

**Lower Huron Sub Watershed
Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) Notes
December 13, 2004**

1. Introductions and Agenda Review. Attendees:

- Alan Bober, Brownstown
- Robert Burns, Friends of the Detroit River
- Sarah Chope, Charles Raines for Gibraltar, Flat Rock
- George Ferraro, JCK & Associates, Inc. for Sumpter Township
- Tricia Huddas, MDEQ
- Michael Kruse, Woodhaven
- Michelle LaRose, OHM for Huron Township
- Elizabeth Riggs, HRWC
- Rob Rochon, Hennessey Engineers for Berlin Twp and S. Rockwood
- Elizabeth Thacker, OHM for Romulus
- Greg Weeks, Wade-Trim
- Brian Woodworth, Wade-Trim for Brownstown

Action items are identified in **bold**.

2. Development and Coordination of Storm Water Permit Elements

A. Administration

- New Contacts – please forward to Elizabeth Riggs updated contact information if your community has newly elected officials.

B. Public Participation Process Update – 1st Public Meeting

- The 1st Public Meeting was held on November 4, 2004 at the Brownstown Community Center in the evening
- Public attendance was low. Three attendees were present (besides representatives from the SWAG)
- Bob Burns, Detroit RiverKeepers, stated that, in general, people don't get involved unless they feel there is a threat to them. Therefore, when publicizing the public meetings, the group needs to relate problems back to them. He stated that on a community-basis the group should figure out which watershed issues will spark interest.

C. Watershed Management Plan Update

- Information Gathering for Current Conditions
 - Road Crossing Inventory - A road-crossing inventory has been performed. This inventory covers roughly 100 road-stream crossing locations (about 1/3 of the total crossings in the watershed). At each location, general stream condition information was gathered using a 2-page form from the DEQ. These forms will be sent to the DEQ so they can be entered into a database. Elizabeth Riggs thanked Van Buren Township, Wayne County, OHM, and ECT, Inc., for providing assistance to HRWC with the inventory.

- Spatial data materials – Elizabeth Riggs displayed maps and graphs containing the following information about the watershed. Please let her know if you'd like copies of any of the slides presented to share with your community:
 - Land area by community
 - Population density
 - Population by community
 - River network
 - Topography
 - Ecosystems
 - Current and future land use
 - Current and future impervious analysis by sub-basin. A handout was also provided that gives this information in detail. The handout shows that all sensitive sub-basins will be lost under future land projections and most sub-basins worsen due to projected increases in impervious area.
 - Sensitive features
 - Public lands. Elizabeth Riggs stated that public lands within the watershed are predominantly the HCMA Metroparks property. HCMA has been contacted multiple times by HRWC to share information during the planning process but HCMA has not shown interest.
 - Land use in riparian corridor
 - Permitted discharges (38 total)
 - Existing, planned, and potential sanitary sewer locations. After looking at this map, some communities felt that it could be updated.
 - ✓ **Brownstown Twp will send Elizabeth Riggs their sanitary sewer map.**
 - ✓ **Rob Rochon will send Elizabeth Berlin Twp's sanitary sewer map.**
 - ✓ **Elizabeth will follow-up with Van Buren Twp to get an updated map.**
 - Road crossing inventory sites
- Elizabeth Riggs asked the group if they would prefer to get the chapters as they are completed or receive the whole report when it's finished. The Combined Downriver and Ecorse Creek watershed groups were receiving chapters of the WMP as they were being completed. The group voted and would like to receive chapters as they are completed.
- Codes and Ordinance Worksheet (COW) next steps
 - Previously, HRWC took all of the COW results and compared them against a set of "ideal" replies before preparing recommendations to the communities that would improve stormwater management.
 - Elizabeth Riggs asked the group whether they would like additional information to discuss what communities should do with the information they received. The group agreed that this should be the topic of the next meeting.

- Review Draft Goals
 - When the goals for the watershed were drafted, there was not a fully represented group present so **anyone who was not there should review the draft goals for future approval.** (a copy of the goals was distributed)
 - Rob Rochon suggested that the term “smart growth” be removed from the goals so that the group is not held to a specific style of growth. Elizabeth Riggs will rewrite this goal to refer instead to the desire to have BMPs for low-impact development.
 - The draft goals did not address pathogens. The group decided to add the goal “Reduce pathogen loading, where appropriate” Elizabeth Riggs will add this language to the list of goals.
 - The group decided to keep the goals in draft form as discussion will continue on them.
 - Future Meetings
 - **The next group meeting will be held on Thursday January 27, 2005 at 9:30 am at Wade-Trim.** The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the COW.
 - **Joint Workshop #2 will be held on February 9, 2005 from 9am-noon at Wade-Trim** and will deal with Best Management Practices
 - Other – An APWA 2 hour audio seminar will be held on December 16, 2004 from 11 am-1 pm at Wade-Trim. Lunch will be provided. Contact Greg Weeks at Wade-Trim if you’re interested.
3. Next Meeting: **Thursday January 27, 2005 9:30 am, at Wade-Trim (25251 Northline Road, Taylor, 734-947-9700).**

Notes prepared by Elizabeth Thacker (OHM), and reviewed/edited by Elizabeth Riggs (HRWC)