

Lower Huron Sub Watershed  
Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) Notes  
October 19, 2006



A. Welcome. Attendees:

- Robert Burns, Friends of the Detroit River
- Kelly Cave, Wayne County Department of Environment
- Jennifer Coe, Huron Township
- Sally Elmiger
- George Ferraro, METCO Services for Sumpter Township
- Brent Florek, Charles E. Raines Co.
- Mark Gaworecki, Hennessey Engineers for Berlin Twp
- Jim Gorris, Gibraltar
- Leah Groya, Wade-Trim
- Bruce Hammond, Flat Rock
- Kurt Heise, Wayne County Department of Environment
- Tricia Huddas, MDEQ
- Rodney Julian, Brownstown Township
- Michael Kruse, Woodhaven
- Michelle LaRose, OHM for Huron Township
- Ric Lawson, HRWC
- Noel Mullett, Wayne County Department of Environment
- Deeda Stanczak, Huron Township
- Elizabeth Thacker, OHM for Romulus
- Lori Villar, ECT for Rockwood
- Tim Walsh, South Rockwood

Action items are identified in **bold**.

B. Reading and Approval of 08/24/06 Meeting Notes

- The 08/24/06 meeting notes were distributed prior to the meeting. Ric Lawson asked that the group review the notes and provide any comments.

C. Watershed Group Facilitation and Organization

1. Discussion on Alliance of Downriver Watersheds
  - As of October 10, 2006, 17 communities had joined the Alliance. This count is over 51% of the community participation required to form the Alliance. A handout was distributed showing the communities that had accepted the bylaws. Another handout showed geographically the communities that have accepted the bylaws to date.
  - Based on the communities that officially join the Alliance, the scope of services will need to be adjusted according to the amount of money available.
  - Letters were sent from both Huron Township and Van Buren Township asking for clarification on issues related to the Alliance.

- **A form was distributed on which each Alliance member should declare its designated and alternate representative** (if they haven't already done so). Consultants and residents can be representatives/alternates but only community employees can be officers.
- Each watershed group (Ecorse Creek, Combined Downriver, and Lower Huron) will need to elect a representative. Please consider serving as the representative. Elections will be held at the next meeting.
- The first meeting of the Alliance will deal mostly with administrative business.
- There was some confusion about the timeframe for the Alliance budget. On some of the handouts, it was written "2006 budget." It should actually read "First year budget."
- There is some overlap with the Lower Huron budget and those tasks budgeted for the Alliance (facilitation, for example). HRWC and Wayne County have met to start working on these issues.
- Ric Lawson asked whether decisions would be made at the committee level or the Alliance level. Kelly Cave responded that the committee can decide what to do with their designated budget. However, one of the benefits of the Alliance is economy-of-scale so the watershed groups may not want to hire separate consultants.
- Mike Kruse asked whether the City of Wayne is part of the Ecorse Creek Watershed as indicated on one of the distributed maps. The City of Wayne was able to show that they were not in the Ecorse Creek Watershed and the map was simply not updated. **Kelly Cave will update the map.**

D. Storm Water Permit Element Development and Coordination

1. Watershed Management Plan (WMP)
  - a. Status on MDEQ review of WMP revisions – The WMP was previously approved by the MDEQ.
2. SWPPI Submittals
  - a. Report out on SWPPI submittal status – Patricia Huddas reported that SWPPI comments would be sent to communities within a month. She indicated that most SWPPIs would be approved with comments. Many communities did not include actions that they committed to in the WMP.
  - b. Annual Report progress – **Ric Lawson will be emailing a list of activities that HRWC has done that communities can include in their annual report.** Communities will need to report on SWPPI progress in 2007, but not 2006.
  - c. In the last couple weeks, Kelly Cave had sent out SEMCOG's Regional Partners for Clean Water report, and the Wayne County downriver report. Both can be included as part of communities' annual report.
  - d. Next steps for permit elements (placeholder) – nothing to report.
3. Discussion of draft monitoring plan
  - Two handouts were distributed. Part 1 relates the goals identified in the WMP with the monitoring strategy. Part 2 lists the monitoring activities with the estimated costs.

- Ric Lawson asked for comments on the USGS sites. No comments were given.
- Rockwood reported that at the dam, DNR regularly checks the fish ladder for effectiveness and has conducted an inventory upstream of the dam. There is also a tag and release program.
- Noel Mullett reported that an analysis was done on the importance of a canopy on both air quality and storm water management. The analysis included a quantification of the benefits of a canopy. Natural features protection should be considered as part of the Alliance monitoring strategy.
- Noel Mullett commented that precipitation was not mentioned as part of the monitoring strategy. This task would involve compiling rain data that's already available.
- MDEQ's 5-year monitoring rotation will focus on the Huron River in 2007. The group needs to discuss with the MDEQ what information they will be collecting.
- Noel Mullett suggested negotiating with the MDEQ in order to establish monitoring sites so that trend analyses can be performed.
- Noel Mullett said that the group may want to also consider monitoring temperature and dissolved oxygen. This could be done at the USGS sites for an added cost. The group needs to consider whether elevated temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels are problematic in the Lower Huron watershed.
- Kelly Cave asked Ric Lawson if it was possible to represent the monitoring plan on a map. **Ric said that he would present a map at the next meeting.**

#### 4. Presentation and discussion of sample ordinances

- At the previous meeting, the group had decided to focus on riparian corridor ordinances, wetland/natural features ordinances, and low impact development ordinances.
- HRWC has a grant for the Huron Riparian Buffer Initiative. As part of the initiative, HRWC conducted community interviews. A summary of these interviews was distributed. Also distributed was a list of reference ordinances that were compiled as part of the initiative. Ric Lawson will continue to share the findings of the initiative.
- Kelly Cave reported that Wayne County's storm water ordinance requires buffers be established as developments come in. She suggested that the Wayne County ordinance be included as part of HRWC's research for the Huron Riparian Buffer Initiative.
- Kelly Cave said that she would be interested in knowing how communities are implementing buffer ordinances.
- Sally Elmiger reported that most communities are requiring a 20-25 ft buffer. The buffers are being required as new developments come in (don't apply to properties already developed).
- A handout was distributed titled "Protecting Your Community's Wetlands" that provides information on local wetlands ordinances. HRWC worked with the MDEQ to develop a model wetlands ordinance that is consistent with the State law.

- Both Macomb County and CRWC have information on wetlands ordinances on their websites.
- The “Low Impact Development Center” ([www.lowimactdevelopment.org](http://www.lowimactdevelopment.org)) has good information, models, resources and links.
- SEMCOG produced a LID guidebook that can be obtained from Amy Mangus.
- Ric Lawson said that he will add links to wetlands ordinance information from the Lower Huron’s website.
- Jennifer Coe said that she would be willing to give a presentation on behalf of Huron Township that is in process of updating their ordinances.
- Kelly Cave reported that Canton just recently passed an ordinance for landscaping around basins. The County is in the process of adopting their guidelines.

5. Storm Drain Labeling

- Bob Burns reported that a year and a half ago, the Ecorse Creek and Combined Downriver groups ordered over 12,000 storm drain labels. Bob would like to give the Lower Huron communities and opportunity to order labels.
- The labels are plastic, flexible and come in coated or non-coated. They are good for approximately 10 years.
- The cost of the label was \$2-3/label but the cost was subsidized by the size order and through sponsorship. Glue is included in the cost.
- Communities can count storm drain labeling towards their public education requirements. E-mail Bob if interested.
- Kelly Cave reported that there is a line item for labeling in the Alliance budget. The Alliance will need to decide whether to use this money for signage or storm drain labeling.

E. Other Watershed News/Comments from Members – nothing was reported

F. Adjourn

Next Meeting: **The first Alliance meeting will likely be scheduled for December or January**

The next Lower Huron meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 11, 2007.

***Note: Following the meeting, the Alliance meeting was scheduled for January 18, and the next Lower Huron meeting was rescheduled for February 7 at 9:30 am at Wade Trim offices in Taylor.***

Notes prepared by:  
Elizabeth Thacker (OHM) on behalf of the City of Romulus with Ric Lawson, HRWC.