

Lower Huron River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) Notes January 21, 2004

1. Introductions and Agenda Review.

Attendees:

- Carl Brooks, City of Romulus
- Robert Burns, Friends of Detroit River
- Noel Mullett, Wayne County Dept of Environment
- Sarah Chope, Charles Raines Co. for City of Gibraltar
- Elizabeth Clay, OHM for City of Romulus
- Joe Disanto, Brownstown Township
- Bruce Hammond, City of Flat Rock
- Roy Schrameck, ECT for City of Rockwood
- Michelle LaRose, OHM for City of Romulus
- Evan Pratt, OHM for City of Romulus
- Elizabeth Riggs, HRWC
- Laura Rubin, HRWC
- Michael Kruse, City of Woodhaven
- Doug Pakkala, JCK & Associates for Sumpter Township
- Tom Veresh, Wade-Trim for Brownstown Township
- Bryan Wagoner, Wayne County Airport Authority
- Brian Woodworth, Wade-Trim for Brownstown Township

Action items are identified in **bold**.

2. Status of Storm Water Permit Applications

- All Lower Huron SWAG communities have received their Certificates of Coverage (COC).
- The due dates given in the COC are:
 - PPP due May 1, 2004
 - WMP due November 1, 2005
 - SWPPI due May 1, 2006
 - Revised WMP due November 1, 2007
 - Revised SWPPI due May 1, 2008

3. Development and Coordination of Storm Water Permit Elements

- Development of Watershed Management Plan & Public Participation Process
 - Status of Community Resolutions
 - Berlin Twp and S. Rockwood have both committed to the group and have passed their resolutions. In addition, Huron Twp has passed the resolution and Sumpter Twp expects to pass the resolution at a February meeting.
 - **All entities should have their resolutions passed by March 1.**

- General Questions regarding the Resolution
 - Berlin Twp and S. Rockwood requested that their consultants represent them as alternates. The group agreed that this representation is acceptable.
 - The question was raised as to what would happen if not every entity signed the agreement. Noel Mullett explained that the issue would have to come back to the group for a decision regarding the cost allocation.
 - The group wanted to know the participation level of Monroe County. **Monroe County has applied for a jurisdictional based permit but will be invited to join this group as a stakeholder with the ultimate goal of having them join as a paying participant. In addition, the railroad will be approached via letter to participate as a stakeholder.**

- Public Participation Plan
 - Laura Rubin from HRWC distributed MDEQ's guidance document for the PPP. She indicated that MDEQ is being very specific as to what they would like to see.
 - On January 6, Elizabeth Riggs emailed the group asking for each community to create a list of all applicable stakeholder groups in each entity for different categories (described in the email). **All entities should compile a list of stakeholders and send them to HRWC by February 4, 2004.**
 - After the inventory of potential partners is complete, the group will decide on how to solicit participation. HRWC will be responsible for developing materials (text, releases, etc) and then will give the communities the materials to post.
 - Every entity indicated that they had some way of publicizing the WMP. Most indicated that their newsletters are distributed quarterly.
 - The group will need one central website where the public can go for information. **Noel will look into whether Wayne County could host the site.** He was not sure if they would be able to provide the group with its own web address.
 - HRWC asked the group if the public/citizens groups would have an official vote. The group decided that the public should not get a vote but that they should be allowed in discussion.
 - Noel Mullett suggested, in addition to public meetings, that citizens complete a brief survey form to capture their concerns/knowledge/desires about watershed and storm water issues, and then reissue the survey at a later time to see how effective are the public education/participation efforts.
 - As potential components of the PPP, HRWC suggested hosting tours for the public to actually visit the River to learn about it and the watershed, and mentioned the opportunity for citizens to participate in the Adopt-A-Stream program to monitor the River's health.
 - Another suggestion was to inquire about getting companies to sponsor/pay for some of the activities and materials. Communities provided a list for

- HRWC of companies that might take an interest: Auto Alliance, CN Railroad, DTE, International Transmission Co., and Republic Waste.
- The schools are another source for public outreach.
- HRWC cannot foresee any issues that will need to be voted on, but wanted to clarify the voting process in case an issue does arise. The group agreed that decisions would be decided by consensus. However, if there were disagreements on an issue, then the group will pursue a vote of the majority.
- Watershed Management Plan (WMP)
 - Elizabeth Riggs gave a presentation that described the 12 steps in watershed management planning. The steps are:
 - ❖ Identify and Network with Local Agencies and Citizens
 - ❖ Get to Know the Watershed
 - ❖ Define Critical Area(s) of the Watershed
 - ❖ Survey the Watershed to Inventory Critical Area(s)
 - ❖ Prioritize Pollutants, Sources & Causes
 - ❖ Determine Objectives for the Watershed Goals
 - ❖ Identify Systems of Needed Best Management Practices
 - ❖ Identify & Analyze Projects, Programs, and Ordinances
 - ❖ Inform & Involve the Public
 - ❖ Develop an Evaluation Process
 - ❖ Assemble the Watershed Management Plan
 - ❖ Expect Continual Implementation and Revision
 - An information/data survey was distributed by HRWC. The survey is an opportunity for each entity to record their existing environmental and water quality data, raise issues of concern, identify desired uses, identify existing plans/ordinances and review storm water management standards. **All entities should complete the survey ahead of the next meeting.** If you would like the survey sent to you electronically, then contact Laura Rubin or Elizabeth Riggs.
- Public Education Plan (PEP)
 - Wayne County distributed a handout from the Regional Phase II Stormwater Public Education Committee. SEMCOG organized this committee and have been working on public education issues for the last couple years.
 - As part of their efforts, SEMCOG will be organizing a regional public opinion survey. SEMCOG communities will receive results for the overall region but there is an option to get more specific information for a particular watershed. The cost of this additional information is \$2,000 per watershed. The survey would provide a baseline of the level of awareness at the onset of the stormwater regulations. The group should think about whether it wants to pay for the additional survey work.
 - As an advertising campaign, SEMCOG is compiling “7 steps to clean water” in hope of generating a lot of media coverage. With each step, background

- information will be given. Small quantities will be available for SEMCOG members with additional quantities available at an extra cost.
- HRWC has been doing public education for Ann Arbor and samples were distributed. In the past, they've created materials such as calendars and tip cards. Communities can buy into the program, which will be on a 5-year schedule. HRWC will let the group know more as it develops.
 - The Lake Erie Riparian Corridor Improvements Grant Project has received support from the communities so work can now begin on the project. Communities should expect to receive invoices soon and a kickoff meeting is scheduled for February. Two demo projects will be held in Fall, 2004 and 2 demo projects will be held in Spring, 2005. **Contact Noel Mullet if you have ideas for possible locations for these demo projects.**

4. Other Items

- Wayne County Dept of Environment will be giving an IDEP training workshop on Monday March 8, 2004 at the Regional Educational Services Administration (RESA) Annex in Wayne from 8:30-4. Registration forms were distributed and also emailed.

5. Next Meeting: Friday, February 20, 2004, 9:30 am, at Wade-Trim (25251 Northline Road, Taylor, 734-947-9700) in the Board Room on the second floor.

The American Red Cross Blood Donor program will be underway in the first floor conference room where we usually meet. Please consider donating after our meeting. If you're interested, then contact Sharon Gawthrop in Wade-Trim's People Services Group (734-947-9700, Ext. 1311) and she would be happy to schedule you.

Notes prepared and submitted by:
Elizabeth Clay (OHM, on behalf of Romulus)
and Elizabeth Riggs (HRWC)