

MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS
Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting
May 2, 2024
10:00 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
WayneCounty
Westland
Woodhaven-
Brownstown School
District
Wyandotte

Facilitator

OHM Advisors
Valerie Novaes, PE
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Attendees: Elizabeth Thacker, OHM; Andrea Paine, HRWC; Pam Labadie, HRWC; Maaike Wielenga, HRWC; Sue Thompson, Wayne County; Leah Groya, Consultant; Mary Trzeciak, OHM; Brent Florek, Charles Raines Co.; McKenzi Waliczek, Friends of Detroit River; Ron Akers, Van Buren Township; Noel Mullett, ECT

- **Housekeeping**
 - **Invoicing** – All invoices for 2023 work have been paid out and the books for 2023 are closed. 2024 invoices have started to be sent to the ADW. Payments from ADW are averaging 21 days to payment which is very good and appreciated.
 - **2024 Contracts** – OHM sent updated contract to HRWC and are close to resolution.
- **Permit Applications + Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**

A group of regional representatives met to discuss discomfort with bacteria impairments and statewide TMDL application to MS4 permit holders. Group included SEMCOG, ARC, ADW, Lansing, Grand Watershed, HRWC plus others. EGLE is pushing for wet weather outfall sampling but not saying why/how it will address bacteria assessments/conditions. Watersheds have been focusing on human hosts for bacteria. EGLE is wanting to test for all of it and come up with a plan to address. SEMCOG met directly with EGLE leadership and the discussion is continuing. Ric Lawson will continue to represent ADW interests and provide updates. **Ric will provide an update at the full ADW meeting.** DWSD just had an EGLE audit. They had to make some revisions but did get an approved SWM Permit.
- **Updates**
 - **Monitoring and IDEP**
 - ADW will be doing a pilot investigation this summer with some wet weather sampling in target sections based on ambient water sampling.
 - OHM is beginning screening.
 - HRWC launched the season in early April with 20 new volunteers plus some returning ones. SHVUA is again assisting in testing of samples. HRWC staff presented results to SHVUA leadership in March and it was well received. Plan is to monitor every other week until the end of September.
 - **Friends of the Detroit River** – Ecorse Creek project is prioritizing 90 projects and putting scores together. Flew drone over the Ecorse Creek in April using firefighters that needed drone flight hours. Aerial coverage flown over the tree line – got good coordination for clean up locations in advance of Wayne County drain cleanup efforts. FODR is waiting to hear on 3 grant proposals that are out to continue to move forward. **Drone footage will be shared at full ADW meeting.**
 - **Detroit Water Festival** – May 7th. 8 classes going from Taylor, Ecorse and Romulus to the International Wildlife Refuge. ADW will financially support via reimbursing for transportation and other direct costs. In addition, Maaike from ADW/HRWC is going to the festival to run a stormwater modeling activity and impacts of pollutants.



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- Photo Contest – June 1-August 3. 4 cash prizes. Getting the word out this month. Contest will focus on a few categories of photos including native plants, nature, water, etc. Winners will be featured in the ADW calendar.
- Schools for Clean Water contest will run October 14-28 and will be open to all schools in the ADW this year (as opposed to just Wayne County Green Schools). **Maaike will send contacts to Sue to coordinate with her school contact info.**
- E-news – next edition will go out in early June. Topics include watershed signs, water festival, photo contest, drone survey, monitoring activities and John Danci being on Destination Downriver podcast.
- ADW Educational display is currently at the Southgate public library
- Watershed Signs – All 28 signs have been installed by Dearborn Heights, Southgate, Grosse Ile, Trenton, and Gibraltar.
- Rain Catchers Collaborative – waiting to hear back on grant proposals. Have fully launched all of the marketing materials.
- Watershed Report Cards – released last week – combined SE Michigan Report Card as well as individual watersheds. Press event will be held at Dossin on Belle Isle. Planet Detroit is hosting a webinar to discuss results. Released by University of Maryland and used a lot of ADW data. **Ric will present an overview for the full ADW committee.**

The next PE/Tech meeting will be held June 25, 2024 at 1:00pm (virtual).

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