

Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project
Wayne County, Michigan
The Lower One and Middle One
Rouge River Subwatershed Advisory Groups
Combined Meeting
Meeting Minutes
December 9th, 1999, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM
Canton Township Summit Center

Attendees:

Kelly Kelly, Canton Twp.
Sandra Pereira, Canton Twp.
Brad Sharp, Northville Twp.
Mike Bailey, DBA/Plymouth Twp.
Dana McGowan, JCK/Novi
Elaine Gumpper, OHM/Van Buren Twp.
Jim Blisky, OHM/Ypsilanti Twp.
Marcia Van Fossen, Salem Twp.
Deb Kirkwood, Commerce Twp.
Jennifer Lawson, HRC/Wixom

Michelle Bononi, Washtenaw Co.
Karen Shaw, RPO
Bill McFarlane, Superior Twp.
Steve Korth, OCDC
Nancy Caviston, Superior Twp.
Christopher Doozan, Lyon Twp.
Abraham Ayzeul, volunteer, Lyon Twp.
Razik Alsaigh, RPO
Ted Starbuck, SEMCOG
Cathy Bean, MDEQ

Public Education Products cd demonstration

Amy Mangus of SEMCOG gave a presentation of the Rouge Products cd and the www.rougeriver.com web page so that communities who could not attend the October 27th public education workshop could learn what is available from both products created by SEMCOG. Both the Rouge products cd and the web page are useful references for articles, text, or images for use in community's newsletters, flyers, or other publications with regard to watershed, water quality education. If you have not received a copy of the cd, please call Karen Shaw or Amy Mangus (313-961-4266) directly to request your free copy (one to each community/agency and one per consultant). The communities and consultants who have already used the Rouge products cd said they were very helpful with public education publications and easy to use.

Subwatershed web pages:

The rouge river main web page (www.rougeriver.com) not only hosts a wide variety of helpful technical and non-technical information (it even has a list and photo library of the wildlife that lives in the watershed!), this web page will serve as the host of the seven subwatershed web pages that are now being crafted and piloted in the Middle One subwatershed. Since the November meeting, the Rouge Program Office's Internet Coordinating Committee (ICC) met and Brad Sharp from Northville Twp. attended on behalf of the SWAGs. Amy Mangus at SEMCOG is our ICC contact for this project. From that committee meeting came more ideas and a draft of a template web page from Brad. Please call Karen Shaw or Brad Sharp directly (248-374-2404) for a copy. The draft included basic information for the Middle One Subwatershed like context maps, community links, how to get involved, a kid's page, and technical information such as our developing subwatershed management plan, etc. It also had some creative components such as a page dedicated to photographs of community waterways that residents take and send in to be posted. This would be a nice way to give people a chance to get involved in watershed awareness activities, etc.

Communities were asked to get comments on the draft to Brad by **December 31st**. You can fax comments and any ideas to Brad at 248-348-5823. In the interim, Brad will be organizing the SWAG web page subcommittee meeting and revising the draft page in conjunction with Amy Mangus' efforts to coordinate the page's posting sometime in late January or February of 2000. You will be notified when the subwatershed web page is posted so that you can link your community's web page to that of the subwatershed if you would like.

How to track General Permit activities, time, and how to report to the RPO

Razik Alsaigh from the RPO attended the meeting to go over the tracking and reporting process for Wayne County grant reimbursement. Now that communities have gone through the Interagency Agreement (IAA) process for the Round 1 General Permit grant from Wayne County, it will be very important for everyone to properly record their time and activities toward a monthly or quarterly report to Wayne County. In order to receive reimbursements for work done toward the General Permit, communities must show that they have spent time and/or money toward items under the "Task Products"

sections (which should directly reflect their General Permit language) of their community's IAA. For example, if Community X spends \$5,000 worth of staff time toward the inspection of 80 outfalls to Creek Z, and they are ready to be reimbursed for that project cost, they need to record that expenditure and send the information to Razik. Razik checks to make sure that activity is in the IAA and then is able to issue a grant reimbursement of a certain percentage to Community X.

These reports and reimbursements should take place no less frequently than quarterly. Communities can submit for grant reimbursement after their IAA is signed by their community and by Wayne County. If any item in the IAA no longer reflects the needs of the community and should be changed, the IAA can be amended via memo to Kelly Cave at Wayne County and Razik Alsaigh at the RPO.

Any questions should be directed to **Razik Alsaigh at 313-964-8866**. He expects to work closely with each community to be sure that everyone is comfortable with how to track and report progress toward grant reimbursement.

Public Participation Plan (PPP):

The PPPs for both the Lower One and the Middle One SWAGs were submitted to Roy Schrameck and Cathy Bean at MDEQ before the December 3rd deadline. Cathy reported that since the SWAGs worked so closely with the DEQ to draft the plans, she looked forward to making very few comments/changes before she was able to accept the plans. She thought letters of acceptance would go out in the month of December or early January. **Congratulations** to both groups for successfully competing this process. Now, on to implementation.....

Creating “stakeholder lists”:

The next step after the PPP is submitted is getting started with creating stakeholder lists that will help define who is invited to participate in the subwatershed planning process. SWAG members agreed to have these lists prepared for their communities **by the February SWAG meeting (exact date to be determined)**. This goal was set in accordance with a tentative plan to put that list to use in early spring (possibly a public meeting or a special newsletter edition...). As a reminder, the following is a list of people that you should consider as you piece together mailing lists for your community's stakeholders (folks who have a “stake” in water quality/quantity issues):

Stakeholder categories to review: do you have a way to contact the groups below?

- the media (including local newspapers, radio stations, cable tv stations),
- local city councils and township boards,
- local planning commissions,
- the general public,
- public agency representatives, RRAC members,
- homeowners associations and residents,
- elected officials,
- schools and educational leaders,
- churches and religious organizations,
- environmental groups,
- interested citizen groups,
- the agricultural community,
- business representatives, development councils, and chambers of commerce,
- builders and developers,
- riparian landowners,
- libraries,
- and community volunteers.

An introductory public meeting to introduce subwatershed management planning??:

At the January SWAG meeting, we will decide how communities would like to proceed with implementing the PPP. Many communities discussed an introductory/educational “community meeting” as a kick-off event. The goal of this gathering would be to get the public up to speed with what a watershed is and how a subwatershed management plan will help address water quality/quantity problems, etc, thus encouraging them to become part of an “advisory group” or otherwise be active in the planning process. In speaking with individual communities, it seems that holding a few meetings across the subwatershed (for instance, one for Washtenaw communities, one for Wayne Co. communities and one for Oakland Co. communities...) would be the most practical. Please be prepared to discuss options at the January meeting. Thanks!

Committee structure?:

Don Tilton suggested, based on interest in creating a web page committee, that the group start thinking about instituting a committee structure for other purposes. For instance, committees of 3-4 people could be created to research and resolve issues in categories such as communications (public education and participation), illicit discharge elimination coordination and issues, etc. Assigning committees to certain issues could help to enrich the discussion had by the larger group and facilitate progress overall.

This process was discussed at the meeting and it was decided that at this time, subcommittees should be created only as they are needed. A suggestion, however, was made to spend more time at each meeting for communities to demonstrate to others their PEP or IDEP implementation stories/strategies. It is possible that the ½ hour before or after the SWAG meeting could be dedicated to this kind of interaction. Karen Shaw will look into organizing this and anyone interested in sharing their ideas/frustrations/lessons or has an idea for an outside group to present should contact Karen at 734-769-3004.

Individual community support visits:

In order to ensure that individual SWAG members feel supported throughout the General Permit implementation and subwatershed planning process, Karen Shaw offered to set up meetings with individual communities with the purpose of concentrating specifically on their community’s stormwater issues. Topics of the meetings can range from managing the interagency agreement with Wayne County, to implementing an effective public education program, to creating a subwatershed management plan that is helpful to them. Communities who think this kind of meeting would be helpful should call Karen to schedule (734-769-3004). Meetings can be one time only, or can be on a monthly basis if the community determines that it is useful.

Subwatershed management plans, draft table of contents:

A copy of this draft is available by calling Karen Shaw (734-769-3004). At the November meeting, communities were asked to look at this draft table of contents and give any comments at this meeting. Based on the lack of comments at this time, it seems that SWAG members are prepared for the RPO to move forward with these major categories of information for the management plan. Anyone with questions or comments should call Karen. A rough timeline was introduced and is as follows:

Time frame	RPO work tasks
January – March, 2000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State of the subwatershed (summarizing data, reports on water quality, wildlife, etc.) 2. Goal setting with SWAG and public 3. Summarizing existing impairments 4. Public participation facilitation
April – July, 2000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Comparing management alternatives based on cost effectiveness and efficiency 6. Public participation facilitation
August – December, 2000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Synthesizing an action plan for first five years and beyond 8. Defining priority actions for SWAG members 9. Define process to measure progress 10. Define process for updating the plan 11. Public participation facilitation
January – May, 2001	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Assist with plan approvals in communities and agencies 13. Public participation facilitation

Updates/Announcements

- Kelly Kelly is working on beginning the Lower One Wetland Assessment Grant. She will keep us posted on how the project is going.
- Rouge Program Office is offering a workshop to learn how to use the IDEP tracking GIS and DataView software applications, January 6-7, 2000. Call the RPO for registration (313-961-1762). (see attached)
- Model Public Education Plan Workshop for Municipal Storm Water Permit Holders, January 18th, 20th, and 25th. Call David Drullinger at 517-335-4117 to register (\$50). (see attached)

Next meeting

The Lower One and Middle One SWAGs will hold another combined meeting on **January 27th**, from 10:30AM-12:30PM at Novi Civic Center (tentative location). An announcement will be distributed.