

Boardman River Dams Committee Finance and Fund Development Team Meeting Minutes – 9/18/07

In Attendance: Herb Lemcool, Brett Fessell, Amy Beyer, Jennifer Jay, Becky Ewing, and via phone: Scott Parker and Michael Donahue.

ECT Update

Scott Parker from ECT provided an update of work being done, which was summarized on the Work Order/Contract Summary matrix. In addition, Scott discussed the Funding Summary matrix. The current funded work includes:

- Wildlife report was presented at last month's BRDC meeting. The draft report will be finalized by the end of September.
- A gap in the Aquatic Habitat report was identified and addressed, by including an inventory of the existing river habitat (river bottom, riffles, pools, runs, etc.) to be incorporated into the report, which will be completed by the end of the month.
- Terrestrial report, including historic land use has been drafted and sent to Brett and Jennifer. Jennifer will post it on the website and include a blog request for public input. One of the data gaps identified in the report was the lack of information on existing wetlands, especially around the impoundments. These wetlands will be delineated. Amy suggested looking at a set of data that were gathered around 2000 by the Northwestern Michigan Council of Governments. Amy will get the contact information for the report to Scott, who will follow up.
- Engineering work
 - The cross-sections of the river have been completed. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will use the data to build the hydraulic model for the river. The USACE has contracted with Gourdie Fraser to do some additional cross sections at Boardman Pond.
 - Topographic mapping. ECT has contracted with Gosling Czubak to look at the existing topographic information and develop a topo map.
 - Baseline evaluation of the dams has been completed by the USACE and ECT. As-built drawings, reports, and other information on the dams were considered. A walk through of the dams was performed as well. Two reports are pending: one from USACE and one from ECT. The two organizations are working together closely to ensure that the information is not duplicated.
- Sociological/economic baseline study has been drafted and is on the website. The Finance Team wanted to ensure that the firm contracted to do the work followed up on the suggestions from the BRDC at the last

meeting. Studies such as the Land Use and Transportation Study (LUTS) and creel census reports from the MDNR were two examples cited during the meeting. Scott requested that if additional studies are to be included in the baseline, that people enter comments/suggestions through the website. Jennifer will follow up with a blog request for suggestions.

- Scott discussed the needed funds to support the work of the BRDC and discussed that the projected timeline for completion of some items may be pushed back. Amy requested that any timeline or staffing difficulties be communicated to the BRDC.
- Suggested use of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) \$10,000 grant was presented by Scott. Given the concern voiced by the BRDC (during the identification of issues for crafting the Request for Qualifications) about the potential loss of loon habitat, this was given a priority for investigation. Scott has been working with the Michigan Loon Preservation Association to scope a project that would look at the potential loss of habitat, habitat restoration and impacts for loons. The Funding Team suggested that we look at including other sensitive species as well. In addition, some of the funding would be used to support community capacity building and outreach as it relates to loons and other endangered species. Brett and Amy provided Scott with the names of state and local DNR wildlife staff to speak with prior to completing a scope of work. Scott will prepare a scope of work that includes endangered bird species and will coordinate with Jennifer on the community capacity building/outreach prior to the next Finance Team meeting.
- Scott also had some preliminary discussions with the Great Lakes Fishery Trust about potential funding for the EFS. This led to a discussion about preparing a case for support with clearly outlined outcomes for both the EFS and the public process portions of the project. Amy suggested that a working session of the Finance Team could help to complete a funding request packet for the GLFT and other funders. The Finance agreed to use their next session, October 16th from 8:30 – 10 a.m. to create the packet.
- Jennifer mentioned that Dr. Selegean from the U.S. ACE will make a presentation at the September BRDC meeting of findings on the morphology study that has been completed. The study will document current conditions on the river, which will be used to predict changes in flows.

Herb suggested that the various report presentations be videotaped for documentation purposes and for airing on Channel 2. Jennifer said that the Communications Team has considered this and will continue to discuss it at their next meeting.

Funding Update

- Jennifer Jay reported on the funding matrix, which is now being used to track funding opportunities and applications. The following opportunities will be added to the matrix:
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: \$45,000 grant to support EFS work and some public process work. Applied for in September
 - NOAA Open Rivers Initiative funding: due October, 2007
 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: due November 8, 2007
 - Mott Foundation funding: open cycle, no deadline.

The matrix will be updated to reflect these new opportunities.

Intern Report

Adrian Meli is the new BRDC intern and has accomplished the following in the past month:

- Completed the photo documentation of the Boardman Pond drawdown
- Working with Don Tilton to provide turbidity testing
- Completed addition of community photos section of website and is continuing to add photos from community members as they are received
- Assisting Jennifer with tracking in-kind work of nonprofit partners.

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. Becky Ewing will assume the chair position. The Task Team applauds Brett's fine leadership of the team. Facilitation of the Finance Team meetings and presentation of the minutes at the BRDC meetings will rotate on a quarterly basis to members of the team.

Next meeting: Working session, Tuesday October 16, 8:30 AM, Room 104 on the first floor of the University Center. *Please note time and location change.*