

Scoping Team Report to the Boardman River Dams Committee- January 22, 2008

Overview:

As the “existing conditions” analysis comes to a close, the Engineering and Feasibility Study will begin to focus on the evaluation of “alternative futures” for the four Boardman River dams. Eighty one (81) different alternatives are possible, given the various combinations associated with retaining/ repairing, modifying or removing each dam. In the interest of efficiency and cost effectiveness, the Scoping Team believes that the Boardman River Dams Committee (BRDC) should select a subset of these alternatives for detailed analysis and the preparation of fact sheets to help inform citizens as they indicate their preferred future for the Boardman River system.

Recommendations:

- The BRDC should select 6-8 dams disposition alternatives for in-depth analysis by the consultant team. A fact sheet should be prepared for each such alternative, objectively presenting detailed information that includes (at the minimum) a description and drawing of the alternative, a rationale, and an analysis of associated environmental, economic, social and cultural implications. The analysis should be responsive to the series of key questions identified by the BRDC in its Request for Qualifications (RFQ) statement.
- The set of alternatives for detailed analysis should include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:
 - A. Retain/ repair all dams (Alternative #1 on attached spreadsheet)
 - B. Retain/repair Brown Bridge and Union Street dams, remove Boardman and Sabin dams (Alternative #28)
 - C. Modify all four dams (Alternative #41)
 - D. Modify Brown Bridge and Boardman dams, remove Sabin dam, retain/repair Union Street dam (Alternative #43)
 - E. Remove Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin dams, retain/repair Union Street dam (Alternative #79)
 - F. Remove all four dams (Alternative #81)
- BRDC members should review and comment on the above list and provide the Project Team with any suggested additions/ deletions by February 15. A final list of candidate alternatives for in-depth analysis will be presented for BRDC approval at its February 2008 meeting.

Rationale:

Identifying a subset of the full range of alternatives will allow the BRDC and its consultant team to focus on those alternatives of greatest potential interest. This will ensure that study resources are directed in an efficient, effective and timely manner, and are responsive to alternatives of greatest potential interest. Alternatives not selected for detailed analysis at this time will remain under consideration by the BRDC throughout the process.

The six alternatives identified by the Scoping Team were selected on the basis of their ability to present a range of options, including (among others) retaining and repairing all dams, modifying all dams, and removing all dams. This list is designed to stimulate thought, discussion and action within the BRDC membership.

Finalizing the list at the February 2008 BRDC meeting will ensure that detailed analyses (and fact sheets) are initiated promptly, and provide BRDC members and other interested citizens with sufficient time to express their preferences before the City and County make their decisions.