

Boardman River Dams Committee Finance and Fund Development Team Meeting Minutes – 8/21/07

In Attendance: Herb Lemcool, Jim VanEneman, Scott Parker, Gabe Schneider, Lew Coulter, Beverly Cuthbert, Brett Fessell, Andy Knott, Mark Breederland, Becky Ewing, and via phone: Michael Donahue.

ECT Update

Scott Parker from ECT provided an update of work being done and a review of the funding summary. Scott stated that there has been no change since the last meeting regarding new contracts, with the exception of a contract with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians that will provide for gathering preliminary engineering information on the dams and an inspection of the dams. The dam inspection work is slated to begin in several weeks and will be performed in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The current funded work will be complete by September, including:

- Sociological/economic study of the drawdown: draft report to Jennifer on 8/21/07.
- Survey work done by the ACOE that will allow for a baseline of hydraulic, geomorphic and sediment transport in the river. The ACOE will be ready to present their findings at the September BRDC meeting.
- Fisheries baseline work was presented to the BRDC at the July '07 meeting. The report from Dr. Bryan Burroughs is being finalized.
- Findings of the wildlife study by Drs. Scharf and Hess will be presented at the 8/28/07 BRDC meeting. They are also able to incorporate their findings into a global warming study being conducted in partnership with the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.
- A wetlands determination will be conducted at all four dam sites by ECT this week, with a draft report in September.

Scott Parker also mentioned that the ACOE has additional funds available this fiscal year, which will be used to for additional cross-section work at the Boardman dam. Work scheduled for next fiscal year will include quantifying the sediment at each dam site.

Work yet to be completed on the baseline includes: historical and cultural information, which will be critical in determining the cost associated with maintaining the dams. The MDEQ has sent engineering data on Boardman dam to Jennifer Jay, who will provide Scott Parker with a copy. Scott will have their tables/matrix updated and to Jennifer Jay prior to the August BRDC meeting.

Funding Update

Michael Donahue reported on the results of a project management team meeting last week, which included a discussion about:

- Developing a more methodical way to pursue funding opportunities
- Developing a tracking sheet for funding that identifies funding opportunities, priorities, and assigns tasks for follow-up. This will be refined at a meeting on 8/24/07 with ECT and Michael Donahue. The finished product will be shared with the BRDC.
- Michael discussed the potential for private foundation funding, which may result in a quicker decision and availability of funds. Michael will follow up on contacts made during the Michigan Land Use Funders meeting in August.
- A project status sheet will be developed, which will help to track partners' in-kind efforts. This will be used to create a strong case for support for funding.

A second ask to Traverse City, Grand Traverse County and Traverse City Light and Power was discussed. We will use the information distilled during the ECT/Michael Donahue meeting to identify priority areas for funding and funding amounts. Herb Lemcool offered to approach Dennis Aloia about

the best way to put together a request for continued county funding. Bev Cuthbert provided an overview of the Brown Bridge Trust Fund (*Note: a 10 million dollar trust fund set up as a capture of royalties from oil and gas wells at the Brown Bridge property. The city currently accesses the interest from the fund to support its general fund. There is a potential ballot proposal this November, which would allow the city to receive 1 million dollars of the corpus and capture the royalties for a five-year period to support street and sidewalk repair in the city.*) and the possibility for accessing funds to support work on the Boardman. Todd Kalish has spoken to Richard Lewis about this; Brett Fessell and Becky Ewing offered to follow up with Todd on how best to approach the city for funding. Scott Parker noted that any funding from WERDA would require a 35 percent non-federal fund match.

Mark Breederland discussed a contact point at NOAA for the Open Rivers Initiative funding. The next deadline is October 31 and Mark will organize a debriefing session with NOAA to discuss how we might best strengthen a proposal to NOAA. Our first proposal in 2005 was unsuccessful.

Becky has emailed the contact at the National Forest Foundation and will contact the Great Lakes Protection Fund to ask for a similar debrief on unsuccessful grant applications.

Intern Report

A summary from the summer intern, Andy Schwab was distributed to the group. Andy was very grateful for his internship experience, and provided much needed data during the drawdown. The work will need to continue and a high school science student, Adrian Meli, has offered to fill Andy's position. He will be providing photo documentation of the drawdown and assistance on the website, and performing turbidity testing. The Finance Task Team approved his contract.

Finance Team Chairperson

Due to his position at the Grand Traverse Band and the potential for conflict as the funding opportunities are sought, Brett Fessell has agreed to stay on the Finance Team, but has asked someone else to chair the Team. The duties of Chairperson include a meeting with Jennifer, prior to the Task Team meeting, to prepare the agenda. Brett will remain Chairperson for the next month as we look for a Task Team member to take his place.

Next meeting: Tuesday September 18, 9:00 AM, Jennifer Jay's office, University Center room 211