

MEETING SUMMARY
ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS
Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting
September 25, 2024
9:30am 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

Attendees: Valerie Novaes, OHM; Elizabeth Thacker, OHM; Andrea Paine, HRWC; Pam Labadie, HRWC; Maaikie Wielenga, HRWC; Leah Groya, Consultant; Mary Trzeciak, OHM; Brent Florek, Charles Raines Co.; Kaitlyn Steeves (AEG); Ron Akers, Van Buren Township; Ric Lawson, HRWC

- **Housekeeping**
 - **Invoicing** – All invoices and payments are flowing smoothly
 - **OHM will reach out to Dave Greco, attorney for ADW and see if John Danci needs to be re-voted into office because he's now with Dearborn Heights.**
- **Permit Applications + Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**
 - Haven't been able to connect with EGLE to discuss wet weather monitoring and the ADW submitted TMDL Plan
 - No comments from EGLE received to date on submitted collaborative items
 - There was a combined group meeting with SEMCOG, ARC, Huron, etc – coordinating with Center for Watershed Protection. CWP may be interested in doing national evaluation of what's working and what's not working in various states – working through how to fund the effort.
 - Great Lakes Environmental Law Center is interested in seeing what other states are doing and how prescriptive other states are being
- **2025 ADW Budget Schedule**
 - Elizabeth shared draft budget worksheet and reviewed with the attendees.
 - Finance Committee met this week to review budget – there are a lot of unknowns due to not hearing back from EGLE on Collaborative Plans and what will or won't be required. Proposed holding a full December meeting and doing budget approval then in the hopes that we may know more.
 - Regardless, there is a funding gap in the ADW. **Finance Committee will be reaching out to communities that don't participate in the ADW. OHM is working on what potential dues may be in order to have conversations with potential members.**
 - **OHM will edit the budget based on discussion today (add version of a la carte outfall inspections) and send it back out to the team. Also will calculate dues increase to hit proposed budget, highlight potential areas for savings, and review scenarios at full ADW meeting in October. Will also present budget to ADW and ask where the facilitation team can best support the members. What are their greatest needs? Will also remind ADW members how dues are calculated.**
- **Updates**
 - IDEP and Monitoring wrapped up last week. A thank you note was sent to SHVUA for their work in processing samples. Work will begin on data analysis and reporting.
 - Dry weather screening – completed 35 of the 40 outfalls – 2 have had flow and collected samples. 1 showed no ecoli/illlicit connection. Several are under water and will need additional tracing back and work.

Facilitator

OHM Advisors
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- Rain Catchers Collective – met to start planning the next Master Rain Gardeners Course that will be held in January. Group did not receive the big NOAA grant that was submitted. Putting in an EPA grant for community change in the next week.
- E-News went out early September – a lot of clicks on stories. Next one goes out in early December.
- Photo contest – 400+ photos submitted. 12 winners selected. 91 people submitted photos – both professionals and amateurs.
- Schools For Clean Water Contest – will run October 14-28. Twenty schools are signed up to participate – the most thus far.
- IDEP Good Housekeeping Training coming up – the flyer/info was emailed out to the ADW Members.

The next PE/Tech meeting will be held November 19, 2024 at 9:30am (virtual).

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