

MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS
Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting
March 11, 2025
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; Andrea Paine, HRWC; Pam Labadie, HRWC; Maaikie Wielenga, HRWC; Ric Lawson, HRWC; Leah Groya, Consultant; Mary Trzeciak, OHM; Renne Mulcrone, OHM; Kaitlyn Steeves (AEG); Ron Akers, Van Buren Township; Don Straub, Romulus; Sue Thompson, Wayne County; Kelly McRobb-Ackland, Wade Trim; Noel Mullett, ECT

- **Housekeeping**
 - **Invoicing** – Processing sub invoices but will hold until ADW/OHM contract is approved
 - **Contracts** – 2025 sub-contracts are all set. ADW/OHM contract is in for review by ADW attorney Dave Greco. **Elizabeth will follow up with Dave via mobile phone.**
 - **ADW EIN/bank account** - **Elizabeth will follow up with Dave via mobile phone to ask for pros/cons/process.**
- **Permit Applications + Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**
 - Great Lakes Environmental Law Center has been hired by SEMCOG to research what other states are doing and how prescriptive other states are being. GLELC has made good progress on researching federal and state laws. Will present findings of legal research in the Spring.
 - 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**
 - ADW Biennial Reports are due April 1st via MiEnvrio portal. An email was sent out March 3rd to the ADW members with instructions and links to collaborative files for each MS4s use. **Elizabeth will send a reminder email again next week.**
- **Updates**
 - The next full ADW meeting is scheduled for May 13th @ 1:00pm. The meeting will again be held in person (as was done for last years May meeting) at the Wade Trim Taylor office. **Elizabeth will add this to the ADW members and facilitation team calendars and also email out in-person reminder a week or two prior to the meeting.**
 - *Ecorse Creek Committee*
 - Earth Day Clean Up – April 26th @ Dingle Park
 - DCC – received NFWF grant for east of Telegraph to bring plans from 30-90% design as well as a section in Romulus
 - Wayne County – North Branch Drain Maintenance Reach 2 will begin soon with same contractor.
 - Ecorse Creek Cleanup Sub Committee – will be held second Saturday's of July-September.
 - Council Point Park tree planting – submitted grant to plant 20 native trees



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

- **Updates**

- *Monitoring* – Volunteer Orientation will be March 22nd at the Lake Erie Metropark with 25 volunteers. SHVUA will again be testing samples for ADW. Looking for investigative monitoring sites for 2025. Let Andrea know of any within the next few days.
- *Dry Weather Screening* – shared map of planned ~30 outfalls in the ADW that will be screened during dry weather this season. Depending on findings and how much effort is needed to investigate, the list may change some.
- *IDEP Testing ADW Facilities* – Elizabeth and Sue met to review. **Elizabeth will email ADW members with the planned list, ask for any updates and then come up with a plan for 2025.**
- *Rain Catchers Collective* –Master Rain Gardeners Course completed with 90 registered students. Talking with legislators at the state level for further support.
- *E-News* went out March 3rd with a 35% open rate and 9% click rate. Next one will go out in June.
- *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. Coordinating with printer regarding paper type and size due to significant cost increases.
- *Schools For Clean Water Contest* – planned to happen again in Fall 2025.
- *Schools Outreach* – Detroit Water 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 with a focus on covering transportation costs for schools in ADW member boundaries.
- *ADW Displays* –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 May 29th at 11:00am (virtual).

Facilitator

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