

**Boardman River Dams Committee
Communication/Outreach Team
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2008; 5:00 – 6:00 PM**

Boardman River Dams Committee Statement of Purpose:

“To engage all interests in assessing and recommending the fate of the dams on the main stem of the Boardman River based upon a thorough analysis of options, including long and short-term economic, social, environmental, aesthetic, transportation and ecological impacts upon the community, individuals and riparian owners.”

Attendees:

Susanne Biteman, Jennifer Jay, Herb Lemcool, Meral Jackson, Amy Packard, Todd Kalish and Sandra Sroonian.

I. Introductions

II. Review Agenda

III. Americorp Volunteer

Discussion: We have a volunteer from Americorp that will be working to support the Communication/Outreach Team – Erin Howard. She is committed to approximately 4 hours per week (on average) through September 2008. The Team can decide the best way to utilize her time. She will attend each of the Team’s monthly meetings and the monthly BRDC meetings if available. Suggested assignments included contacting organizations to set-up presentations and working on the public input survey (item IV below).

Follow-up action: Jennifer will meet with Erin on January 16, 2008 at 1:30 PM and suggested that Sandra and Susanne attend. Susanne is not able to attend.

IV. Survey and Survey Needs

Discussion: The Scoping Team met on December 19, 2007 to provide to ECT comments on their proposed scope of work which included a public survey. In this task, ECT would develop and conduct an internet-based survey on resource use preferences including frequency of participation, sites visited, and activities in which they participate. The survey would build upon the earlier social economic studies and other recently completed survey information and would be used in conjunction with the economic model for the identification and evaluation of alternatives. The Scoping Team indicated that there was a survey already completed titled “Report to The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, 2007 Benchmark Survey” dated November 2007. Jennifer provided a copy of the report to the Team. The Scoping Team would like the Team to review the survey and generate a list of questions for the public survey as it related to the BRDC project.

Meral has experience in performing surveys and suggested that she contact a couple different organizations to see if there is funding (grants) available to pay for the proposed public survey. The Team agreed that preparing and mailing out the survey would require a significant amount of time and we would have to recruit additional volunteers. It has not been determined if it would be a telephone, internet, or mailing survey, or combination of two or more methods. Meral indicated that it is important to obtain input not only from the BRDC members, but feedback from a cross-sectional group (e.g., by

zip code, township, etc.). It is estimated that we will need feedback from a minimum of 220 people realizing that you typically obtain a 35% response. This would require mailing out over 630 surveys.

The Team will have to meet more frequently over the next few months in order to complete the survey in a timely fashion to support the needs of the Engineering Feasibility Study.

Follow-up action: Jennifer will contact Don Tilton of ECT and set up a time when he could meet with the Team to discuss what additional information should be gathered to supplement the survey completed by NMC. Most likely we will meet on January 22, 2008 which is the day of the next BRDC monthly meeting. Jennifer will inform the Team on the exact day and time.

Each Team member should review the survey completed by NMC and provide feedback on the existing data and develop a list of additional questions that should be considered in the development of the supplemental public input survey.

Meral will make telephone calls to certain organizations to determine if there is funding available to support the survey.

Jennifer will ask NMC if they are willing to assist as an in-kind service

Sandra will contact AmericanRivers to see if they have performed similar surveys that they would be able to provide to the Team through a Freedom of Information Act request.

V. Poster

Discussion: The poster is being printed and Jennifer has received the three information boxes we ordered. Steve Largent has volunteered to place informational boxes in the field. Newsletters for the boxes will be printed in black and white.

Follow-up action: Jennifer will bring the posters to the BRDC monthly meeting as soon as they are completed. Jennifer will provide the posters, newsletters and information boxes to Steve Largent.

VI. Newsletter Articles for Spring Issue

Discussion: The Team has agreed that we would generate a semi-annual newsletter; therefore, we should identify article topics and assignments for the next newsletter as soon as possible. Topics could include, but are not limited to the following: update on Engineering Feasibility Study, Financial Update including summary of funding sources, Community Involvement, Fisheries Impact Update since the drawdown of Boardman Pond, and specialty articles (to be determined).

Follow-up action: The following assignments were made:

- Engineering Feasibility Study - Susanne
- Financial/Funding Source Update – Sandra
- Current Conditions of the Bottomlands – Todd
- Community Involvement – Jennifer
- Blog
- Public Survey Results
- Results of studies performed since last newsletter – listed; refer to BRDC website.
- Specialty articles – Barb has already written two articles.

Tentative deadline will be to have the draft newsletter completed by mid-April 2008.

VII. Response to Record Eagle on Blog

Discussion: A BRDC member has reportedly submitted a forum to the Record-Eagle in response to their December 7th editorial titled “Study can’t be allowed to spiral out of control”. The editorial commented that the cost of the “project management” and “communication and outreach activities” related to the Boardman River dams study are soaring, so much so that when all is said and done there may not be enough money left to answer engineering and environmental questions. Additionally, some BRDC members commented that they either had or were going to write letters to the editor in response to their previous articles/editorials. Perhaps we should provide a recap of the forum in the newsletters or on the website. At the last meeting, the Team discussed posting the reply from the BRDC member on the BRDC website if the Record-Eagle did not print the forum or letters to the editor or if they fail to provide accurate information.

The Team agreed that it would be up to the BRDC member who responded to the Record-Eagle to include the response on the BRDC website (via the Blog). The Team agreed that it may be beneficial to include factual information on the website in the form of a “Factoid” box, etc. to address inconsistencies, not only reported in the newspaper but also on the Blog. Refer to item VIII below. The Team has discussed including a Factoid box at past meetings.

Follow-up action: The Team has agreed that we will include a Factoid box on the website.

VIII. Factoid Box on BRDC Website

Discussion: The Team has agreed that we need to include a “Factoid” box on the BRDC website. It would be nice if it could be a rolling factoid box where different factoids would rotate on a continuous basis. Initially, we will include Factoids on the following subject matters: Funding sources/status, Fisheries Impact Update, Community Involvement, results of sediment survey, factoids presented out of BRDC monthly meetings.

Follow-up action: Factoid assignments: Funding (Sandra), Fisheries Impact Update relative to recent drawdown of Boardman Pond and Brown Bridge (Todd) and Community Involvement (Jennifer). Jennifer will like these on the website as soon as possible. Jennifer will determine if the website has the capability to have a rotating factoid box.

Team members will develop individual lists of factoids that could be included on the website after each BRDC monthly meeting based on information presented and comments received at the meeting. The Team will provide to Sandra and/or Jennifer at the end of each meeting.

IX. Contacts for Service Groups/Townships

Discussion: Some of the townships indicated that they would be willing to include a short article about the BRDC project in their newsletter(s). The Team needs to be prepared to submit an updated article to the various townships that indicated that they would include a letter in their semi-annual newsletter with their summer tax statement.

Follow-up action: Sandra will generate a brief article that can be used in all of the newsletters. She will submit by end of February for review and comment from the Team. Erin will assist Sandra in contacting townships to determine their schedule for publishing their township newsletters. Some of

the townships send out annual newsletters, while others send out semi-annual newsletters. The article can also be included on their website.

X. Contact Organization – Presentations and Newsletter

Discussion: The Team and other BRDC members have made outreach presentations to 26 organizations. The Team needs to contact each of these organizations and determine if they would like us to present an update to their respective group.

Follow-up action:

Erin will contact each of these organizations and obtain the following:

- Contact name, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address for each organization.
- Schedule presentation - establish a calendar for tracking purposes.
- Provide contact person with copies of latest newsletter (either electronically or hard copies), as requested.

Jennifer will make sure that there is a notice regarding the most recent newsletter indicating on the website and that hard copies are sent to the appropriate BRDC members that have requested that information is mailed to them.

XI. Ask the Realtor and Ron Jolly Radio Shows

Discussion: BRDC agreed at the October monthly meeting that Steve Largent, Ron Albers, Jennifer Jay and Todd Kalish would call the above two referenced radio shows and request to be on their radio shows. A date has not been established.

Follow-up Action: Todd and Steve will discuss on January 10, 2008 to establish a date and time when everyone is available and coordinate with the radio stations.

XII. Postings along the trails, etc.

Discussion: Refer to item IV above.

XI. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 13, 2008.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 PM

Submitted: January 18, 2008.

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