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Boardman River Dams Implementation Team

Grand Traverse County, the City of Traverse City, Traverse City Light and Power Department, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the MI Hydro Relicensing Coalition, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the MI Department of Environmental Quality, and the MI Department of Natural Resources

Meeting Date: 12/12/2006

Location: NMC Great Lakes Campus, room 211

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Conference Call: To be determined

Facilitator: Todd Kalish

Discussion/Decision Item: The potential 17 foot draw down of Boardman Pond.

Narrative: Traverse City Light and Power (TCLP) has received license surrenders for Brown Bridge and Sabin hydroelectric facilities (hydro), and a conditional surrender for the Boardman hydro from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The Boardman hydro surrender application is conditional upon the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) approval of a maintenance/mitigation plan that addresses the dam safety concerns (Part 315 of the Dam Safety Act) associated with the Boardman hydro. The Boardman hydro currently does not meet the safety standards of Part 315. Therefore, a maintenance plan needs to be finalized that details how and when the dam will comply with DEQ safety standards before the DEQ will assume jurisdictional responsibility for Boardman hydro. As part of this plan, the DEQ will require Boardman Pond to be drawn down to the greatest extent possible (17 feet) with the existing hydro mechanisms to partially mitigate its non-compliance with Part 315. However, the drawdown will not bring the Boardman Dam into full compliance. Therefore, a maintenance plan is required by DEQ to assure the Boardman Dam will eventually comply with the safety standards.

The FERC will likely require initiation of the reconfiguration and construction of the Boardman hydro spillway and dike to assure it complies with their safety standards in January, 2007 if a mutually agreeable maintenance plan cannot be finalized. In addition, the FERC has indicated that they will require Boardman Pond to be drawn down 17 feet.

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Discussion/Decision topics:

1. Drawdown timeframe considerations
 - a. Aquatic habitat and species
 - b. Bottomland sediment constitution and stabilization
 - c. Optimal revegetation timeframe
 - d. Engineering and Feasibility study priorities
2. Bottomland ownership
3. Exposed bottomland maintenance
 - a. Available funds and expertise

If you have any questions or comments please let me know.

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