

**Boardman River Dams Committee
Bottomlands Team Meeting Notes**

Date: 11/20/2007

Time: 5:00-7:00 PM

Location: Grand Traverse County Civic Center

Team Chair: Steve Largent

Facilitator: Steve Largent

Note taker: Todd Kalish

Attendees: Steve Largent, Ken Gregory, Andy Knott, Dave Downer, and Todd Kalish

5:00-5:05: Welcome and brief introductions (Steve)

Steve indicated that the main purpose of this meeting is to continue the discussion of potential Boardman Pond bottomland disposition options.

5:05-5:10: Review and approve agenda and 10/16/2007 meeting notes (Steve)

There were no recommended additions or deletions to the agenda. There was a recommendation to add the list of attendees to the 10/16/2007 notes. Steve indicated that he would add the list to the notes. The entire team will live with both the agenda and the 10/16/2007 notes.

5:10-5:15: Bottomland report (Steve)

Steve reported that an intern (Adrian) will monitor potential build-up of woody debris within the Boardman River from Beitner road downstream to the inlet of Boardman Pond.

The permanent Grand Traverse County signs are up and say "Use at your own risk."

Four new signs within the Boardman exposed bottomlands were also put up.

Andy reported that there is erosion occurring near the Lone Pine trail steps. Steve indicated that he is aware of the erosion and is in the process of stabilizing the area.

Dave indicated that the old Keystone impoundment area is a good example of what the Boardman Pond exposed bottomlands may look like over time.

Dave thinks it is a false premise to believe the Boardman River will ever be able to revert to its former state prior to dam construction. It was reiterated that all options will be considered based on social, environmental, and economic factors. Steve asked the team if we all thought it was appropriate to postpone continuing the discussion of Bottomland disposition options until the January meeting that will hopefully be better attended. The entire team will live with postponing this discussion.

Steve reported that Ed Martel posed questions at the last monthly BRDC meeting. Mr. Martel submitted these questions in an e-mail to Jennifer Jay, who also allotted time on this agenda to discuss those questions. Mr. Martel is not present at this meeting. Jennifer Jay distributed the questions to the appropriate people who addressed the questions in a response e-mail. The responses to Mr. Martel's questions were read at the meeting, and are as follows:

1. Over the years how much public, private, or grant monies have been invested in the educational preserve?

*Answer from Lew Coulter: The Natural Education Reserve was dedicated in 1993 (*see correction by Steve Largent, following) by Grand Traverse County for natural education and outdoor recreation. In the early years of the Reserve most of the programming (guided hikes and events) was provided by CETA employees. Some of the improvements were funded through the USDA Soil Conservation Service. The GT Conservation District began managing the Reserve in 1993 on behalf of the County and we have no records of funds expended prior to that time. In the past 14 years, the District has overseen improvements at the Reserve and initiated the Discovery Hikes Program, which now provides about 50-60 guided hikes and serves ~2000 people annually.*

Since 1993, there has been approximately \$500,000 spent on staffing and labor for the Reserve. Another \$150,000 or so has been spent on improvements. The latter is very conservative and does not include costs related to the work in progress on the Boardman River Nature Center. Grand Traverse County has born nearly all the costs for staffing and labor. Improvements were funded from many sources, most notably: Grand Traverse County, Oleson Foundation, Garfield Charter Township, MDEQ 319 grants, Rotary Big Game Dinner, EMS and many others. We have also benefited greatly from donated services and materials and volunteers who undertook many of the improvements at the Reserve.

2. A recent wetland evaluation report by ECT was submitted. Can I get a copy of the scope of work, invoice for services, and by whom the invoice will be paid by. Please provide a copy of the particular minutes of the committee that approved the scope of work and the funding for ECT's recently submitted wetland evaluation project.

Answer: The full SOW is available on the website, along with meeting archives showing the revision and ultimate approval of same. Additionally, Scott Parker states: "The wetlands report was done as part of the contract with the Tribe which was signed in March 2007. The wetland report was part of the terrestrial habitat effort.

Steve pointed out a typo in the response to one of the questions where it was stated the Nature Education Reserve was dedicated in 1993, which is not the case. The NER was dedicated in 1976.

5:30-5:45: Review of dam disposition options and how the two processes relate (Todd)

This agenda item was postponed to the January Bottomlands meeting.

5:45-6:35: Build on bottomland disposition options from the October meeting (Steve)

This agenda item was postponed to the January Bottomlands meeting.

6:35-6:45: Next steps (group)

This agenda item was postponed to the January Bottomlands meeting.

6:45-7:00: Meeting evaluation (Steve)

There will not be a Bottomlands meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 16 (third Wednesday) at the Civic Center from 5:00-7:00 PM.