

**Boardman River Dams Committee
Meeting Minutes**

April 24, 2007; 6:00 – 8:00PM

Boardman River Dams Committee Statement of Purpose:

“To engage all interests in assessing and recommending the fate of the dams on the main stem of the Boardman River based upon a thorough analysis of options, including long and short-term economic, social, environmental, aesthetic, transportation and ecological impacts upon the community, individuals and riparian owners.”

Tom Allerton, Rob Beardsley, Bill Bitzinger, Rich Brauer, Nancy Bretmauer, Bruce Carpenter, Beverly Cuthbert, Michael Donahue, Brett Fessell, Carole Groves, Nancy Hampel, Jim Harvey, Meral Jackson, Jennifer Jay, Mark Johnson, Robin Johnson, Joe Kaltenbach, Kyle Kruger, Steve Largent, Herb Lemcool, Chris Maxbauer, Troy Naperala, Glenn Neihardt, Ashley Nelson, John Nelson, Amy Packard, Scott Parker, Craig Poddig, Jennifer Poniatowski, Jim Pryor, Jack Robbins, Tom Rozich, Bill Scharf, Dana Schindler, Jim Schramm, Mike Slater, Sandra Sroonian, Don Tilton, Rolf von Walthausen, Sharon Wise, Jim Wrocklage, John Wyrwas, Peter Zirnhelt (others – no name recorded)

I. Introductions

Brett Fessell is co-facilitator at this meeting; Brett attended the “Effective Meetings and Facilitation Skills” training.

II. Review Agenda

Request by the Communication and Outreach Team to move to top of agenda, and add request for Scoping Team update

III. Approve or Amend March Minutes

Reflecting requests, meeting minutes from March were amended as follows: 1. The USACE funds are for FY '07, not FY'06/'07. 2. Clarify that the \$225K Federal funds will be for USACE efforts, but that the efforts will be coordinated with ECT to avoid duplication of work. 3. Add that there was a request for the name and contact information for Jim Pawloski's supervisor at MDEQ.

IV. Communication and Outreach Team report- Sandra Sroonian

Sandra reports that the team met twice last month, March 12 and 20, to continue work on outreach materials. The BRDC now has a proposed logo, brochure, poster, newsletter and power point presentation. Sandra introduced Ashley Nelson and Jennifer Poniatowski, NMC Visual Communications students, and acknowledged the fine work they have done on behalf of the BRDC. Sandra states that the Communication Team will be requesting print cost funding for the poster and the brochure from the Finance Team at an upcoming meeting. The PowerPoint presentation has been finalized and is in use by the Speaker's Bureau. Sandra and Andy Knott presented to roughly 30 people at the Universalist Unitarian Church recently. Three more presentations are scheduled in the next two weeks. If you know of a group that would be interested in learning more about the BRDC, or you would like to be a volunteer presenter, please contact Jennifer Jay. Jennifer confirmed that the BRDC website is receiving approximately 6,500 unique hits per month. Efforts are ongoing to improve the site.

V. Consultant Team Update- Don Tilton

Don began by addressing the technical studies that are underway as part of the integrated project, and stated that it is important to give updates, compare issues regarding the drawdown and baseline studies. In planning for the drawdown, on site data collection has begun. Don identified four aspects:

1. Establish monitor plans to record, measure and track info. There are opportunities to partner with the team to identify individual data, also potential educational opportunities for students to assist in monitoring.
2. Revegetation: There are recommendations pertaining to different types of soil:
Upland shores-steep slopes; rocky soil
Mud flats-organic, sandy soil
3. Channel: Main issue is sediment stability in the main channel and in the tributaries. Don offers two recommendations: review the existing sediment data and provide info regarding the potential impact on spawning fish.
4. Slope stability: Concerns regarding the drawdown and saturated soils creating instability. Concerns regarding the river eroding against the unprotected slopes.

To date, data is being collected, monitor sites have been identified, GPS has been employed, photos taken. Don feels that ECT is right on schedule to present a document to the joint Bottomlands/POIT meeting in mid-May. ECT is also working to summarize existing data, collecting current data on vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, economics and recreation. They will identify duplications and gaps to establish solid data sets.

Discussion: How often is the drawdown data being collected? Weekly. Info could be posted weekly on web, once the website is ready to handle those updates (June). What is the timing of the drawdown? Waiting on permit. Anticipated schedule is June 1 to end of August. There are big daily effects seen already. Shouldn't we have daily monitoring? Daily could be good, though we may not need daily photo's. Volunteers could work with the group to assign dates and locations for daily photo collection. Ron Alpers shared that he and his son have roughly 300 photos of the initial drawdown showing shifts in sand and sediment. The BRDC would welcome and appreciate a presentation by Ron and his son at the June meeting. Is August too soon to expect to complete the drawdown? If we experience heavy rains it could cost huge sums to restabilize. Are we being realistic? ECT pointed out that the dates were dictated by the DEQ permit. The August date may be required for DEQ compliance issues; may or may not be negotiable. The permit drawdown rate is much slower than the drawdown that occurred in March. ECT agrees that rain and stabilization are concerns and they will be monitoring and discussing rate of drawdown. Has there been evidence of sediment leaving the impoundment? No, no evidence. Everything is staying put. Concerns regarding shifting sediment and sand are serious and are shared by all. Cost estimates for dredging sediment are very expensive. There is also fear of losing sediment through the dam. Spawning salmon can be seriously effected. Is flow data being gathered now? Yes, near Brown Bridge. Boardman, Brown and Sabin are monitored by TCLP.

Scott Parker presented on funding issues, reporting that there are currently 3 funded work orders:

Work Order 1: For drawdown monitoring, covered in Don's activity report.

Work Order 2: To begin collection of economic data. Matt from ECT is researching most economic method of identifying and gathering from existing and new sources.

Work Order 3: Tribal Wildlife Grant concerning environmental impact on wildlife, fisheries, habitat viability. Bill Sharf, wildlife expert, is assisting. USACE ecosystem restoration studies will be referenced.

Bathymetry data has been gathered at all impoundments to utilize with the drawdown plan. Data will be shared, as will data regarding engineering baseline data and USACE hydraulic modeling. The BRDC benefits from this level of collaboration and information sharing.

Discussion: Has the bathymetry info been used to update maps? Not yet. Is there some kind of in-kind donation credit available? Yes. It is important to document, including time

spent with all data and info gathered. Also important to future funding to show community interest and commitment. BRDC is developing forms to track time, etc.

VI. Bottomlands Management Team Report-Steve Largent

The Bottomlands management Team and the Property Owners Issues Team have been meeting jointly and minutes were included in the agenda packet. The Teams will meet the week before the May BRDC meeting to review the drawdown plan from ECT, and to discuss different management options. The Teams have been working to address immediate concerns regarding the drawdown. A loon nesting platform was installed on April 10th. Warning signs citing soft, unstable bottomlands have been installed and the teams have been working with the county to develop signage regarding soft sediments and ecological concerns.

Discussion: Has the verbage for the signs been confirmed? Not yet. Can the BRDC website be added? Great suggestion; will be followed up on.

VII. Property Owners Issues Team Update- John Wyrwas

Citing the fine job that Steve did, John had nothing further to add.

VIII. Finance and Fund Development Team Report – Brett Fessell and Michael Donahue

Brett reiterated that the in-kind tracking is in pecess. Let us know what's going on. Brett introduced a new team member, Jim Van Eenanaam. Michael has developed a matrix for tracking proposals with the format set to create a running tally; to track funding and progress. Michael is aggressively pursuing grants and funding. Any suggestions can be forwarded to Jennifer Jay. Be aware of corporate giving opportunities as well, as many corporations have matching gift programs.

IX. Scoping Team Report- Michael Donahue

As requested at the start of the meeting, Michael reviewed the purpose of the Scoping Team, and reviewed current involvement. The Scoping Team was established to select the engineering firm and now to assist the Consulting Team and the BRDC look at the many variables and begin to brainstorm options, not to assume outcomes. Michael will coordinate a Scoping Team meeting before the May BRDC meeting, with more to follow. Michael stated that both MSU and U of M have expressed interest in organizing Master's students to document the BRDC process.

X. Rich Brauer, Brauer Productions

Rich Brauer, local documentary film maker, expressed great interest in the work of the BRDC and it's wonderful process as it touches on environment, culture, history, education, sport, etc. Rich foresees a NOVA style documentary with tie ins to MSU/U of M teams. Jim McIntyre, POIT member, originally introduced this suggestion to the Communication team for consideration.

Discussion: What would be the single biggest cost involved? Homework. Research and the production of storyboards. Could the students help with research? Yes! A NOVA documentary could run 600K. Best guess for a BRDC doc would be in the 100K range for a one hour long piece. Rich offered to contribute up to 10K. BRDC would need to research educational funding opportunities similar to Pacific Gas and Power initiatives on the West Coast. Important NOT to compete with other funding sources for BRDC. Michael Donahue is familiar with funding sources for educational efforts. He will identify and report back.

Follow-up action: The Communications Team will schedule a meeting with Brauer Productions to begin to develop a Scope of Work and coordinate funding opps with Brauer. For information regarding Brauer Productions, please visit [www. brauer.com](http://www.brauer.com)

XI. Implementation Team Review- Jim Schramm

To increase communication and collaboration between the BRDC and the IT, Jim Schramm reviewed the history of the creation of the Settlement Agreement (available on www.theboardman.org) and Implementation Team membership. After reviewing history, it was suggested that it may be time to review process and act to streamline. It was pointed out that originally, any issue required a joint meeting between the BRDC and the IT, along with a 14 day notice before any action can be taken, meaning that two meetings are required before any action can be taken on recommendations. Additionally, the BRDC has been acting in an ex-officio capacity by participating in each recommendation to the IT. By simply reaching consensus as a whole group (the BRDC including the IT) rather than asking the IT only to reach a decision, we could increase the level of trust and participation in decision making and streamline our processes. It was further discussed that the current meeting date of the 4th Tuesday of each month may be prohibitive to attendance of many IT members and others within the BRDC community. Two recommendations were then presented:

Recommendation: It is recommended that the IT and BRDC meet together and reach consensus on decision items; that every BRDC meeting is also an IT meeting; and that we eliminate the *additional* 14 day notice statute. All meetings are noticed by 14 days so this does not change the notice requirements; it simply means that every BRDC meeting could be a meeting where an action is determined. The IT will only step in to make a decision if the whole group cannot reach consensus on a particular decision item.

No objections were made to this recommendation.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the BRDC meet the third Tuesday of each month to eliminate conflict with other meetings in town.

Discussion: Recommendation to be tabled for further discussion to be sure all viewpoints are heard.

XII. Agenda Items for May Meeting:

- Standing Team reports
- Consultant Team update
- Varnum Update- Nyal Deems

XIII. Meeting Evaluation

It was discussed that some are getting off topic and we need to strive to keep each agenda item on track and on topic. It was expressed that we need to be sure that anyone who has concerns or comments are bringing those forward.

Next BRDC monthly meeting: May 22, 2007, Civic Center, 6 pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Submitted: April 27, 2007

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