

MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS
Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting
January 28, 2025
11:30 am Virtual



Attendees: Valerie Novaes, OHM; Elizabeth Thacker, OHM; Andrea Paine, HRWC; Pam Labadie, HRWC; Maaike Wielenga, HRWC; Ric Lawson, HRWC; Leah Groya, Consultant; Mary Trzeciak, OHM; Renne Mulcrone, OHM; Brent Florek, Charles Raines Co.; Kaitlyn Steeves (AEG); Ron Akers, Van Buren Township; Don Straub, Romulus; Sue Thompson, Wayne County; Kelly McRobb-Ackland, Wade Trim; Noel Mullett, ECT

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

- **Housekeeping**
 - **Invoicing** – One outstanding invoice in payment process with ADW
 - **Contracts** – 2025 contracts are drafted between ADW and OHM as well as between OHM and sub contractors. Drafts will go out soon for review.

- **Permit Applications + Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**
 - EGLE had ARC revise collaborative plans. ARC permits are requiring screening all outfalls for dry weather in a 7-8 yr period plus 400 outfalls for wet weather screening twice during the same 7-8 period.
 - Multi-regional group is still meeting to discuss TMDL requirements.
 - Great Lakes Environmental Law Center has been hired by SEMCOG to research what other states are doing and how prescriptive other states are being.
 - Until ADW hears from EGLE or regional efforts say otherwise, the ADW will wait and stay the course until further feedback is received.

- **Biennial Reports + Annual Post Construction Report**

ADW Biennial Reports are due April 1st via MiEnvrio portal. The ADW is working on preparing materials documenting the collaborative ADW efforts that each MS4 can include in their individual Biennial Reports. Drafts should be completed by team members February 17th and Leah will compile for distribution by OHM to ADW members by March 3rd. The following will take the lead but coordination and input will be required by various people to complete. Shared files were made available via Google Drive for group editing.

 - Leah – Directions and Q&A
 - Leah – ERP
 - Leah - PPP
 - Pam/Maaike – PEP
 - OHM – IDEP (with input from HRWC and Sue)
 - Elizabeth – Post Construction Controls
 - Leah – Pollution Prevention
 - Ric/Andrea - TMDL

Elizabeth will send an email to the ADW members this week with several reminders including upcoming full ADW meeting, Biennial Report deadline, and annual post construction reporting. Val will follow up with SEMCOG to confirm if each community needs an individual report or the Wayne County submittal will suffice.

Facilitator

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• 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. *The ADW did not submit an application because an individual EIN number is required to be the applicant. OHM will follow up with Dave Greco to see the level of effort, tax implications, reporting, etc. related to getting ADW own EIN and bank account.*
- *Ecorse Creek Committee*
 - FDR – completed Phase I and II – identified 85 projects and prioritized 11 to move forward. Submitted EGLE watershed support grant application for 2 concept designs. Also submitted NOI for 319 funding for design and construction of a project.
 - DCC – continuing efforts on North Branch project. 1 mile is at 30% design in Dearborn Heights along Hanover Rd – these are FEMA properties that were purchased and demolished for green space. Looking into FEMA Brick Funding support and North Branch Strategy team/plan
 - Wayne County – North Branch Drain Maintenance for Reach 1 is done and has been hydroseeded with native seeds along the banks. Reach 2 will begin soon.
 - Ecorse Creek Cleanup Sub Committee – will be held second Saturday's of July-September. Also planning paddle trip to ID areas for cleanups.
 - Council Point Park tree planting – submitted grant to plant 20 native trees
- *Monitoring* – volunteer signup is open. Orientation will be March 22nd at the International Wildlife Refuge. A toolkit is being developed for ADW to post about volunteer opportunity. SHVUA will again be testing samples for ADW. Looking for investigative monitoring sites for 2025. Let Andrea know of any by March.
- *Rain Catchers Collective* – Master Rain Gardeners Course has 90 registered students. *Team will see if able to determine how many of the 90 are coming from ADW area in order to determine if there are other local methods to promote.*
- *E-News* next one will go out March 3rd.
- *ADW Calendar* – 2026 Calendars will be produced this year and will go out to members in the Fall for distribution. Photos from the ADW photo contest will be used.
- *Schools For Clean Water Contest* – planned to happen again in Fall 2025.
- *Schools Outreach* – last year the ADW covered bussing for several schools to get to the Detroit Water Festival. This year the Festival will be held May 6th and 7th (two days instead of one). The plan is for the ADW to again use this budget item to support the event. *Maaike will work with FDR on the details. If you're interested in volunteering at the event, let Maaike know.*
- *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.

The next PE/Tech meeting will be held March 11th at 11:00am (virtual).