

Boardman River Dams Committee
Meeting Minutes
SYNOPSIS
January 23, 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.”

Please refer to the meeting agenda and supporting documents which were reviewed at this meeting. Minutes, agendas, and supporting documents are located on the website: <http://www.theboardman.org>

I. Introductions

II. Review Agenda

III. Approve or Amend October, November and December Minutes

Meeting minutes from October, November and December were approved as written.

III. Review Focus Group Recommendations

Beverly Cuthbert presented the results of the five Focus Group meetings that were held in November. Over 30 people participated in the meetings; input was also received via email. Copies of the minutes were included in the agenda packet, and Beverly gave an overview of the process. Based upon the **Strengths** and **Challenges** identified by the Focus Groups, two recommendations were presented:

FOCUS GROUP TASK TEAM RECOMMENDATION
RE: Membership of Implementation Team

“We recommend that the Boardman River Dams Committee request that additional membership be added to the Implementation Team so that neutral, interested citizens may be better represented in the decision making processes associated with making a recommendation as to the fate of the dams.”

Follow-Up Action:

There was consensus on the recommendation with the additional recommendation that the questions will be explored by Task Team – if recommendation is to add membership to IT, team should decide the “who, why and for how long” questions and explain in their rationale. The Task team should also explore the broader issue of trust-building within the BRDC and IT.

FOCUS GROUP TASK TEAM RECOMMENDATION
RE: New Standing Team to deal with Process

“We recommend that a standing team be established which would be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the BRDC progress, project coordinator, events, trainings, etc. The team will make timely recommendations that will maintain integrity and momentum of the work of the BRDC and will report recommendation/findings to the Project Coordinator or to the Chair of the Implementation team, as appropriate. It may be beneficial for members to have experience with Human Resources, Project Management and/or Web development and maintenance.”

Follow-Up Action:

Send this recommendation back to the Focus Group Task Team to address concerns: Is this a duplication of effort? Should the meeting evaluation address issues instead of process team? The Focus Group Task Team will meet and discuss.

V. Communication Team Report

Sandra Sroonian reported that the team met on December 12th. The BRDC had been chosen by the NMC Visual Communications students as their semester project. The students will meet with the Communications Team once they have had an opportunity to gather background data and review the website. A PowerPoint presentation for outreach and education has been developed and can be reviewed on the website. A draft newsletter has also been developed, along with a list of acronyms.

VI. Finance Team Report

Brett Fessell reported that the Finance Team met on January 15th. Mike Donahue has been added as a support member of the Finance Team. Brett also presented the monthly spreadsheet and reported that the Team is working with NMC to refine the entries and to work to add grants and to detail grant action. The Team is also working to develop a “job description” for membership on the Finance Team. The Team is looking for members with an eye toward efficiency and fundraising expertise. Recommendations can be made to the Finance Team. The next meeting will take place on Monday, February 19th, in room 112 at the Great lakes Campus.

VII. Scoping Team Report

Michael Donahue reported that, with the Finance Team, he is focused on identifying and pursuing funding options. Michael mentioned a number of funding opportunities already identified that are consistent with the BRDC mission. Grant writing is moving aggressively. The Scoping Team is pleased to report that the contract with ECT has been fully signed and delivered. Scoping Team’s role is now two-fold: 1. To work with ECT and the development of work orders, providing oversight and guidance and 2. To focus on broader issues within the E and F study beyond the fate of the dams.

VIII. Consultant Team Report

Scott Parker of ECT extended his appreciation to all who have worked so diligently to get to this point. He will look forward to presenting updates at each monthly BRDC meeting.

IX. Update- status of license at Boardman Dam, Maintenance Agreement, DEQ consent agreement, and permit process for drawdown

Dennis Aloia reported that the County approved a maintenance agreement and consent decree outlining actions required to come into compliance with the DEQ. FERC has relinquished the license at Boardman Dam and the dam now belongs to the County and is regulated by the Michigan DEQ. Jim Pawloski discussed the Permit process for the drawdown. The Public Notice was dated January 23, 2007. Individuals interested in making comment, question or requesting a public hearing need to do so in writing within 20 days of the date of notice. These comments and requests should be directed to Jim Pawloski, Michigan DEQ, 2100 M-32 W, Gaylord, MI 49735. Jim will work with Jennifer Jay to be sure that the BRDC is well informed of any public hearing or other opportunity to share any concerns about the drawdown with the DEQ.

Follow-Up Action: The DEQ and Jennifer Jay will develop a straightforward and easily understood presentation for BRDC.

X. Property Owners Issues Team Report

Jim McIntyre explained that POIT, made up of property owners on Boardman Pond, had hired an attorney to determine legal title of the land bordering the pond. Nyal Deems, of Varnum Law in Grand Rapids, presented his findings to a meeting of the Property Owners Issues Team earlier in the day, January 23, 4-5:00 pm, and gave a recap for the BRDC. For full minutes of that meeting, please see www.theboardman.org.

XI. Determine next steps for exposed bottomlands after Boardman Pond drawdown

Todd Kalish began by sincerely thanking all attendees for their input and involvement. He then went on to give an overview of the issues that could appear as a result of the drawdown. He then asked for thoughts on a BRDC determined Task Team to address bottomland issues.

Follow-Up Action: The following members volunteered to for the Bottom Lands Task team: Jack Murray, Jim McIntyre, Steve Largent, Christine Maxbauer, Mike Slater, Mark Johnson, Tom Wertz, Scott Parker, Andy Knott, Ross Powers, Jeff Hanel, Gerry Harsch, Tim Schreiner, Bill Plough, and Eric Clone. Todd Kalish will coordinate to establish meeting dates and time.

XII. Presentation: Consideration of whitewater park option

Eric Clone, interested citizen, gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining new paddling opportunities that could be created along the Boardman River corridor.

Agenda items for February meeting

1. Committee reports
2. Presentation on dam safety – if available
3. ECT report
4. USACE update on PMP

Next meeting: February 27th, 2007, Civic Center, 6 pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Submitted: January 24, 2007
Jennifer Jay, Project Coordinator
Phone: 231-995-2617
Email: jjay@nmc.edu