crossing/Road Signage
 - IDEP and Monitoring Activities
 - Dye Testing
 - Additional Investigative Sites
 - Dry Weather Outfall Screening in Priority Areas
 - Rain Catchers Collaborative
 - ADW Website Updates
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 - Regional Partnerships
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March 7, 2024
10:00 am Virtual



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- **Housekeeping**
 - **Invoicing** – All subs should receive payment next week and we will then close the books on 2023.
 - **2024 Contracts** – HRWC will mark up concerns and get them to OHM to work through modifications. Construction section does not apply. HRWC will strike sections and also get some minor activity task language to Val. WT will review executed contract with ADW. Elizabeth will email it to Kelly.
- **Permit Applications + Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**

Heard back from ADW members minor PEP and IDEP comments. Pam will get revised PEP to Elizabeth by tomorrow. Ric will get TMDL final to Elizabeth with Wayne County comments as well as take a look at IDEP section of permit pdf and get suggestions to Elizabeth. Elizabeth will get everything out to the ADW by Monday and will give the PPP a final review. There is regional concern about EGLE's comments about collaborative TMDLs. Ric suggests a region-wide meeting with EGLE to discuss further. Kelly Karl @ SEMCOG has been helping with responses and coordination to gather data that all the screening isn't resulting in much improvement. Ric will email Kelly Karl to request the inclusion of ADW in discussion and will include Val and Ron Akers contact info. Val will meet with Ron Akers to bring him up to speed on permit and collaborative plan goals and issues.
- **Post Construction Report**

The Post Construction Report is also due April 1st. Wayne County provided a lot of data to SEMCOG. Communities need to report on sites in their community that have gone through Wayne County permits or otherwise. This is the expectation of EGLE. Taylor does some of their own reviews and also some that go to Wayne County for permits. Katie Grantham at SEMCOG is spearheading the regional reporting effort. Some ADW members are confused. Val will check with Katie and EGLE and let everyone know the results.
- **Updates**
 - *Ecorse Creek Prioritization Committee*
 - Prioritizing/ranking sites that were identified last year
 - Flying drones over Ecorse Creek on North Branch upstream of Lincoln Park to Dearborn Heights. Looking for debris cleanup in advance of Wayne County doing drain clearing. Will also be identifying invasive Knotweed. Flying drones in April and can look into other items if desired. Have drone footage update/share in May with full ADW if available.
 - EGLE is hiring an Environmental Quality Analyst and MS4 Permit Compliance person.
 - McKenzi will give the name/email of City of Ecorse person to add to ADW list.



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- ADW Mini Grant Program (\$6500)
 - FODR Water Festival – May 7th. Proposal is for ADW to reimburse for transportation costs for ADW schools to participate. Looking at 3 ADW Schools. This won't use the full \$6500. Proposal is to use the \$6500 mini grants for additional Water Festival costs that are tangible items (not administration/overhead) as well as funds toward a proposed Canoe Mobile event at the Metropark – bringing in Wilderness Inquiry Canoe Mobile program which brings 10-person canoes and gets kids out into the water to learn about the environment, history, etc. **Pam, Maaike, and Leah will continue to work with FODR on these opportunities.**
- Monitoring and IDEP -2024 sampling season is ready to go and volunteer recruitment was successful. OHM will do dry weather screening for 2024 and keep all posted. Wayne County will screen priority outfalls from 2018.
- Rain Catchers Collective – HRWC, FDR, CRWC, ADW. Branding will be coming out and submitted grant to NOAA. 99 people participated in rain garden course.
- ADW E-news went out in early March and got average open rates. Next e-news will go out in June – possible topics include road signs, water festival and canoe mobile.
- Watershed Signs – 28 signs were purchased and delivered to 5 ADW member communities. Dearborn Heights and Southgate have installed their signs. **Brent will follow up with Grosse Ile, Trenton and Gibraltar to see when they plan to install.**
- Photo contest will launch in June – working on marketing, etc.
- Pop up displays have been out in the community.

The next PE/Tech meeting will be held May 2, 2024 at 10:00am (virtual).

Facilitator

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MEETING AGENDA

ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS

Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting

May 2, 2024

10:00am Virtual



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- **Introductions**
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- **Permit Applications and Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**
 - Regional Collaborative TMDL discussions with EGLE?
- **Updates/Discussion (if any)**
 - IDEP and Monitoring Activities
 - Dye Testing
 - Additional Investigative Sites
 - Dry Weather Outfall Screening in Priority Areas
 - Ecorse Creek/Friends of Detroit River Project - McKenzi
 - Downriver Water Festival – Detroit International Wildlife Refuge – May 7th
 - ADW Schools Small Grant program (\$6500)
 - Transportation for 3 ADW schools to attend Water Festival
 - Water Festival Support (\$)?
 - Transportation for FODR Canoemobile event at Lake Erie Metropark?
 - Stream Crossing/Road Signage – Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, Trenton install?
 - Rain Catchers Collaborative
 - E-newsletter
 - Photo Contest – June
 - Schools For Clean Water Contest (October 2024)
 - Regional Partnerships
- **Agenda for Full ADW Meeting – In Person May 21st @ Wade Trim Office in Taylor**
- **Next Meeting**

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ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS
Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting
May 2, 2024
10:00 am Virtual



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- **Housekeeping**
 - **Invoicing** – All invoices for 2023 work have been paid out and the books for 2023 are closed. 2024 invoices have started to be sent to the ADW. Payments from ADW are averaging 21 days to payment which is very good and appreciated.
 - **2024 Contracts** – OHM sent updated contract to HRWC and are close to resolution.
- **Permit Applications + Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**

A group of regional representatives met to discuss discomfort with bacteria impairments and statewide TMDL application to MS4 permit holders. Group included SEMCOG, ARC, ADW, Lansing, Grand Watershed, HRWC plus others. EGLE is pushing for wet weather outfall sampling but not saying why/how it will address bacteria assessments/conditions. Watersheds have been focusing on human hosts for bacteria. EGLE is wanting to test for all of it and come up with a plan to address. SEMCOG met directly with EGLE leadership and the discussion is continuing. Ric Lawson will continue to represent ADW interests and provide updates. **Ric will provide an update at the full ADW meeting.** DWSD just had an EGLE audit. They had to make some revisions but did get an approved SWM Permit.
- **Updates**
 - **Monitoring and IDEP**
 - ADW will be doing a pilot investigation this summer with some wet weather sampling in target sections based on ambient water sampling.
 - OHM is beginning screening.
 - HRWC launched the season in early April with 20 new volunteers plus some returning ones. SHVUA is again assisting in testing of samples. HRWC staff presented results to SHVUA leadership in March and it was well received. Plan is to monitor every other week until the end of September.
 - **Friends of the Detroit River** – Ecorse Creek project is prioritizing 90 projects and putting scores together. Flew drone over the Ecorse Creek in April using firefighters that needed drone flight hours. Aerial coverage flown over the tree line – got good coordination for clean up locations in advance of Wayne County drain cleanup efforts. FODR is waiting to hear on 3 grant proposals that are out to continue to move forward. **Drone footage will be shared at full ADW meeting.**
 - **Detroit Water Festival** – May 7th. 8 classes going from Taylor, Ecorse and Romulus to the International Wildlife Refuge. ADW will financially support via reimbursing for transportation and other direct costs. In addition, Maaike from ADW/HRWC is going to the festival to run a stormwater modeling activity and impacts of pollutants.



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- Photo Contest – June 1-August 3. 4 cash prizes. Getting the word out this month. Contest will focus on a few categories of photos including native plants, nature, water, etc. Winners will be featured in the ADW calendar.
- Schools for Clean Water contest will run October 14-28 and will be open to all schools in the ADW this year (as opposed to just Wayne County Green Schools). **Maaike will send contacts to Sue to coordinate with her school contact info.**
- E-news – next edition will go out in early June. Topics include watershed signs, water festival, photo contest, drone survey, monitoring activities and John Danci being on Destination Downriver podcast.
- ADW Educational display is currently at the Southgate public library
- Watershed Signs – All 28 signs have been installed by Dearborn Heights, Southgate, Grosse Ile, Trenton, and Gibraltar.
- Rain Catchers Collaborative – waiting to hear back on grant proposals. Have fully launched all of the marketing materials.
- Watershed Report Cards – released last week – combined SE Michigan Report Card as well as individual watersheds. Press event will be held at Dossin on Belle Isle. Planet Detroit is hosting a webinar to discuss results. Released by University of Maryland and used a lot of ADW data. **Ric will present an overview for the full ADW committee.**

The next PE/Tech meeting will be held June 25, 2024 at 1:00pm (virtual).

Facilitator

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MEETING AGENDA

ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS

Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting

June 25, 2024

1:00pm Virtual



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- **Introductions**
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 - New EGLE Contact - Casey Jezewski JezewskiC2@michigan.gov
- **Permit Applications and Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**
 - Regional Collaborative TMDL discussions
- **2025 Budgeting + Approval Schedule**
- **Updates/Discussion (if any)**
 - IDEP and Monitoring Activities
 - Dye Testing
 - Additional Investigative Sites
 - Dry Weather Outfall Screening in Priority Areas
 - Ecorse Creek/Friends of Detroit River Project - McKenzi
 - ADW Schools Small Grant program (\$6500)
 - Transportation for 3 ADW schools to attend Water Festival
 - Water Festival Support
 - Transportation for FODR Canoemobile event at Lake Erie Metropark?
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June 25, 2024
10:00 am Virtual



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- **Housekeeping**
 - **Invoicing** – All invoices are in process and should be paid in a few weeks
 - **2024 Contracts** – All contracts are executed
 - **Woodhaven Brownstown Schools** – new rep is ARCH Environmental Group and Kaitlyn Steeves
 - **New EGLE contact for ADW**

- **Permit Applications + Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**

Some latest regional discussions are revealing that EGLE may only require dry weather sampling for TMDL. Permit cycles – abbreviated cycle this application – will be a 2 year cycle to then allow for a consistent 5 year cycle that will align with Wastewater Permit cycle. Looking at 1, 7-year permit cycle. For IDPE, EGLE will exclude points of discharge but require screening of every outfall in the 7-year permit period.

SEMCOG is coordinating IDEP effectiveness study and EGLE supports this approach.

- **2025 ADW Budget Schedule**
 - August PE/Tech Meeting – 2025 and 2026 budget planning revisions/discussion
 - September – Executive Committee Budget Review
 - October – Full ADW Budget Approval

- **Updates**
 - Monitoring and IDEP
 - Halfway point of season – going well – 20 volunteers and SHVUA doing sampling analysis
 - Frank & Poet TMDL Sampling – is there a list of outfalls from OHM for Frank & Poet to track sampling – end of July to September. **OHM send to Ric for use. Mary will also touch base with Sue at Wayne County for GIS outfall data.**
 - Dry weather outfall screening dates are scheduled into July
 - Holding off on wet weather screening until we hear back from EGLE. **Andrea will share this with Ric.**

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- Photo Contest – June 1-August 3. 4 cash prizes. Launched the contest. 70 photo entries were received in 25 days. 19 photographers from 12 Downriver communities.
- Schools for Clean Water contest will run October 14-28 and will be open to all schools in the ADW this year (as opposed to just Wayne County Green Schools). 19 schools signed up during early registration from 12 ADW member communities.
- E-news – June 2024 edition went out with a 27% open rate.
- Rain Catchers Collaborative – waiting to hear back on grant proposals. NOAA Climate Fund awards have been moved to August. Full branding and marketing and press has launched.
- Downriver Community Conference – John Danci did podcast. They are submitting grant information and looking for ADW data.

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MEETING AGENDA

ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS

Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting

August 22, 2024

1:00pm Virtual



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 - Any recent updates or feedback?
- **2025 Budgeting + Approval Schedule**
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MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS
Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting

August 22, 2024

1:00pm Virtual



Attendees: Valerie Novaes, OHM; Elizabeth Thacker, OHM; Andrea Paine, HRWC; Pam Labadie, HRWC; Maaike Wielenga, HRWC; Leah Groya, Consultant; Mary Trzeciak, OHM; Brent Florek, Charles Raines Co.; Kelly McRobb-Ackland, Wade Trim; Noel Mullet, ECT; McKenzi Waliczek, Friends of Detroit River; Tony Burdick, Sumpter Township

Member Communities

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
WayneCounty
Westland
Woodhaven-
Brownstown School
District
Wyandotte

Facilitator

OHM Advisors
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- **Housekeeping**

- **Invoicing** – All invoices and payments are flowing smoothly

- **Permit Applications + Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**

- Michigan/SEMCOG group of MS4s met including ARC, ADW, Middle Huron, Grand, Lansing, Kalamazoo Area. All are on same page related to discomfort with EGLE e.coli focus and wet weather monitoring.
- SEMCOG is reaching out to the Center for Watershed Protection to discuss and also investigating legal requirements under Phase II sections of Clean Water Act to see how other states are interpreting rules.
- Middle Huron partners met and EGLE was no longer going to require we weather sampling for TMDL Monitoring Plan. EGLE has scoring criteria of how they measure TMDL Plans to track degree partners are working.
- **Val will call Christy Alman and say we're hearing that EGLE may be pivoting from wet weather screening requirements and should ADW remove from submitted TMDL Plan now.**

- **2025 ADW Budget Schedule**

- Elizabeth shared draft budget worksheet and reviewed with the attendees. We will propose to the ADW to keep outfall screening out of the ADW budget but offer the service if any ADW members need/want it (out of their own budgets).
- In an early 2025 ADW Full meeting we should discuss if the ADW desires to do a larger overhaul of the ADW website in 2026 including whether it should be more public facing as opposed to a repository as it was setup.
- **OHM will edit the budget based on discussion today and send it back out to the team. Also will calculate dues increase to hit proposed budget, highlight potential areas for savings. At full ADW meeting in October, present budget to ADW and ask where the facilitation team can best support the members. What are their greatest needs?**

- **Updates**

- Get any E-news comments to Maaike by August 28th.
- ADW displays are at Dearborn Heights Library until September and there is no additional ADW budget to move it around to other locations this year.
- 182 photos were submitted to the photo contest to date. Winners will be selected in early September.
- Schools for Clean Water Contest is October 14th - October 28th. 18 schools signed up thus far via early registration.
- Gibraltar has their EGLE Audit next week

The next PE/Tech meeting will be held September 25, 2024 at 9:30am (virtual).

MEETING AGENDA

ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS

Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting

September 25, 2024

9:30 am Virtual



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- **Introductions**
- **Review Agenda**
- **Housekeeping**
 - Invoicing and payments
- **Permit Applications and Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**
 - Any recent updates or feedback? Pivoting from wet weather screening rqts? Should ADW remove from submitted TMDL Plan?
- **2025 Budget + Approval Schedule**
- **Full ADW Meeting Agenda (October 8th @ 1:00pm)**
- **Updates/Discussion (if any)**
 - Ecorse Creek/Friends of Detroit River Project – McKenzi
 - IDEP and Monitoring Activities
 - Dry Weather Outfall Screening in Priority Areas
 - Rain Catchers Collaborative
 - E-newsletter
 - Photo Contest
 - Schools For Clean Water Contest (October 2024)
 - Regional Partnerships
- **Next Meeting**

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Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting
September 25, 2024
9:30am Virtual



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Attendees: Valerie Novaes, OHM; Elizabeth Thacker, OHM; Andrea Paine, HRWC; Pam Labadie, HRWC; Maaiké Wielenga, HRWC; Leah Groya, Consultant; Mary Trzeciak, OHM; Brent Florek, Charles Raines Co.; Kaitlyn Steeves (AEG); Ron Akers, Van Buren Township; Ric Lawson, HRWC

- **Housekeeping**
 - **Invoicing** – All invoices and payments are flowing smoothly
 - **OHM will reach out to Dave Greco, attorney for ADW and see if John Danci needs to be re-voted into office because he's now with Dearborn Heights.**
- **Permit Applications + Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**
 - Haven't been able to connect with EGLE to discuss wet weather monitoring and the ADW submitted TMDL Plan
 - No comments from EGLE received to date on submitted collaborative items
 - There was a combined group meeting with SEMCOG, ARC, Huron, etc – coordinating with Center for Watershed Protection. CWP may be interested in doing national evaluation of what's working and what's not working in various states – working through how to fund the effort.
 - Great Lakes Environmental Law Center is interested in seeing what other states are doing and how prescriptive other states are being
- **2025 ADW Budget Schedule**
 - Elizabeth shared draft budget worksheet and reviewed with the attendees.
 - Finance Committee met this week to review budget – there are a lot of unknowns due to not hearing back from EGLE on Collaborative Plans and what will or won't be required. Proposed holding a full December meeting and doing budget approval then in the hopes that we may know more.
 - Regardless, there is a funding gap in the ADW. **Finance Committee will be reaching out to communities that don't participate in the ADW. OHM is working on what potential dues may be in order to have conversations with potential members.**
 - **OHM will edit the budget based on discussion today (add version of a la carte outfall inspections) and send it back out to the team. Also will calculate dues increase to hit proposed budget, highlight potential areas for savings, and review scenarios at full ADW meeting in October. Will also present budget to ADW and ask where the facilitation team can best support the members. What are their greatest needs? Will also remind ADW members how dues are calculated.**
- **Updates**
 - IDEP and Monitoring wrapped up last week. A thank you note was sent to SHVUA for their work in processing samples. Work will begin on data analysis and reporting.
 - Dry weather screening – completed 35 of the 40 outfalls – 2 have had flow and collected samples. 1 showed no ecoli/illlicit connection. Several are under water and will need additional tracing back and work.

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- Rain Catchers Collective – met to start planning the next Master Rain Gardeners Course that will be held in January. Group did not receive the big NOAA grant that was submitted. Putting in an EPA grant for community change in the next week.
- E-News went out early September – a lot of clicks on stories. Next one goes out in early December.
- Photo contest – 400+ photos submitted. 12 winners selected. 91 people submitted photos – both professionals and amateurs.
- Schools For Clean Water Contest – will run October 14-28. Twenty schools are signed up to participate – the most thus far.
- IDEP Good Housekeeping Training coming up – the flyer/info was emailed out to the ADW Members.

The next PE/Tech meeting will be held November 19, 2024 at 9:30am (virtual).

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MEETING AGENDA

ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS

Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting

November 19, 2024

9:30 am Virtual



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- **Introductions**
- **Review Agenda**
- **Housekeeping**
 - Invoicing and payments
 - Officers – Don Straub, Romulus, Vice-Chair
- **Permit Applications and Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**
 - Any recent updates or feedback? Pivoting from wet weather screening rqts? Should ADW remove from submitted TMDL Plan?
- **2025 Budget + Approval Schedule + Member Fees**
 - Potential dues for current non-members – any other support for leadership to approach non-members about joining?
 - Latest budget, dues increases, etc
- **Updates/Discussion (if any)**
 - Ecorse Creek/Friends of Detroit River Project – McKenzi
 - IDEP and Monitoring Activities
 - Dry Weather Outfall Screening in Priority Areas
 - Rain Catchers Collective
 - E-newsletter
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- **Housekeeping**

- **Invoicing** – All invoices and payments are flowing smoothly. Days to pay is between 20-30 days. Approximately 70% of the budget has been spent in 2024.
- **Officers** – Don Straub from Romulus is stepping into the Vice Chair position. Don will need to be voted in at the December 3rd full ADW meeting. We checked with attorney and John Danci does not need to be revoted in simply because he moved communities.

- **Permit Applications + Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**

- No comments from EGLE received to date on submitted collaborative items
- Multi-regional group is still meeting to discuss TMDL requirements.
- Great Lakes Environmental Law Center is interested in seeing what other states are doing and how prescriptive other states are being.

- **2025 ADW Budget Schedule**

Finance Committee met this week to review budget – there are a lot of unknowns due to not hearing back from EGLE on Collaborative Plans and what will or won't be required. The team is proposing a 2025 budget of "business as usual" until we hear further guidance from EGLE. This will result in a funding gap of around \$65,000 from the dues that are collected currently. The officers are going to propose a staggered increase of around 6% for per year for the next 3 to 4 years in order to cover this funding gap. The remaining shortfall is proposed to be taken from the approximately \$200,000 ADW fund balance. The proposed budget along with task descriptions will be presented at the Full ADW meeting on December 3rd. **Elizabeth will send both the budget and text descriptions out to the team and will request any final edits by Monday**

- **Updates**

- *EGLE Watershed Support Grants* are out and do in early December. There is no match requirement and maximum request of \$40,000. Projects must be completed in one year. ADW has not been awarded one of these grants in the past. All are in support of moving forward with a grant application. **OHM and HRWC will meet to discuss who can do what to put the application together. Elizabeth will send out an email to the full ADW to let them know the team is putting an application together on their behalf.**
- *Monitoring* wrapped up in September. Working now on data analysis and reporting.
- *Dry Weather Screening* – traced a few inundated outfalls and may have found a potential illicit discharge at the Southgate/Allen Park border – are following up with the local agencies.



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- *Rain Catchers Collective* –next Master Rain Gardeners Course will be held in January. Submitted an EPA grant for \$18M. EPA has called for an initial application discussion.
- *E-News* next one going out in early December. Get any edits to Maaik as soon as possible.
- *Photo contest* – 400+ photos submitted. 12 winners selected. 91 people submitted photos – both professionals and amateurs. Final report is done. Photos will be used in the 2026 ADW Calendar.
- *Schools For Clean Water Contest* – wrapped up in October. 2,051 pledges received – and 20 schools participated including 7 new schools. Winners are posted to website. ADW hand delivered check to Chapman Elementary. Will report out at full ADW meeting.
- *ADW Displays* – They were out at 4 libraries in 2024. In addition, City of Gibraltar had the display out for much of the year. One display set is now at Riverview Library/City Hall. HRWC will continue to manage the displays in 2025.
- *Environment Complaint Hotline* – reports for how many calls came in, etc. can be requested from Sue Thompson at Wayne County.
- *Stormwater Utility Act* – out of subcommittee and being brought to Senate floor for vote.
 - *HRWC will share info they've prepared with OHM*
 - *OHM will share the status of the bill with the ADW as soon as possible*
 - *OHM will put update on the Full ADW meeting agenda.*

The next PE/Tech meeting will be held January 28th at 10:00am (virtual).

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