

Minutes

Boardman River Dams Committee Bottomland Management Task Force

Location: Northwestern Michigan College, Great Lakes Campus **Room 210**

Date: 03/19/07

Time: 5:00-7:00 PM

Chair: Steve Largent

Facilitator: Bill Plough

Notes: Todd Kalish

Bottomland Task Team Mission: *To ensure issues relating to those areas of bottom lands exposed due to the drawdown of the impoundments, including, economic, social and environmental concerns, are addressed in an open and equitable process resulting in community accepted and ecologically sound management practices.*

Known Elements:

1. A DEQ permit has been filed to lower Boardman Pond 17 feet.
2. Varnum has rendered their opinion that the bottomlands of Boardman Pond are owned by Grand Traverse County.
3. The team will use the Labeled Decision Making process.

Labeled Decision Making (LDM)

I.A. Single Decision: Leader decides alone.

I.B. Leaders Preference: Leader makes decision unless there is compelling new info.

II.A. Consulting Decision: Leader consults with group, then makes decision.

II.B. Will Live With Decision: After discussion a decision is proposed and each member decides, out loud, they will live with that decision (requires back-up decision style).

II.C. Without Reservation Decision: Each person involves agrees with the decision with out any reservations (requires back-up decision-making style).

III.A. Hand-over Decision: Leader gives authority to an individual or group.

5:00 - 5:05 Welcome & Brief Introductions (Steve)

Steve Largent, Todd Kalish, Dennis Aloia, Andy Knott, Don Tilton, Tim Schreiner, Jim McIntyre, Mark Johnson, Ben Purdy, Mike Slater, Christine Maxbauer, and Brian Bury were present and Scott Parker joined us via conference call. Called in absent: Tom Wertz, Jeff Hanel, Bill Plough, and Jack Murray

5:05 - 5:10 Brief Review of Operating Structure (Todd) (Discussion item)

Todd reviewed the Labeled Decision Making process and thanked everyone for their patience in implementing a unique process.

**5:10 - 5:15 Approval of Meeting Notes (Steve) (Decision item: (II.B/5/II.A)
II.B-Will live with/II.A-Steve**

Everyone in attendance will live with the notes as written.

**5:15 – 5:25 Review and Approval of Agenda (Steve) (Decision item: II.B/5/II.A)
II.B-Will live with/II.A-Steve**

Everyone in attendance will live with the agenda as written.

**5:25 – 6:00 Discuss Recent Events and Identify Any Immediate Management Issues
(Steve & Dennis) (Discussion item)**

Dennis provided an update on the reported leak at the Boardman Dam and the precautionary safety measures that are being taken. The leak turned out to be from a 2” pipe and did not involve the dam at all. The DEQ requested the Boardman Pond to be lowered three feet as a precautionary measure. TCLP closed the parking lot and the Sabin Dam walkway to public use as precautionary measures following the incident. The TCLP decided to lower the Brown Bridge impoundment by a small amount and maintain that level. There was concern from the team that the current bathymetry maps for the Boardman Pond need to be updated. The original estimate of what the surface area of Boardman Pond would look like after the 17 foot drawdown may be inaccurate. The recent three-foot drawdown has caused the waterline to recede approximately 10-40’. ECT reiterated that they will address the drawdown proactively and as it occurs to recommend appropriate management activities.

ECT (Don Tilton) recently circumvented Boardman Pond and reported his findings:

1. He did not observe any significant damage such as incidental erosion or flooding as a result of the recent three-foot drawdown.
2. The river is carving a new (reestablishing it’s historic) channel at the southern end of the impoundment. ECT will estimate where the river channel will flow after the 17 foot drawdown.

6:00 – 6:15 Work Order Update (Todd & Steve) (Discussion item)

ECT reiterated what would be covered in the work order:

1. ECT will estimate where steep slopes will potentially occur and recommend management activities.
2. ECT will provide at least three exposed bottomland revegetation alternatives.
3. Don stated that ECT will include a feasibility analysis of lowering Sabin Pond concurrently with Boardman Pond in the work order.
4. Don stated that purple loosestrife is not a pioneering species. However, we should be concerned about loosestrife, hybrid cattail, and phragmites colonization of the exposed bottomlands. ECT will identify a monitoring plan for exotic/invasive species.

The team is concerned that the fishing platform on the Boardman Pond is “high and dry” due to the recent drawdown. The County will remove the fishing deck until a decision concerning the fate of Boardman Dam is determined.

The team discussed the issue of public use of exposed bottomlands. The team felt that this issue should be addressed by the team in the future. The team will have representatives meet with Ron Alpers (waterfront property owner) to discuss options and potential concerns.

The team was concerned that private wells may be affected by the drawdown. Don stated that he didn’t think the wells would be affected because most of them should be deep enough. The Grand Traverse County Department of Public Works will explore this issue.

Brian Bury indicated that the DNR Natural Rivers section is interested in the Boardman River Dams Project and will attempt to attend future Bottomlands Task Group meetings to provide input and expertise.

6:15 - 6:30 *Update Concerning Legal Descriptions (Jeff)*
(Discussion item)

Jeff was not present. No update was given.

6:30 – 6:35 *Update Communications Update*
(Discussion item)

Bill Plough was not present. The team expressed a need for a succinct communications plan to disseminate information to Boardman Pond waterfront property owners. The team expressed a need for a primary contact. The team expressed the need to inform the waterfront property owners when the boat launch will not be usable due to the drawdown. We need to distribute the drawdown schedule as soon as it is finalized. Don recommended signage around the pond warning of unstable exposed bottomlands.

6:35 – 6:45 *Next Steps (Group)*

The team recommends a joint meeting with the Property Owners Task Group in April, 2007. John Wyrus will develop the draft agenda and Jim McIntyre will discuss the possibility of a joint meeting with John shortly. Steve will coordinate meeting logistics with John.

The team expressed concern about the potential negative affects the drawdown could have on the Boardman Pond loons. Steve Largent and Ben Purdy will evaluate the current loon nest and determine the potential best placement during the drawdown. They will report their findings at the next Bottomlands Task Group meeting.

6:45 – 7:00 *Meeting Evaluation (Bill)*
(Discussion) Content, Process, and Relationships

Content: “good meeting”

Process: “short, sweet, and to the point”; making good progress

Relationships: “insightful, meeting with Ron Alpers is a good gesture”