MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS
Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting
January 25, 2023
10:00 am

VIA VIRTUAL MEETING

Attendees: Valerie Novaes, OHM; Elizabeth Thacker, OHM; John Danci, Sumpter Township; Brent Florek, Charles Raines Co; Ric Lawson, HRWC; Pam Labadie, HRWC; Sue Thompson, Wayne County; Kelly McRobb-Ackland, Wade Trim; Leah Groya, Consultant; Mary Trzeciak, OHM; Erica Clites, MSU Extension

• Housekeeping
  • Invoicing/Payments - All invoices are working their way through the process.
  • 2023 Contracts – Sub agreements are in final review and will be sent out shortly. OHM/ADW contract is also close to finalizing.
  • Trenton – It’s unclear at this time if they’re wanting to join the ADW. The ADW will include a statement in our re-application that says “If Trenton decides to join, then….”

• Collaborative ADW Plans
  • Wayne County permit is due April 2023
  • Priority Areas – HRWC, OHM, and Wayne County met to review existing priority areas, current data, and discussed if priority area revisions were needed. It was determined that Priority Areas should continue as is with a couple of areas added to expand a little further upstream with targeted dry weather screening within the priority areas. Dry weather screening in priority areas would be new in the next permit cycle. Need to determine how to do targeted dry weather screening – perhaps add some investigative monitoring sites, grab samples, etc. It was discussed to use Year 1 of the new permits to determine how to narrow things down – i.e. if e coli hit in dry weather screen, it would be sent to be sourced to determine if canine, bovine, human. It would be ideal to have a trained team do dry weather screening for consistency across the watershed. Then, if something is found, the community would get involved in dye testing, etc. It would be good to have the local DPS send one staff person to tag along with the team, offer equipment, etc. OHM will share the most recent priority area maps with the ADW Team as well as a summary of the proposal. The Collaborative IDEP approach will be an agenda item for discussion at the February ADW meeting.

  • OHM will draft a letter signed by each ADW member about the benefits of the watershed/collaborative approach to send to EGLE.

  • Collaborative PEP recommendations will be shared by HRWC with the ADW team next week and then at the full ADW meeting in February.

  • All Collaborative Plan drafts will need to be done by March 1 and then email vote on them by ADW members prior to April 1.
• **Biennial Reports**
  - Due April 1st and will cover the period between October 2021-February 1, 2023). Leah reviewed the draft sections and MiEnviro setup. Leah will send a link to the reporting team that includes all of the draft WORD files as well as a pdf of the MiEnviro questions. Draft sections are targeted for completion by February 11th to ensure time for formatting, assembly and overall coordination.

• **Updates**
  - **Chemistry/Flow Monitoring**
    - Registration is open for volunteers
    - Working to identify a lab partner for the upcoming year – looking for a contact at U of M Dearborn. Will work with private lab if no luck.
    - Start thinking about investigative sites for 2023 – 2 to 3 sites are budgeted.

  - Macroinvertebrate monitoring and analysis – Paul has developed a strategy to move forward. Paul will present at the next ADW meeting.

  - SEMCOG GI Grant Application – no match required. $100k request. Due February 21st. Needs to come directly from an ADW member. OHM will push the opportunity out with key highlights of the program to the ADW membership and include GI concepts already developed and offer ADW support to put the application together.

  - ADW Facility Dye Testing – 2 in Flat Rock, 1 Riverview, 2 in Grosse Ile. No illicit connections were found.

  - Collaborative GSI Group – working on MOU for organizations and what products and services organizations can offer. Marketing and website to come sometime this summer. Master Rain Gardener course is in February.

  - Pledge Campaign – Pam, Leah, and Marisa met to discuss. HRWC could do pledge campaign with it being moved to the Fall and keeping adopt-a-storm drain. Planned for October 2023. Avia, formerly with WWTW could contract with ADW to do some of the work for us.

  - E-newsletter – Next newsletter scheduled to go out March 1. There was discussion that others could be invited to attend the full ADW meetings via e-news announcements – would need to think through the format.

  - 2024 calendars will be designed in Q1 and distributed in Q4.

  - Website – Elizabeth will coordinate with Wendy to add SEMCOG training module links and to correct the broken or incorrect links on the Member Resources Tab.

  - Ecorse Creek/Friends of Detroit River Project Update
    - Public engagement will begin in March with a survey available until the end of June
    - SeaGrant is doing an article and press release
    - An article will be included in the March 1st ADW newsletter

The next PE/Tech meeting will be held March 1st @ 12:30pm (virtual).