

LOWER HURON RIVER WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP (WAG) NOTES August 22, 2005



Attendees

- Carl Brooks, City of Romulus
- Bob Burns, Friends of Detroit River/Detroit Riverkeeper
- Brent Florek, Charles E. Raines Co. for Flat Rock, Gibraltar
- Mark Gaworecki, Hennessey Engineers for Berlin Twp and S. Rockwood
- Tricia Huddas, MDEQ
- Michael Kruse, Woodhaven
- Noel Mullett, Wayne County Department of Environment
- Elizabeth Riggs, HRWC
- Roy Schrameck, ECT, Inc. for Rockwood
- Deeda Stanczak, Huron Township
- Elizabeth Thacker, OHM, Inc. for City of Romulus
- Tom Veresh, Wade-Trim for Brownstown

Action items are identified in **bold**.

A. Introductions and Agenda Review

B. Reading and Approval of 7/19/05 Meeting Minutes

- There was one correction made to the meeting minutes – Mike Gaworecki should be Mark Gaworecki.
- The 7/19/05 meeting minutes were approved with the appropriate change.

C. Development and Coordination of Storm Water Permit Elements

1. Public Participation (PPP) Updates: Final public meeting

- a) Choose Date: Wednesday September 28, 2005 was selected as the date for the final Public Meeting.
- b) Choose Location: Noel Mullett suggested selecting a location that was close to the river. Oakwoods Metropark or Willow Metropark, and Flat Rock Community Center were suggested as possibilities. **Elizabeth Riggs will check into the availability.**
- c) Discuss and finalize meeting speakers, topics, promotion, refreshments, etc:

Roy Schrameck summarized the meeting formats for the previous public meetings to begin discussion about format for the final public meeting. Noel Mullett suggested having a guest speaker before the discussion of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP). **Elizabeth Riggs will check with the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) and/or the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (MAC) to find out whether they can provide a speaker.**

Deeda Stanczak encouraged advertising the meeting in local papers/newsletters. She also suggested advertising on local Cable TV. Elizabeth Riggs stated that **all entities should check the PPP to determine whom they should be contacting about the Public Meeting.**

2. Watershed Management Plan Update

- a. Handout of complete draft plan for review by communities and agencies until Sept. 30, 2005

Elizabeth Riggs distributed both hard copies of the draft WMP, as well as electronic copies on CD. Additional copies will be printed and distributed by Roy to the 3 entities not at the meeting: Van Buren Township, the School District and Sumpter Township.

Provide comments to Elizabeth Riggs on the draft WMP by September 30, 2005. The DEQ does not require council/board approval for the submittal of the WMP. However, most of the committee members prefer to obtain a letter from their board/council that approves the draft WMP for submittal to the DEQ. If your board/council has given the watershed committee representative authority to approve the WMP, then you can opt out of providing a letter. Appendix I will contain the letters.

Please send any scenic photographs of anywhere in the watershed to Elizabeth Riggs that could be used on the cover of the WMP.

- b. Discuss plans to continue to meet as watershed group post-plan completion

It was recommended that the group continue to meet after the completion of the WMP. The group thought meeting quarterly would probably suffice as it would give the group time to discuss permit issues/requirements, funding opportunities, etc.

Bob Burns suggested the group consider combining efforts with neighboring watershed groups as the groups move into coordinating and implementing the activities of the Phase II plans. Cost savings should be realized through leveraging the resources of many communities and agencies. Moreover, multiple watershed groups could apply for grants together. **Elizabeth Riggs will contact Combined Downriver and Ecorse Creek watershed committees about the possibility of a joint meeting in late 2005.**

Elizabeth Riggs will verify that HRWC's contract with the LHRWIC provides for some continued facilitation watershed meetings until the completion of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiatives (SWPPIs).

c. WMP printing logistics (e.g. quantities)

All people in attendance of the meeting were able to take the number of copies they desired. For those communities not in attendance, **Roy Schrameck will drop off copies in Van Buren and Woodhaven for pick-up.**

3. Other Permit Elements: IDEP; PEP; SWPPI

a. SWPPI

Noel Mullett offered Wayne County's SWPPI as a template for the group to utilize. It has been revised and shared with the Rouge Assembly.

Tricia Huddas reminded the group that a SWPPI training workshop will be held on September 7, 2005.

b. IDEP

Communities should have already begun to implement their IDEP. If you have not already done so, then look at your IDEP to determine what activities you should be performing.

Noel Mullett informed the group that Wayne County applied for 2 CMI grants and was unsuccessful with a grant proposal to fund IDEP activities.

c. PEP

Communities should have already begun to implement their PEP. If you have not already done so, then look at your IDEP to determine what activities you should be performing.

A PEP workshop will be held on September 28, 2005. Flyers were distributed. The workshop is titled "Public Education Tools and Techniques." Contact Zachare Ball if you are interested at zball@ectinc.com.

d. Annual Report

Annual reports will be due to the DEQ by November 1 (for most communities – see your Certificate of Coverage to confirm the date). Tricia Huddas will bring a template for the annual report to the next meeting.

D. Other Watershed News/Comments from Members

Bob Burns reported that Friends of the Detroit River is hosting a Dinner Cruise on the lower Detroit River. The 3-hour cruise will be on Thursday September 8 and will leave from Bishop Park in Wyandotte. Go to www.detroitriver.org for more information.

HRWC's Adopt-A-Stream program is hosting a fall River Roundup (bug hunt) in September. Elizabeth Riggs will email the group with more information.

HRWC received a grant from the U.S. EPA to work with communities in the watershed to unify their ordinances. In particular, a riparian buffer ordinance will be one of the ordinances of interest. The grant work will include policy assistance to local communities as well as a public education component.

Bob Burns and Noel Mullett recently met with the Stream Team to coordinate activities in the watershed.

Maintenance Day will be held on October 1, 2005 in Flat Rock and Taylor.

Maintenance will be done on riparian corridor stabilization sites.

A Bug Hunt will be held on October 27.

State of the Streams will be held at a local school in February.

Marsh Creek Cleanup Day will be held in April.

The fate of the Wayne County/Taylor grant application to help fund baseline watershed monitoring remains unknown, according to Noel Mullett. The group may be able to provide letters of support if the application survives the first round of reviews. Noel will keep the group apprised on the application's status.

E. Next Meeting - Thursday October 13, 9-11am at Wade-Trim Taylor.

*Notes prepared by:
Elizabeth Thacker (OHM on behalf of Romulus)
and Elizabeth Riggs (HRWC)*