

**Lower Huron Sub Watershed  
Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) Notes  
August 15, 2007**

A. Welcome. Attendees:

- George Ferraro, METCO Services for Sumpter
- Brent Florek, Charles E. Raines Co. for Gibraltar and Flat Rock
- Mark Gaworecki, Hennessey Engineers for Berlin Twp and S. Rockwood
- Tricia Huddas, MDEQ
- Ric Lawson, HRWC
- Noel Mullett, Wayne County DOE
- Roy Schrameck, ECT for City of Rockwood
- Dan Swallow, Van Buren Township
- Elizabeth Thacker, OHM for Romulus
- Tim Walsh, Village of South Rockwood

**OFFICIAL ACTIONS** taken at the meeting are shown in bold capitalized letters. *Action Items* for the future are shown in bold italics.

B. Reading and Approval of 05/09/07 Meeting Notes

- The 05/09/07 meeting notes were distributed prior to the meeting. There were no comments and the notes were approved.

C. Watershed Group Facilitation and Organization

1. Quarter Report and LH WAG Budget Update

- Ric Lawson distributed a quarterly progress report through June 2007. This report summarizes HRWC's progress for the four (4) tasks identified in their scope of work.
- Ric Lawson reported that most of the work done in the last quarter has been work related to the transition to the ADW and work towards the monitoring plan.
- At the end of June, there was approximately \$1700 left in the budget for HRWC's facilitation of the Lower Huron group.
- A budget analysis was distributed. This analysis showed a summary of all funds related to the Lower Huron group.

2. Alliance of Downriver Watersheds Items

a. ADW meetings report, community status report

- The last full ADW meeting focused on review and approval of the RFP for facilitation services.
- Van Buren Township reported that the Township's environmental commission has recommended joining the Alliance. The decision will go to the Township Board on 9/4/07.
- It was reported that Belleville and Rockwood are not against the Alliance but there is a lot happening at each of these respective municipalities. A decision should not be expected soon.

b. ADW facilitation RFP update

- The RFP is closed. Noel Mullett reported that there were 3 proposals received. Proposals were submitted by: OHM/Wade-Trim/HRWC, ECT/HRWC, and the Spicer Group.
- The proposals will be reviewed by the selection committee on August 20 (and Aug 21, if needed). The selection committee will provide a recommendation to the full ADW at the 9/11/07 meeting. It is hoped that a signed contract will be in place by 11/01/07.

c. Subcommittee Reports – monitoring status

- The technical committee has been working on the monitoring plan. It has been approved to add Total Phosphorous (TP) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) to the sampling. Wayne County will be starting field work (collecting samples) this week. They anticipate work to be done in the Lower Huron watershed in September – October. There was concern about low flows in the Lower Huron so waiting until September should help address this.

d. Discussion of Lower Huron implications and next steps – the group focused on priorities for 2007-08, as summarized in C.3 below.

3. Priorities for 2007-08

a. Use of discretionary funds

- Noel Mullett noted that the amount of discretionary funds available was based on 100% participation of communities in the ADW. All of that money may

not be available if not all communities join the ADW.

- The group expressed an interest in updating the WMP to meet 319 requirements. Discretionary funds could be used for this.
- b. Policy for non-ADW communities
- There was discussion at previous meetings on how non-ADW communities could participate with the Lower Huron group. Based on those discussions, Ric Lawson compiled a memo summarizing different options. This memo was distributed.
  - Tim Walsh stated that in order to be fair, communities should pay to participate.
  - Noel Mullett stated that in his opinion, if a community does not participate with the other communities in the watershed, especially with such activities such as monitoring, they are opting out of the watershed-based permit.
  - Brent Florek stated that the issue is something that should be decided by the full ADW and not the Lower Huron group. Noel Mullett agreed, adding that the Lower Huron group is a subcommittee of the ADW. Ric Lawson stated his opinion that it was both a full ADW and a Lower Huron group issue, stating that it's related to the full ADW based on the management structure but the permit is tied to the watershed.
  - Patricia Huddas stated that the DEQ won't force any community to join an Alliance and that they would be in compliance of their permit as long as they're meeting their requirements.
  - Dan Swallow pointed out that it would be difficult to meet monitoring requirements if not working with the rest of the watershed. Patricia Huddas agreed but said it would probably take a while for the DEQ to be able to determine that they weren't meeting the monitoring requirements.
  - ***It was agreed that Roy Schrameck would draft a letter to the communities that have not yet joined the Alliance.*** In the letter he would explain that the group will be looking to update the WMP soon and the ADW is putting serious thought into whether non-ADW members can participate. He would also point out that participation is a requirement of the permit.
  - **Noel Mullett made a motion (2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Florek) for the Chair of the Lower Huron Group to draft and send a letter to all non-ADW Lower**

**Huron communities. Passed unanimously.**

c. Other Priorities

- Ric Lawson suggested that the group look at all of the action items from the WMP and determine what should be done that is not being covered by the ADW.
- Brent Florek suggested developing public education materials and plan for the future so that requirements are covered. Ric Lawson stated that he thinks public education planning could be done on the full ADW level.
- Dan Swallow suggested looking at the stream crossing inventory for specific problems.
- Noel Mullet pointed out that TP and TSS are major problems within the watershed and this points to possible vegetation projects. Ric Lawson suggested possible neighborhood targeted demonstration projects.
- Wayne County can coordinate workshops if the Lower Huron would advertise. Possible workshops include: detention pond maintenance, lawn care and gardening, and septic workshops. Host communities are needed.

D. Storm Water Permit Element Development and Coordination

1. Watershed Management Plan (WMP)

- a. Status on MDEQ review of WMP revisions – The WMP has been CMI and Phase 2 approved. Updates are still needed to meet 319 requirements. This could be done independently or part of a 319 grant. The HRWC will be in the process of updating the WMP to include Belleville.
  - b. Changes for future permit requirements
    - The existing permit is due to expire in April 2008.
    - Patricia Huddas reported that there is now a draft of both the jurisdictional and watershed-based permits. Once it's made public, Patricia will distribute it to the group. There is a SEMCOG committee that will be reviewing the permit. Noel Mullet and Ric Lawson sit on the committee.
2. SWPPI Submittals – Patricia Huddas reminded the group that SWPPI revisions were due November 1, 2007. For most communities in the Lower Huron, this is also the due date for their annual report.
  3. Ordinance Development Updates

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- Ric Lawson stated that there was nothing to report on the status.
- Related to this item, HRWC has an ongoing project to develop a buffer ordinance. Five communities have passed resolutions for HRWC to work with them.

E. Other Watershed News/Comments from Members

- The “Liz Swims the Huron” event was held and was very successful. Liz came through S. Rockwood. A banner, tree, and a plaque were purchased with grant money. There were 50-60 people at the site.
- Van Buren Township updated its land use master plan. There was interest from residents along the Griggs Drain. The Township worked with HRWC to find out what interests the residents. The main interests were volunteering for TP and TSS monitoring and learning how to treat riparian lands.
- Friends of the Detroit River approached Wayne County to partner with them on a grant for habitat restoration. They are trying to create sub-grants for communities to do restoration projects. Tributaries to the AOC are eligible. Grants applications are due at the end of the month. Award announcements will be made in March 2008.

F. Set Next Meeting

Next Meeting: ***The next Lower Huron meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2007 at 9:30 am at the Wade Trim Taylor office.***

Notes prepared by Elizabeth Thacker (OHM) on behalf of the City of Romulus