

**Lower Huron Sub Watershed  
Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) Notes  
May 9, 2007**

A. Welcome. Attendees:

- Brent Florek, Charles E. Raines Co. for Gibraltar and Flat Rock
- Mark Gaworecki, Hennessey Engineers for Berlin Twp and S. Rockwood
- Jim Gorris, City of Gibraltar
- Bruce Hammond, City of Flat Rock
- Tricia Huddas, MDEQ
- Michael Kruse, City of Woodhaven
- Michelle LaRose, OHM for Huron Township
- Ric Lawson, HRWC
- 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 02/07/07 Meeting Notes

- The 02/07/07 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 had sent out an email with a budget update for the close of the quarter ending in December 2006. He will be sending another report for the quarter ending in March 2007. Through March, there was approximately \$6000 left in the budget.
- In order to continue working at the same level as currently being done, HRWC will need the ADW to secure services for facilitation soon. If a new contract is not signed, HRWC will still continue to be involved with the group but not at the

same level of participation.

2. Alliance of Downriver Watersheds Items

a. ADW 3/22 meeting report, community status report, budget and implementation plans

- At the 3/22/07 full ADW meeting, the budget was approved to be a 2-year budget (May 1, 2007 – May 1, 2009)
- It was reported at the 3/22/07 meeting that SEMCOG is working on legislation for storm water fees. ***Ric Lawson will check the status of this work.***
- The status of communities that had previously not joined the ADW was discussed
  - Flat Rock adopted the bylaws on May 7, 2007
  - Van Buren Township reported that they're hoping to get approval from their environmental council this month
  - Rockwood is in the process of getting the bylaws on the council agenda
  - Belleville is also in the process of getting the bylaws on the council agenda. ***Ric Lawson will follow-up with Belleville.***
  - Huron Township reported that they will probably not join the ADW this year.

b. Technical Subcommittee Report

- Wayne County has secured a couple of grant opportunities involving monitoring. The technical committee is working on a strategy for determining monitoring sites, the frequency of sampling, parameters to be sampled, etc.
- Ric Lawson stated that he is working to ensure that total phosphorous (TP) and total suspended solids (TSS) will be analyzed in the Lower Huron. These are the two most important parameters that need to be tracked for this subwatershed.

c. Public Education Subcommittee Report

- Most of the public education work will be done through the Grow Zone grant that Wayne County has secured.
- Ric Lawson brought along HRWC's main marketing expert to the last public education committee meeting. She was concerned that the activities being

done by the ADW would not fully meet communities' PEP requirements. ***Ric asked that everyone look at their PEPs and let him know if the Grow Zone grant does not appear to be sufficient to meet PEP needs.***

- d. Discussion of Lower Huron implications and next steps
  - Ric Lawson recommended that the LH WAG meet quarterly. The group agreed
  - Ric Lawson suggested that at the next meeting, the group strategize what should be the focus in order to give HRWC direction on what services they should be providing as facilitator.
  - The group decided to discuss at the next meeting the priorities for the upcoming year in order to determine how best to spend the Lower Huron WAG's designated funds from the ADW.

#### D. Storm Water Permit Element Development and Coordination

1. Watershed Management Plan (WMP)
  - a. Status on MDEQ review of WMP revisions - Patricia Huddas (DEQ) indicated that the WMPs were being reviewed by the Lansing office for 319 requirements. She did not know the timeline for review.
  - b. Changes for future permit requirements
    - Patricia Huddas reported that a DEQ permit team is currently working on new permit requirements. There are indications that the new permit will require less paper work (only 2 annual reports) but will have more audits.
    - Ric Lawson reported that Dave Drullinger at the DEQ would be heading an internal DEQ meeting regarding the new permit requirements on May 10, 2007. Items that are to be discussed include allowing watershed-based permittees to have flexibility in their permit, and reducing review time.
    - Ric Lawson is working on a committee with SEMCOG to provide comments to the DEQ on the new permit requirements. ***If you have any comments that you'd like Ric to pass along, please contact him.***
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. Update and discussion of draft monitoring plan

- Ric Lawson stated that he and the technical committee are looking at sites to monitor over the next 5 years. Originally he had identified 12 possible sites, but has increased this to 17 possible sites. He has visited 13 of the 17 possible sites and will be narrowing the 17 sites down to approximately 10 sites for actual grab sampling.
  - Monitoring will be done for TP and TSS. Wayne County will also be looking at parameters such as dissolved oxygen, E. coli (at some sites), and temperature.
  - Ric Lawson reported that it was difficult to find suitable locations for monitoring on the main branch.
  - ***Once the monitoring sites are finalized, Ric Lawson will distribute a list of these sites to the group. He will be contacting the appropriate people for access permission, where needed.***
  - Macro-invertebrate sampling will also be performed in the future as part of the Grow-Zone grant.
4. Ordinance development updates
- HRWC has completed work on a model buffer ordinance (draft has been fully developed). ***Ric Lawson will distribute the ordinance via email.***
  - Ypsilanti Twp, Scio Twp, and Pittsfield Twp are working towards adopting the buffer ordinance. There are no communities from the Lower Huron currently working on adopting this ordinance.
5. Update on Storm Drain Labeling – Bob Burns was not present to provide a report.
6. Other priorities - see Item C.2.d. above

E. Other Watershed News/Comments from Members

- Patricia Huddas reported that Huron Twp and Berlin Twp were the only two communities that had requested a permit termination. The Lansing staff will be making the final determination on whether the termination will be granted. Any City, Village, or Township can request a permit termination or modification at any time if they believe that they do not own or operate an MS4.
- A flyer for “Liz Swims the Huron” was distributed. Liz Elling is a resident of the Huron watershed and will be swimming the Huron River over a 2-week duration. The swim is being used for fundraising and publicity.
- Ric Lawson stated that the event is a good opportunity for communities to meet some of

their PEP requirements. *Please contact him or Jennifer Wolf if interested in participating.*

- Roy Schrameck suggested that the Lower Huron WAG participate. The group agreed. *Ric Lawson, Jennifer Wolf, and Roy Schrameck will work to come up with ideas and will report back to the group.*
- South Rockwood reported that there was a large log jam in their community that may be a safety concern for the swim. *Ric Lawson will pass this information along so that organizers are aware of the logjam. Please contact Ric if you know of any other potential hazards.*

F. Set Next Meeting

Next Meeting: *The next Lower Huron meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2007 at 9:30 am at the Wade Trim Taylor office.*