

# **Rouge Project Steering Committee**

## **Purposes, Membership and Operating Procedures**

### **Purposes**

- To coordinate the restoration of the Rouge River by providing a watershed-wide forum, integrate the activities of the seven Subwatershed Advisory Groups (SWAGs), and provide other services its members determine are needed to improve water quality and manage flows within the watershed
- To provide advice and counsel to Wayne County on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Grants
- To discuss and offer recommendations on updates and revisions to the Rouge River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) as may be proposed by the Rouge RAP Advisory Council (RRAC) prior to the adoption of such changes by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- To encourage collaboration among local agencies (and between local agencies and regional, state and federal organizations) that will result in the most cost effective strategies to restore the beneficial uses of the river and to advocate actions.
- To facilitate dispute resolution by offering an alternative forum to help mediate water quality or quantity management issues arising among members, or between members and regulatory agencies.
- To determine if a more formal organization of Rouge River communities is needed to effectively address water management issues within the watershed, and transmit any recommendations for consideration by the appropriate elected officials in the cities, townships, villages, and county agencies located within the Rouge River watershed.
- To provide an opportunity for the representatives of the U.S. District Court to monitor the progress of the parties to the federal court case in resolving the issues involving the Rouge River now before the court

### **Membership**

**Voting Members:** They will participate in all issues and they will be officially appointed by Wayne County as were the original Steering Committee members.

1. Storm Water Community Representatives (Seven) - One community selected by each of the seven Rouge River Storm Water Advisory Groups formed under the MDEQ general storm water NPDES permit.
2. Combined Sewer Community Representatives (Three or Four\*) - One each from the cities of Detroit, Birmingham and Dearborn, and at least one from Dearborn Heights, Redford Township, Inkster, or River Rouge.
3. County Agency Representatives (Three) - One each from the offices of Oakland County Drain Commissioner, the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner, and the Wayne County Department of Environment
4. Citizen Group Representative (One) - One from the Rouge RAP Advisory Council (RRAC)
5. Business Representatives (Two) - One each from a large manufacturing firm that has an NPDES permit to discharge into the Rouge River, and from a smaller firm operating within the Rouge River watershed.

*\*In the event that none of the seven CSO communities listed under (2.) are selected to represent subwatershed advisory groups, then four representatives will be selected according to the provisions of (2.) above. No community or agency shall have more than one voting member.*

**Ex-Officio (non-voting) Members:** They may choose to further limit their own participation based upon agency policy or direction, and they will be formally invited to participate by Wayne County as were the original Steering Committee members.

1. State Agencies Representatives (Two) - One each from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources
2. Federal Agency Representative (One) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Monitors:** Two Representatives as appointed by the U.S. Federal Court to monitor progress of parties to the Rouge River watershed action before the Court . Monitors will be formally invited to participate.

**Alternates:** Voting and Ex-Officio members may designate an alternate to serve and/or vote in their absence. An alternate representing a SWAG or RRAC must have the approval of the body they represent.

## **Operating Procedures**

**Frequency of Meetings:** The Rouge Project Steering Committee (Committee) shall meet bi-monthly or more frequently as required to accomplish its purposes.

**Chair:** A non-voting representative of SEMCOG will serve as Chair of the Committee (Chair).

**Staffing:** Staff support for the Committee and the Chair will be established by Wayne County on an annual basis through available grant funding under the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project.

**Basis for Action:** The Committee will carry out its purposes primarily through discussions intended to result in consensus advice or comment on issues brought before it. Any voting member may present a formal motion for a vote. If a quorum (at least fifty-percent of those appointed and serving as voting members) is present, the chair shall proceed with discussion and decision following Robert's Rules of Order. Summaries of each meeting shall be prepared and submitted at subsequent meetings for approval. Changes in **Purpose, Membership, or Operating Procedures** of the Committee shall require approval of two-thirds of the voting members appointed and serving.

**Public Comment:** Committee meetings are open to the public. There will be an opportunity for those interested in the Rouge River and other stakeholders to share their views with the group, within reasonable time constraints.

**First Meeting:** The first formal meeting of the reconstituted Committee is scheduled for **May 11, 1999, at 1:00 p.m. at SEMCOG's offices**. The Chair will prepare a notice and agenda for the first meeting with assistance from Wayne County and the RPO.