

**Boardman River Dams Committee Communication Team
Monday, September 11, 2006
6:00 p.m.
Room 211, Hagerty Center**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jim McIntyre, Anne Brasie, Leslie Knopp, Herb Lemcool (phone)

1. The committee members discussed and reviewed feedback and questions related to the proposed resolution that have been raised by Boardman River Dams Committee (BRDC) members and others since the meeting on August 29. Questions have been raised about how the proposed resolution is related to communication; about the perception that the resolution can be interpreted as taking a position on a dam safety issue; and about the appropriateness of asking the Implementation Team to accept or reject this resolution.
2. In preparation for the Implementation Team Meeting on Thursday, September 14, the committee prepared the following information, which Anne Brasie volunteered to present on behalf of the Team.

Background: At its meeting on August 23, 2006 the Communication Team for the Boardman River Dams Committee discussed decision-making related to the planned draw down of Boardman Pond and its impact on the credibility of the Boardman River Dams Committee and process. This discussion took place within the context of a broader discussion of how to foster more public engagement with the BRDC process over the next year-and-a-half while the engineering and feasibility study is underway. The Communications Team drafted a resolution to draw attention to the concern for ongoing credibility of the BRDC process and to publicly communicate support for the BRDC process.

When the members of the Communication Team developed the resolution for BRDC consideration, they did not anticipate that Implementation Team approval would be required and did not intend to create a public position on the issue of the license transfer for Boardman Dam or any associated regulatory or dam safety issues. Rather, the intent of bringing the resolution before the BRDC was to create more public support for the BRDC project and to encourage officials from Grand Traverse County and the Michigan DEQ to support that process to its conclusion.

The BRDC approved the Communication Team recommendation (amended), at its meeting on August 29 following a lengthy discussion of the license transfer and

related issues at Boardman Pond. However, the Communication Team believes that the resolution creates unintended conflicts for members of the Implementation Team, and further, that it is not in the best interest of the BRDC and greater community to request Implementation Team support for the resolution as presented on August 29.

Recommendation:

With consideration that the intent of the proposed resolution was to communicate and affirm support for the Boardman River Dams process as designed, not to take a position on regulatory compliance issues, we are not asking for IT action on the Proposed Resolution.

Instead we would like the following statement entered into the record for the purpose of clarifying the intent of the Team.

Communication Team Statement

The members of the Boardman River Dams Committee are committed to an open and transparent public process to study all options to determine the fate of the Boardman River dams. The members of the Implementation Team have committed to this process, and to completing the engineering and feasibility study in order to fully understand and evaluate all options and their environmental, economic, engineering and social implications. However, improvements to the dam, or lowering the water level of Boardman Pond may be required to bring the Boardman Dam into compliance with Michigan Dam Safety laws before the engineering and feasibility study and public process to study alternatives can be completed. We believe it is vital to implement a course of action to resolve safety concerns at the Boardman Dam that builds public trust for the process now underway that will determine the long-term future of the dams, the river, and the watershed.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20 p.m.