MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS
Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting
April 19, 2023
11:00 am

VIA VIRTUAL MEETING

Attendees: Valerie Novaes, OHM; Elizabeth Thacker, OHM; Liz Whiddon, OHM; Brent Florek, Charles Raines Co; Ric Lawson, HRWC; Pam Labadie, HRWC; Andrea Paine, HRWC; Noel Mullett, Wayne County; Sue Thompson, Wayne County; Leah Groya, Consultant; Mary Trzeciak, OHM; McKenzi Waliczek, Friends of Detroit River

- **Housekeeping**
  - **Invoicing/Payments** - All invoices are working their way through the process.
  - **2023 Contracts** – All sub agreements are executed

- **Ecorse Creek Friends of Detroit River Project**
  - virtual public meeting 4/19/23 6-7pm
  - hybrid public meeting in Dearborn Heights May 8th
  - public meeting June 13th
  - looking for public events in the communities to do more engagement through end of June

- **Collaborative ADW Plans**
  - Val had conversation with EGLE – Collaborative Plans aren’t enforceable until ADW members permits are approved. EGLE has 18 months to review once they are submitted. ADW permits are due in April 2024 with permits issued April 2025 which aligns nicely with the current collaborative plans. We should include activities we plan on carrying over into new Collaborative Plans. EGLE is expecting more from ADW Collaborative IDEP Investigations. EGLE may not support the use of monitoring to dictate where to dry weather screening. They want to see more broad screening. ARC is no longer using monitoring in-stream to prioritize screening.

- **Updates**
  - **IDEP**
    - Would be good if we had lab services for human biomarker to confirm if its human source or not.
    - OHM did desktop analysis and with existing budget can screen 33 outfalls in priority areas in 2023.
    - OU/ARC lab does testing with 100mL of water and can test e.coli results and then determine if they want to run secondary test.
    - If ADW adjusts approach and starts human tracker, will need to run past EGLE and adjust lab relationships as well.
    - ADW providing assistance with sampling if community finds flow during dry weather would be helpful to ADW member communities. ADW members would do some small % of dry weather screening and contact ADW for sampling if flow is discovered.
  - **Pet Waste** letter is finalized and will be sent to communities and then to businesses.
  - **OHM** will finalize outfalls with Liz and then work with Ric/Sue on cost and where to send, etc. ADW will do a number of dry weather screenings in priority areas this year under OHMs current budget and support the cost of human genome marker and bovine sampling in 2023.
- Post Construction Reporting - SEMCOG, ARC, ADW trying to use tracker to get data to SEMCOG for July EGLE report. SEMCOG gave deadline to put info into tracker so SEMCOG has enough time to do the report.

- EGLE Watershed Council support grants – due May 17th up to $40k. ADW would be an eligible applicant. 0% match requirement. Is stormwater permit work allowed to be funded with this? Possibly extend GLWA/ARC effort to do planning for advanced investigations? OHM will contact Bob Sweet to clarify about grant, permit required projects, and QAPP/social monitoring.

- Chemistry/Flow Monitoring
  - Volunteers in field today and tomorrow. Good group of 20-30 volunteers
  - Rockwood lab is doing testing in 2023
  - 1 investigative site @ Misner Drain – tributary to Blakely Creek and drains the airport @ Leroy Street
  - WC will be doing dry weather screening and will work with ADW to tweak areas to screen based on priority areas
  - Benthic monitoring starting soon with HRWC/ADW

- Collaborative GSI – finalized MOU and developed RFP for marketing recommendations and materials. Master Rain Gardener 5 week class was held with 72 participants including a fair number of ADW communities. New GSI mapping tool will be put out there. Is ADW an ongoing MOU partner? Ric has represented the ADW but not as a ‘formal member’.

- E-news – will go out June 1. Marissa is gone so may look to get feedback on editorial/content calendar moving forward.

- Green Schools Outreach – plan to move forward with a Fall launch. More details to come.

- 2024 Calendars – content and layout is being developed. RFP out to printers. Looking to reduce size and amount due to cost.

- Photo Contest – looking at more targeted contest in 2024 based on digging into how its been going. Shorter time frame and focused on summer months as opposed to monthly submissions.

- Topic for future discussion – how do we get feedback from members about if they think they’re getting benefit from being a member? And how to recruit new members? Also add 2024 budgeting to future agenda.

The next PE/Tech meeting will be held June 8th @ 1:00pm (virtual).