

Boardman River Dams Project
Bottomlands Management and Property Owners Issues Team
Minutes

Meeting Date: 01/16/2008 Location: Civic Center Time: 5:00-6:30
Chair: Steve Largent Facilitator: John Wyrwas Note taker: Todd Kalish

Meeting objective: To continue the development of a comprehensive list of bottomland disposition options that compliment existing disposition options for Boardman Dam. These options will then be presented to the Scoping Team. The Scoping Team will incorporate and evaluate the bottomland disposition options according to an "Alternatives Review and Assessment" matrix that's contained in this packet. This packet contains a list of the bottomland disposition alternatives that were generated from the October meeting.

Meeting attendees:

John Wyrwas, Steve Largent, Ron Alpers, Don Tilton, Herb Lemcool, Dennis Aloia, Todd Kalish, Tom Rozich, Andy Knott, Charles Peterson, Wayne Cockrum, Bruce Carpenter, Jim McIntyre, and Jack Murray.

5:00-5:05 *Welcome and brief introductions*

5:05-5:10 *Review and approve agenda and 11/20/2007 meeting notes*

There were no additions to the agenda, and the team will live with the 11/20/2007 Bottomlands notes.

5:10-5:35 *Bottomland report -Water levels in January*

Largent reported that the water levels in Brown Bridge Pond went up approximately one foot and the Boardman River was 8/10 of a foot below flood stage during the warm weather and rain event we experienced a week ago. The Brown Bridge water level was, and still is, maintained at 18 inches below the normal hydro operating water level. Rozich indicated that it was probably a good thing that the pond had been drawn down by 18 inches to alleviate the added pressure on the dam and dike due to the large rain and runoff event.

Tilton reported that the USGS gauge located in Mayfield indicated that the Boardman River reached 260 cubic feet/second (cfs), which is the highest cfs recorded at this site in the last ten years.

Carpenter asked if the flood gates at the Boardman Dam were kept closed on purpose to lessen the effects of the large runoff and rainfall event downstream. Aloia reported that during the first two days of the rainfall event, the County removed a lot of debris from the inlet to the penstocks and stacked it on shore. The County records indicate that the Boardman Pond came up 6.67 feet from Sunday-Tuesday. The County was not purposely trying to hold back water. Water only passes through one penstock at this time due to equipment located in the other one. Peterson indicated that he would remove the equipment to allow water to flow through both penstocks, but that it would be quite laborious to do so. Since water only flows through one penstock, there is a limited amount of water that can be passed and when there is a large rain and runoff event, like last week, the water in the pond will raise approximately five or more feet until it flows through the spillway. Aloia indicated that the pizometer readings at the dike indicated high soil moisture during the rainfall event. Therefore, once the pond level is elevated, and the dike is inundated with water, the level must be returned to normal very slowly to prevent erosion at the dike. Therefore, the County lowered the water level by one foot from Tuesday to Wednesday, and lowered it six inches per day after that to return to the normal level.

Largent reported a gate malfunction at the Brown Bridge Dam that occurred in late December which caused the river to rise approximately one foot. The malfunction was fixed by Conservation District and TC Light and Power staff.

Peterson indicated that he has purchased the hydro operating equipment within the Sabin and Boardman Dams and intends to generate hydro electricity at these sites. McIntyre asked if this new development changes anything with the BRDC process. Aloia indicated that this does not change the process. The County has not received any type of business plan from Peterson, and the County and City are committed to exploring all of the dam disposition options as outlined in the BRDC mission.

Don Tilton will forward the USGS website to Jennifer for possible inclusion on the Boardman website. Anyone can view real time flow conditions for the Boardman River on this site.

Largent reported that there are some new erosion sites near the Lone Pine trail due to the rain event.

Woody debris (Largent)

Largent reported that the woody debris that accumulated at the Boardman Dam is both new and old material.

Bank erosion discussion (Tilton)

Tilton explained that large rainfall events, like the one we experienced a week ago, create a shelf of sediment and then retreat to normal flow in the original channel. Carpenter indicated that the waterfront parcels of Claudia Agamack and Craig Podig both have peninsulas and major erosion on the southern ends with vertical banks.

Aloia said that we need to have maps of the Boardman watershed and Boardman Pond available at these meetings.

Review of (selected) dam disposition options and how the two processes relate (Todd)

Todd described the next steps in the Bottomland Team's efforts to identify potential Boardman bottomland disposition options. The list of options that this team identified will be presented to the entire BRDC on 01/22/2008 for comment and potential additions. The list of options will then be presented to the Scope of Work team at their February meeting (which may be a joint Bottomlands/Scope of Work team meeting) so they can incorporate the Boardman bottomlands disposition options into the overall Boardman Dams disposition options.

Lemcool asked whether or not a public entity could sell public land to a private individual for less than fair market value. We need to get an answer to this question at the appropriate time. Rozich stated that the DNR routinely grants ingress and egress to private individuals over State land.

A question was posed as to why are we developing bottomland disposition options at this point, especially when some will not even be used? The purpose of developing bottomland disposition options two-fold 1) Proactive management. We will be well prepared to immediately implement the dam disposition decision once it is made because we have done all the pre-work. 2) ECT will use the list of options as a bench mark of criteria they will concentrate on. They will also make recommendations to eliminate certain options, if the BRDC approves, which will save us time, money, and effort.

Carpenter asked if anyone knew of an agreement between MDOT and the County involving ownership and maintenance of the culvert on Cass Road (where the original Boardman River channel flowed). Nobody knew of such an agreement, and Carpenter indicated he would give the document to the BRDC for further review.

Review of, and build upon the list of bottomland disposition options developed at the October meeting. (Largent)

Largent reviewed the list of bottomland disposition options that this team developed at the October, 2007 meeting and asked for additions, comments, or questions.

Peterson would like another option added (under modify dams) that states the Boardman and Sabin dam can be used to generate hydro power at lower levels than were historically maintained by TC Light and Power. However, Peterson indicated that he would not prefer this option because the equipment is set up to operate at the former pond level and it would cost a great deal of money to modify everything.

Aloia and Lemcool stated that it would be good if Peterson shared his information with the BRDC, and visa versa to avoid duplication of efforts. Peterson stated that he would share information and data he has accumulated regarding reinstating hydro capabilities at the Boardman and Sabin dams.

Carpenter stated that we should include all the Bottomlands meeting participants' names on the Boardman web site.

There was discussion as to what we can do to increase the participation of Boardman Pond waterfront owners in the BRDC. Carpenter stated that there are only 14 waterfront lots and some live downstate, some have their house for sale, and some have passed away.