

**Boardman River Dams Committee
Finance and Fund Development Team
Meeting Minutes –11/20/07**

In Attendance: Herb Lemcool, Amy Beyer, Becky Ewing, Andy Knott, Jim VanEenanaam, Dennis Aloia, Brett Fessell, Jennifer Jay, and via phone, Scott Parker and Rick Westerhof

Becky Ewing and Jennifer Jay reviewed the list of action steps from the October work session and their follow up. Proposals submitted include National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NOAA Open Rivers, and the revisions to the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposals, which were made by Rick Westerhof. Rick also provided an update on the process of reviewing those proposals and stated that over 50 proposals had been received. We anticipate hearing the results in February or March of '08.

There is a luncheon being hosted by Rotary Charities which will gather local funders and provide us the opportunity to share information and updates on the BRDC project. We have added some key individuals to that list to support any future requests that may come from that event. The event date is December 7th.

Other than local funders, including the County, City, and TCLP, there are no proposals due before our next meeting. Jennifer will be meeting with the County Board this week to discuss continued funding needs. Amy Beyer suggests that providing details of what the funding will be used for, in terms of percentages for study vs. process would be useful. Jennifer will be scheduling meetings with the City and TCLP as soon as possible, but perhaps not until January. It is important that these groups are first provided updates or overview if needed (for new Commissioners, Mayor, and TCLP Board Chair). Jennifer will be updating the City at an upcoming Study Session and is scheduling meetings with TCLP.

Herb Lemcool suggests that we appeal to Garfield Township for financial support. Herb will follow up on the appropriate way to present such a request. Herb also suggested that we need to work with the Communications Team to refine our message in order to express the appropriate level of immediacy and the importance of our work.

Scott Parker presented the proposed scope of work for use of the already approved \$10k from USFWS. The proposal will be reviewed by the Finance Team and comments provided to Jennifer in advance of the BRDC meeting in order for a recommendation to approve, or decision to further revise. Amy Beyer suggests that there are ways to link the work outlined in the proposal to CRA's WildLink program. Amy will provide more information on this to Scott.

The team also asked Scott Parker to revise and update the project timeline for the November BRDC meeting.

At the October BRDC meeting it was requested that this team establish a "contingency" plan in case the project were to run out of money before completion. It was discussed that, basically, without the study or public process, the decision simply reverts back to the dam owners and they would make a decision based on what information was available and the recommendation from the BRDC, also based on what information was available. Jennifer will ask if there are some "minimum required" pieces of the study that must be completed in order for a decision to be made. Becky will draft the contingency plan statement and Jennifer will circulate it to the Finance Team for their comments prior to the BRDC meeting. Following is the decided language for such a contingency plan: "Should fundraising efforts fall short of original goals, Grand Traverse County and the City of Traverse City, as owners of the dams, will be provided with all data and information gathered to date, along with the dams disposition preferences of BRDC members, to assist in making their decisions consistent with a December 2008 decision date."

The idea of using loans as a funding source was also discussed at the October BRDC meeting. This team will need to explore what those sources might be and have discussion with them to see if this project is even eligible to receive loans. There also needs to be consideration of how loans might impact future grant proposals. The discussion will be continued in January. Herb will contact a person that may have some information on this and Jennifer and Herb will meet with him, if possible, to ask questions in order to bring information back to this team. Becky Ewing will not be available to present the Finance Team update at the November 27th BRDC meeting. Brett Fessell volunteers to do this in her place. Amy Beyer suggests that we prepare a slide or handout that would provide an “at a glance” update on the finances and needs. The Finance Team will not meet in December. If it is necessary to meet earlier than the third Tuesday in January, Jennifer will send a notice out. Otherwise, the next meeting will be January 15th, 9:00 AM, Jennifer Jay’s office, University Center room 211.