

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS**  
**Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting**  
January 12, 2024  
11:00 am 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  
Trenton  
Van Buren Township  
Wayne County  
Westland  
Woodhaven-  
Brownstown School  
District  
Wyandotte

**Facilitator**

OHM Advisors  
Valerie Novaes, PE  
Principal  
D 734.466.4567  
C 248.935.8557  
O 734.522.6711  
valerie.novaes@ohm-advisors.com

**Attendees:** Valerie Novaes, OHM; Elizabeth Thacker, OHM; Liz Whiddon, OHM; Andrea Paine, HRWC; Pam Labadie, HRWC; Maaikie 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 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.



#### 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  
Valerie Novaes, PE  
Principal  
D 734.466.4567  
C 248.935.8557  
O 734.522.6711  
valerie.novaes@ohm-advisors.com

#### • 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 7<sup>th</sup> @ 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).**