

**Lower Huron Sub Watershed
Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) Notes
February 7, 2007**

A. Welcome. Attendees:

- Robert Burns, Friends of the Detroit River
- George Ferraro, METCO Services for Sumpter
- Brent Florek, Charles E. Raines Co., for Gibraltar, Flat Rock
- Mark Gaworecki, Hennessey Engineers for Berlin Twp and So. Rockwood
- Jim Gorris, City of Gibraltar
- Bruce Hammond, City of Flat Rock
- Rodney Julian, Brownstown Township
- Michael Kruse, City of Woodhaven
- Michelle LaRose, OHM for Huron Township
- Ric Lawson, HRWC
- Noel Mullett, Wayne County Department of Environment
- Roy Schrameck, ECT for Rockwood
- Linda Spangler, Huron Township
- Deeda Stanczak, Huron Township
- Dan Swallow, Van Buren Township
- Elizabeth Thacker, OHM for Romulus
- Tim Walsh, 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 10/19/06 Meeting Notes

- The 10/19/06 meeting notes were distributed prior to the meeting. **ACTION:** Huron Township made a motion to accept the minutes. 2nd by South Rockwood. Passed unanimously.

C. Watershed Group Facilitation and Organization

1. Discussion on Alliance of Downriver Watersheds
 - a. ADW 1/18 meeting report, budget and plan for restructuring
 - The first meeting of the ADW was held on January 18, 2007. Most of the Lower Huron entities were in attendance.
 - A handout was distributed that provides the proposed process for finalizing the budget. There was general acceptance of this process at the ADW meeting.
 - Ric Lawson suggested that when looking at the proposed budget process, think of it as the first budget of the ADW (as opposed to the first year budget). It may take longer than a year to accomplish some of the tasks.

- There are multiple committees that will be formed as part of the ADW. These include: public education committee, technical committee, 3 watershed committees, and a financial committee.
- b. Discussion of Lower Huron implications and next steps
 - The HRWC still has remaining money (approximately \$14k) to spend from its current contract with the Lower Huron group. The current contract ends in February. Ric Lawson proposed that the group continue to operate with the remaining budget until it is depleted.
 - The Lower Huron group is a committee of the ADW so the group would continue to operate whether the contract is extended or not.
 - Noel Mullett stated that there were a number of tasks outlined in the contract with HRWC (updating the WMP, public education, ordinance and policy development, setting up a monitoring plan, annual report summaries). Ric Lawson will be emailing an update on these tasks to the fiduciary and will cc the group.
 - Brent Florek announced that the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District (fiduciary) has hired Charles E. Raines Co. to perform the fiduciary services on their behalf.
 - **ACTION:** Sumpter Township made a motion to extend the current contract and continue to work under the remaining budget until it was exhausted. 2nd by Flat Rock. Passed unanimously.
 - Not all Lower Huron communities have joined the ADW. There was discussion on how these communities continue to work with the Lower Huron committee without being an ADW member.
 - Communities not in the ADW could possibly contract separately with HRWC for services.
 - Dan Swallow said that he hoped that Van Buren Township's concerns about the ADW could be addressed and that the Township will become a member. Until that happens, he would be amenable to having a separate contract with HRWC.
 - Bruce Hammond reported that the ADW resolution will be going to council at either their February 19 or March 6 meeting.
 - Michael Kruse questioned how a community could be part of a watershed committee but not part of the ADW. To be fair, he suggested that any funds collected by non-ADW communities be used to offset costs of the ADW members.
 - Ric Lawson said that he envisioned that all of the tasks and associated costs included with the ADW membership would have to be broken out. Non-members might be able to choose which of these tasks they want to participate.
 - Deeda Stanczak stated that Huron Township is already part of the HRWC. She said that the activities proposed in the Alliance seem to overlap with those that Huron Township is already paying for. Ric Lawson responded that he did not see any overlap in the services.

- Huron Township reviewed some of the documents distributed at the ADW meeting. Deeda Stanczak asked for a definition of "cooperating partners". Noel Mullett explained that having cooperating partners is a way to recognize groups that aren't obligated to have a storm water permit but that the ADW may want to work with and coordinate efforts.
 - Ric Lawson stated that the group didn't need to decide immediately how to deal with communities not joining the ADW. By the next meeting, the ADW should have a better idea of the costs based on the ADW budget.
 - Noel Mullett inquired what was needed by communities not joining the ADW in order to make them comfortable with the ADW.
 - Dan Swallow stated that the \$200k budgeted for monitoring was a lot and not much detailed was provided as to the scope. Dan said that he supported all 3 watersheds working together but wanted to see a bigger budget for the 3 separate watershed committees. It had previously appeared that the budget was for 1 year and the associated monitoring costs were high in his opinion.
 - Ric Lawson stated that the technical and public education committees will be meeting soon and deciding on a lot of the details.
 - Noel Mullett said that it wasn't the larger group's intention to know up front exactly how to spend the budget. Instead, it is up for the group to decide together what to do with the money. He said that how to spend the budget was (and still is) open for discussion.
 - Linda Spangler from Huron Township stated that they had similar concerns as Van Buren Township and wanted to take a "wait and see" approach to the ADW.
 - Dan Swallow stated that if he could see more detail or structure for how the \$200k for the monitoring plan would be spent and able to tell the board that the budget was for longer than a year, he would be willing to go back to the board to promote the ADW.
 - Ric Lawson suggested signing up for committees to those that want a louder voice.
- c. Election of new Chair
- **ACTION:** Huron Township made a motion to elect Roy Schrameck as the Chair of the Lower Huron Committee. 2nd by Wayne County. Passed unanimously.

D. Storm Water Permit Element Development and Coordination

1. Watershed Management Plan (WMP)

- Patricia Huddas (DEQ) indicated to Ric Lawson that her first priority was to finish with SWPPI comments and then would be looking at the WMP.
- The plan has been approved for Phase 2 and CMI. It has not been approved for 319. Ric Lawson reported that the WMP needs to better tie BMPs to sources and causes.

- There is currently an RFP for funding from the state that could be used to obtain funds to update the WMP to be 319 compliant. An application could also be submitted to try and obtain funds for monitoring activities.
 - Noel asked if the grant applications were something that could be done as part of the remaining \$14k left in HRWC's contract. ***Ric Lawson said that he would look into it and put together a list of tasks left to complete with the budget.***
 - **ACTION:** Van Buren Township made a motion to for the Chair to write a letter of support to apply for a grant to update the WMP to be 319 compliant. 2nd by Sumpter Township. Passed unanimously.
2. SWPPI Submittals ó Patricia Huddas indicated at the ADW meeting that most communities should have received SWPPI comment letters. These letters should be addressed by November 2007.
3. Update and discussion of draft monitoring plan
- Ric Lawson stated that it didn't make sense to finalize the monitoring plan until the ADW budget was set.
 - A map handout was distributed. The map showed the existing and proposed monitoring sites.
 - The group in the past had discussed installing a USGS flow monitoring station. As an alternative, Ric Lawson asked the group to consider having HRWC perform flow monitoring. It would cost considerably less money than a USGS station. However, it would not have the USGS "stamp of approval."
 - If HRWC performed the flow monitoring, volunteers would be relied upon to download the flow data. HRWC would calibrate the meters.
 - Ric Lawson stated that grab samples could also be obtained at the flow monitoring sites. Local waste water treatment plants could analyze the samples. ***Ric will contact Rockwood and South Huron Valley treatment plants to see whether they'd be able to analyze samples.***
 - Ric Lawson stated that all of the proposed monitoring sites would need to be visited to see if they were feasible. Bob Burns stated that he had suggestions for monitoring locations.
 - A second map was distributed. This map showed bioreserve sites throughout the watershed. Volunteers visit these sites and look for older growth, woodlands, wetlands, etc. Then potential sites will be visited to further investigate the quality of these sites. This information will be used to set priorities for conservation/restoration. For more information on the program, visit www.hrwc.org/text/bioreserve.htm. Volunteers are needed.
4. Discussion of future ordinance development
- HRWC is completing work on a model buffer ordinance.
 - As part of their work towards creating a buffer ordinance, HRWC is looking for specific properties willing to incorporate buffer restoration as part of their development. ***Please contact Elizabeth Riggs at HRWC if you have suggestions.***
 - Ric Lawson stated that he will share the model ordinance with the group once it's finalized.

5. Update on Storm Drain Labeling ó Bob Burns is organizing another round of storm drain label orders. The price of the labels will depend upon the total number ordered and whether he is able to obtain corporate sponsorship. A sign-up sheet to indicate interest in ordering labels was passed around at the meeting.
6. 2007 HRWC information/advertising campaign ó as part of the advertising campaign, HRWC put together calendars, direct mailing pieces, etc. ***If your community is interested in directly participating in the program, contact Ric Lawson.***

E. Other Watershed News/Comments from Members ó no news or comments

F. Set Next Meeting

Next Meeting: ***The next Lower Huron meeting was scheduled for April 19, 2007 at 9:30 am at the Wade Trim Taylor office. This meeting was rescheduled to May 9, 2007.***

Notes prepared by Elizabeth Thacker (OHM) on behalf of the City of Romulus, and edited by Ric Lawson, HRWC