

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS**  
**Technical / Public Education Committee Meeting**  
November 19, 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

**Facilitator**

OHM Advisors  
Valerie Novaes, PE  
Principal  
D 734.466.4567  
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O 734.522.6711  
valerie.novaes@ohm-advisors.com

**Attendees:** Valerie Novaes, OHM; Elizabeth Thacker, OHM; Andrea Paine, HRWC; Pam Labadie, HRWC; Maaike Wielenga, HRWC; Leah Groya, Consultant; Mary Trzeciak, OHM; Brent Florek, Charles Raines Co.; Kaitlyn Steeves (AEG); Ron Akers, Van Buren Township; John Danci, Dearborn Heights; Sue Thompson, Wayne County; Kelly McRobb-Ackland, Wade Trim

- **Housekeeping**
  - **Invoicing** – All invoices and payments are flowing smoothly. Days to pay is between 20-30 days. Approximately 70% of the budget has been spent in 2024.
  - **Officers** – Don Straub from Romulus is stepping into the Vice Chair position. Don will need to be voted in at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> full ADW meeting. We checked with attorney and John Danci does not need to be revoted in simply because he moved communities.
  
- **Permit Applications + Collaborative Plans (TMDL/IDEP/PEP)**
  - No comments from EGLE received to date on submitted collaborative items
  - Multi-regional group is still meeting to discuss TMDL requirements.
  - 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**

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. The team is proposing a 2025 budget of "business as usual" until we hear further guidance from EGLE. This will result in a funding gap of around \$65,000 from the dues that are collected currently. The officers are going to propose a staggered increase of around 6% for per year for the next 3 to 4 years in order to cover this funding gap. The remaining shortfall is proposed to be taken from the approximately \$200,000 ADW fund balance. The proposed budget along with task descriptions will be presented at the Full ADW meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Elizabeth will send both the budget and text descriptions out to the team and will request any final edits by Monday**
  
- **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. All are in support of moving forward with a grant application. **OHM and HRWC will meet to discuss who can do what to put the application together. Elizabeth will send out an email to the full ADW to let them know the team is putting an application together on their behalf.**
  
  - *Monitoring* wrapped up in September. Working now on data analysis and reporting.
  
  - *Dry Weather Screening* – traced a few inundated outfalls and may have found a potential illicit discharge at the Southgate/Allen Park border – are following up with the local agencies.



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- *Rain Catchers Collective* –next Master Rain Gardeners Course will be held in January. Submitted an EPA grant for \$18M. EPA has called for an initial application discussion.
- *E-News* next one going out in early December. Get any edits to Maaik as soon as possible.
- *Photo contest* – 400+ photos submitted. 12 winners selected. 91 people submitted photos – both professionals and amateurs. Final report is done. Photos will be used in the 2026 ADW Calendar.
- *Schools For Clean Water Contest* – wrapped up in October. 2,051 pledges received – and 20 schools participated including 7 new schools. Winners are posted to website. ADW hand delivered check to Chapman Elementary. Will report out at full ADW meeting.
- *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.
- *Environment Complaint Hotline* – reports for how many calls came in, etc. can be requested from Sue Thompson at Wayne County.
- *Stormwater Utility Act* – out of subcommittee and being brought to Senate floor for vote.
  - *HRWC will share info they've prepared with OHM*
  - *OHM will share the status of the bill with the ADW as soon as possible*
  - *OHM will put update on the Full ADW meeting agenda.*

**The next PE/Tech meeting will be held January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am (virtual).**

#### Facilitator

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