

Overview of Proposed *Alliance of Downriver Watersheds*

May 9, 2006

Background

- All communities and agencies have storm water permits which are based on jointly developed watershed plans.
- 3 tiers of activity to implement watershed plans:
 - Local Communities and Citizens
 - Watershed Advisory Groups
 - Regional Activities
- Communities in the Ecorse Creek, Combined Downriver, and Lower Huron River watersheds formed Watershed Advisory Groups in 2002
- Inter-Municipality Committees (IMC) formed for each Watershed in 2003 to develop watershed management plans (submitted to State Nov 2005)
- IMC agreements expire 1st quarter 2006
- Continuing cooperation required to implement watershed management plans to restore and protect the beneficial uses of our water resources and to comply with our storm water permit requirements
- We have shown there are many benefits in working together (e.g., cost savings)
- Formation of an umbrella organization for the three watersheds under the Watershed Alliance Act (new MI PA 517) seems to be best option for working together into the future.
 - Assessments and Operating Procedures Determined by Members
 - No New Authority to Tax or Assess Fees to Public or Businesses
 - No New Regulatory Authority
 - Emphasizes local cooperation and control
 - Forum for sharing materials/information/ideas for reduced redundancy among partners
 - Authorizes developing /implementing watershed plans, manage own money (including receiving grant funding), enter agreements (e.g., contract for services and staff), implement joint projects

Proposed Bylaws for Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

- Closely tracks successful MOAs for Watershed Inter-Municipality Committees
- Provides “umbrella” organization for 3 watersheds for common permit activities
 - 1 payment per year if in 1, 2, or 3 watersheds
- Outlines Voting Members
 - Cities, Townships, Villages, Counties, Authorities, Public Schools, College & Universities, others with Storm Water Discharge Permits
- Assessments to Members Based Upon Population/Area Within Watershed
- Annual Member Approval of Budget/Assessments
- Terminate Membership at Anytime
- Proposed budget supports
 - Implementing permit requirements
 - Water Quality Monitoring in All Watersheds
 - Select Illicit Discharge Elimination Activities
 - Select projects identified by Watershed Advisory Groups
 - Technical Assistance to Watershed Advisory Groups
 - Advocacy for Communities on Permit Issues

PROPOSED
ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS

VOTING MEMBERS

Cities, Townships, Villages, Counties
Public Schools, Authorities, College
& Universities With Water Discharge
Permits

COOPERATING PARTNERS

Non-profit organizations,
businesses, residents, others

Elected Officers

Chair & Co-Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

Finance Committee

Chair = Treasurer
Open to Members

**Ecorse Creek Watershed
Advisory Group**

Chair = Member
Open to All Interested Parties

**Combined Downriver
Watershed Advisory Group**

Chair = Member
Open to All Interested Parties

**Lower Huron River
Watershed Advisory Group**

Chair = Member
Open to All Interested Parties