

**Boardman River Dams Committee
Finance and Fund Development Team
Meeting Minutes – 2/19/07**

In Attendance: Herb Lemcool, Matt Thomas, Brett Fessell, Jennifer Jay, Dennis Aloia, and via phone, Michael Donahue and Scott Parker, ECT

The Bottomland Management Task Force has made a recommendation to the Finance Team and Scoping Team to approve a Scope of Work to address management concerns associated with Boardman Pond drawdown.

Discussion regarding the process to approve this type of request resulted in the following: All Scopes of Work will be submitted to the Scoping Team for technical content approval and to the Finance Team for approval of expenditures. The SOW addressing the Boardman Pond bottomlands will be the first presented. Michael Donahue will assemble and present questions to help guide the work of both Scoping Team and Finance Team to assist with the decision making process. The Finance Team discussed where the funds for the aforementioned SOW should come from. Dennis Aloia suggested that the County fund would be appropriate for this work, though there are other proposals in the works that could be modified to include projects such as this. The team agrees that we need to proceed quickly with reviewing and approving this SOW for the protection of property owners on and downriver of the Boardman Pond.

Funding updates: A proposal has been submitted to USFWS for \$20k, they are also willing to provide equivalent amount in kind. Additionally, Michael Donahue is continuing to compile a list of promising fund candidates. There are several opportunities coming up in the next 2 months that he is pursuing, including the Great Lakes Commission, which Michael is very familiar with, has a good sense of what they are looking for and is confident that their funding could be used for EF purposes. Mike will put together a spreadsheet listing grants, sources, relevant deadlines, etc. He will make this available to Finance Team at the March meeting. Some sources may be identified at the meeting in Lansing, February 20th with prospective funders. Brett Fessell, Michael Donahue, Todd Kalish, Becky Ewing and Tim Ervin will be attending this meeting and also presenting an update to the Scientific Advisory Team for the Great Lakes Fishery Trust. Foundation proposals will be a priority as they typically approve proposals more quickly than other sources. Discussion was had about acquiring loans to complete some of the work of the study until funding is secured. Michael Donahue cautioned that all funds need to be used for the purposes requested and that typically state and federal do not “back fund”. While there may be more flexibility with foundation money, borrowing may also put us at a major disadvantage. This group’s first priority needs to be the very aggressive pursuit of funds.

Jennifer Jay received an application from the Alabaster Fund, which offers the opportunity to apply for a \$15k grant in support of public process.

USACE is still unsure about how much money they will have but they feel it will be \$100k; it could be as much as 200k – they are working with Scott Parker to coordinate efforts and avoid duplications.

Monthly report: The monthly spreadsheet was reviewed. Jennifer and Brett Fessell are preparing a revised summary sheet that will also track in-kind services. This will be ready by the March Finance Team meeting. In-kind support will most likely be tracked quarterly. This revised summary sheet will also reflect volunteer hours, including the work of the standing and task teams.

Tribal Wildlife Grant Update: Brett Fessell reports that they are close to having everything in place with ECT, the scope of work will include assembling all existing data; analyzing and determining adequacy and will then synthesize with field work beginning this spring. All information collected will also feed the NEPA document. Efforts will also be coordinated with USACE.

Team Membership: Andy Knott, Executive Director of The Watershed Center has joined this team. Herb Lemcool and Jennifer Jay will review the database of all property owners (river and pond) in an attempt to recruit a representative from this constituent type. Amy Beyer, CRA, sent a “job description” that will be reviewed and used in support of adding members to this team.

Meeting adjourned 9:45

Next meeting Monday March 19th, 9:00 AM.