

**Boardman River Dams Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 28, 2007; 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

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.”

I. Attendance: Tom Allerton, Ron Alpers, Robin Beardsley, Susanne Biteman, Matthew Bingham, Mark Breederland, Chris Buday, Bruce Carpenter, Eric Clone, Lew Coulter, Beverly Cuthbert, Emma Dausman, Michael Donahue, Becky Ewing, Brett Fessell, Burr Fisher, Ed Flees, Margaret Forgione, Jim Harvey, Bob Hess, Bruce Hooper, Meral Jackson, Jennifer Jay, Todd Kalish, Joe Kaltenbach, Andy Knott, Bob Kaufman, Kyle Kruger (phone), Bill Lane, Steve Largent, Herb Lemcool, Ann Martin, Jim McIntyre, Jack Murray, Glenn Neihardt, Kathy Neihardt, John Nelson, Amy Packard, Scott Parker, Jim Pawloski, Carl Platz, Jim Pryor, Ben Purdy, Bill Scharf, Gabe Schneider, Jim Schramm (phone), Sandra Sroonian, Mark Tonello, Tom Wertz, John Wyrwas, Pete Zirnhelt

II. Introductions

III. Review of Agenda

IV. Approve or Amend July Minutes: July minutes were approved as written.

V. Wildlife Assessment Report – Bill Scharf and Bob Hess

Bill Scharf and Bob Hess presented a PowerPoint presentation of their “assessment of wildlife species and their abundance in the river corridor to gauge possible changes due to dam removal.” The full PowerPoint presentation, along with the final report (as soon as it is complete) will be available on the website: <http://theboardman.org/project/doc/efs/>, or by request they can be mailed. Recommended actions include: Surveys of fall migration of waterfowl and songbirds; ecosystem effects of invasive species and contaminants; habitat analysis and possible changes in wildlife due to dam removal.

Discussion: How many total wetland sites were identified? 10 diverse wetland types were identified for toad and frog species, following DNR protocol of 10 sites ½ mile apart. Were wetlands on the impoundments identified? Yes. Is that info available? Yes, it will be in the ECT report. What criteria were used in the toad/frog survey? Of the 10 sites, 3 visits were made to each to determine relative abundance of each species. This was done over 3 months, every three to four weeks, tracking different times for different species. (Early spring differs from late spring; early day differs from evening among the various species.) As the wetlands dry up and there is increased migration of Blue Heron, the toad/frog population may be decimated as they have no place to hide. Is there another study planned to determine what’s left after the influx of Blue Heron? Yes, there will be continued study. Some predictions can be made based on the decreased impoundment though it would take another year to determine actual effects.

Bill Scharf asked for volunteers to assist with future census/data gathering. Interested volunteers should contact Bill Scharf or Jennifer Jay to inquire.

VI. Socio-Economic Assessment Report – Matt Bingham

Matt Bingham, Environmental Economist with Veritas Consulting of Cary, North

Carolina, gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining socioeconomic modeling framework for determining how a change in the dams would effect change in all facets of the environment. The full presentation and final report will be available on the project website: <http://theboardman.org/project/doc/efs/> or by request, they can be mailed.

Discussion: Will this study also look at options based on green energy production: renewable energy options? Yes, though more from financial models than “green” models. Are you also looking at the impact of increased traffic along the river which could impact wear and need for improvements of existing roads? Yes. Software modeling programs are available to determine effects. Certainly studying land use and transportation changes within the watershed is critical to the full study. Do you have information on how paddling sports impact economics in North Carolina? While not aware of specifics, paddling sports have big appeal to many and do impact tourism dollars. Heavier water use also has environmental impacts. All is being looked at. Are you aware that the property owners are contesting property titles, liability issues and are seeking damages for loss of waterfront? Yes. We are looking at assessment of losses, though not value specific to what a court could/might award. Some studies show that values may not change or, in some cases, may increase. Scott Parker added that there is an interesting report available about this topic. You can find the full report at: <http://www.aae.wisc.edu/pubs/sps/pdf/stpap501.pdf> or a summarized article about it at: <http://www.wisconsinrivers.org/index.php?page=content&mode=view&id=111>

VII. Consultant Team Update – Don Tilton and Scott Parker

Scott Parker provided and reviewed two summaries which were included in the meeting packet. The first shows the Work Order/Contract Summary; the other provides a Funding Summary. The full summaries are available on the project website:

<http://theboardman.org/meetingarchive/details/C41/166/> Funding opportunities continue to be pursued as the first work orders are nearly completed. The Corps is continuing to provide work toward the E & F study with their available funds as well.

VIII. US Fish and Wildlife Service Presentation – Rick Westerhoff

Rick provided an overview of the National Fish Passage Program (NFPP). The goals of the program are to:

- Improve fish passage
- Promote partnerships
- Provide funds
- Provide technical assistance

The full PowerPoint presentation is available on the project website at:

<http://theboardman.org/meetingarchive/details/C41/166/>

Discussion: There is \$6 million available for the Open Rivers Initiative with an emphasis on small dam removal. How could this benefit the Boardman River Dam Project? There are options for funding. For example, at the Jordan River national Fish Hatchery, they were looking at ways to keep the dam but send the fish through. If there were construction of a fish passage that controlled water flow, could that also act as an emergency spillway? It could. Keys would be partnerships and full study of native species, ecosystem benefits, the number of river miles that could be reconnected...all would be take into account. Rick also announced that he will now be the Fish and Wildlife representative to the Boardman River Dams Committee Implementation Team and will be able to participate more fully with the project.

IX. Options and Alternatives Update – Michael Donahue

The Engineering and Feasibility Study is now at the point of transitioning from mainly process to making the project “real”. ECT, the Finance Team and Scoping Team leadership have worked to develop a process to evaluate and recommend specific alternatives that are being proposed by the BRDC membership and by the community at large. Two draft forms have been developed: One form to track progress; one to track funding. Specific alternatives presented would prompt discussion, evaluation and allow the BRDC to narrow the list and identify which alternatives require full analysis. It is critical that all are comfortable with the process, and that it remain open and public. The city/county will make ultimate decision. The overview and forms will be available on the project website.

X. Call for agenda items for September meeting – ALL

- Standing Team Updates
- Communication Team: Blogging etiquette
- Jim Selegan – United States Army Corp of Engineers
- Information from Nyal Deems regarding the additional questions submitted at the August meeting

Other: Todd Kalish announced that, to commemorate the progress that has been made to date, and to honor all the volunteer efforts that have brought us to this point, there will be a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on Friday, September 7 at 6 pm at the Appel cottage on the Boardman River. Food is being provided by Todd and the volunteers of the communications team. The full invitation is available on the BRDC website. Please RSVP to Todd Kalish. Hope to see you all there!

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm

***PLEASE NOTE:** Complete meeting minutes from each of the BRDC working teams are available on the website. Due to the time allotted for reports stemming from the Engineering and Feasibility Study, there were not verbal updates from the working teams during the meeting.