

Rouge Watershed Steering Committee Summary

On May 11, 1999 the Wayne County Rouge Project Steering Committee was reconstituted to expand its charge and enlarge its membership. The original committee met from 1993 to 1998 and focused on issues relating to the federal wet weather demonstration grant. The reconstituted steering committee continues to consider federal grant issues but also focus on issues needing watershed-wide coordination or of interest to all.

The reconstituted committee is chaired by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and includes representatives from each of the seven Rouge River subwatersheds. Also making up the group are representatives from combined sewer overflow (CSO) communities, Wayne County Department of Environment, Drain Commissioners from Washtenaw and Oakland Counties, City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, Ford Motor Company and ex officio representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (invited), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) (invited), U.S. District Court, and Rouge RAP Advisory Council.

Organizational meetings to reconstitute the group were held in March and April, 1999. The first formal meeting of the newly composed group was held in May, 1999. To accomplish its purposes and tasks, the Committee held bi-monthly public meetings on the following dates:

- May 11, 1999
- July 27, 1999
- September 27, 1999
- November 15, 1999.

Bi-monthly meeting discussions include a range of the following agenda items:

- Watershed-wide Issues
 - Sanitary Sewer Overflows
 - Basement flooding
 - Waterways naming and signage initiative
 - Public education activities, such as support for Friends of the Rouge
 - Funding opportunities such as Clean Michigan Initiative
- Subwatershed Advisory Group Activities
- CSO Control Activities
- Activities by other Steering Committee representatives
- Upcoming Events
- Open Discussion/Public Comment