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. Introductions: After introductions were made, it was announced that Johnny Reb will undergo brain surgery. Please keep him in your thoughts.

II. Review of Agenda and Meeting Guidelines: Todd Kalish pointed out that a question and answer section has been added to the agenda as per membership request. Todd also asked that everyone refer to the meeting conduct guidelines approved by the membership at the November 2007 BRDC meeting.

III. Approve or Amend February Minutes: Charles Peterson, Peterson Machinery Company, will provide a written summary of his February presentation. It will be added to archives for February along with the minutes from the meeting. February minutes were otherwise approved as written.

IV. Fisheries Habitat Survey Report - Dr. Bryan Burroughs: Please note that the full report was available in written form at the meeting, and is available on the BRDC website, along with the PowerPoint presentation. For comprehensive information, please refer to these reports. Dr. Burroughs stated that the purpose of the survey was to satisfy a contract with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to survey the existing state of the Boardman River fish habitats. The study was conducted in late August - early September 2007.

Discussion: Where does the sediment/silt come from? Some is naturally occurring; some comes from human use, such as at road crossings. The logging era saw great changes in land use. Over 600 erosion sights have been the result of human interaction. Sediment will stay in storage for years. A 200 ft trap will accumulate 400 sq yards of sediment every 5 months. 85% of sediment is the result of human actions. What happens when trees fall in the river? A healthy river needs woody debris. A tree can disrupt currents, add decomposing leaf material, creating habitat for insects and small aquatic life. Diversity is important for good river habitat, and should contain a combination of sand, wood, gravel and vegetation. Is there aquatic vegetation specific to leaking septic systems? Yes, there is aquatic vegetation that grows well in nutrient rich environments. Were water temperatures a part of this survey? No. The DNR has monitored river temps since 2005. How would treated water entering the Boardman effect fish? Would we see three-headed trout? It depends on the treatment methods. Do you find sufficient gravel substrate for reproduction? In most areas, yes, though if Brown Bridge were
modified for temp regulation, there could be a domino effect through other dams. Why do the fish tend to be smaller? Is it habitat? Temp? Stream trout are impacted by temperature, and their populations are degraded due to the warming affect of the Brown Bridge Dam discharge. The effect extends all the way to Beitner Road. One of the biggest issues is lack of connectivity. Dam removal would increase diversity of species and size. Is a temp decrease required to return the river to an optimum fish habitat? MSU research found that, in some sections, the temp ran about 8 degrees over the norm for brown trout. Any lowering would improve their conditions.

V. ECT Update - Scott Parker

Please note that agenda packets contained hard copies of funding updates and of Engineering and Feasibility Study. Additionally, a PowerPoint presentation regarding the sediment summary and analysis was provided. These are available on the BRDC website. For comprehensive information, please refer to these reports.

Scott pointed out that the current Engineering and Feasibility timeline is enclosed, showing progress on baseline findings thanks to funding from the BRDC. All work orders to date are documented.

Discussion: What is the reference to the DEQ dam safety requirement? The drawdown at Boardman is temporary. There are options to be addressed: repair the spillway, raise the embankment, modify the spillway. These are all part of the alternative analysis. Will there be dollar amounts attached to these? Yes.

Scott then referred to the Summary of Sediment Sampling and Analysis. In June 2005, the EPA took core samples which were then analyzed and tested by the DEQ in December of 2005. ECT has reviewed the sample sites and sediment chemistry and come up with the following results:

Sabin: 1 site shows barium exceeding an ecological screening threshold and 1 site with excessive selenium. Boardman: all 6 locations show barium, selenium, arsenic and zinc exceeding a threshold. Soil chemistry data would be of special consideration in any planned move or dredging of sediment, and a sediment management plan would be required for any future alternative. A valid updated sample and analysis study for 12 heavy metals would cost 19K. Discussion: A USACE report from August 2005 recommended a limited restoration plan calling for “removal of all sediments”. Why isn’t ECT following that recommendation? We are not there yet. If there is to be removal, there must be a special handling plan in place. Sediment has been identified as a major issue. Why isn’t it being acted upon? A Scope of Work exists, but any action is dependent on funding. The drawdown has exposed bottomlands. Are heavy metals being released through draw down actions? Sediment is moving, but there is no evidence that it is being released outside of the pond. Is arsenic at levels of concern? Not for human contact. Why is the source of the contaminants? There is no indication of any single action. If dams are retained for hydro generation, there could be some dredging. Would that require a sediment management plan? Yes. The various regulatory agencies would be involved in the disposition. Scott will look at ways to work with DEQ for options, and will also have a cost estimate for the Union site by April meeting.

VI. Bottomlands Management/Property Owners Issues Team Update - John Wyrwas and Todd Kalish

Please note that meeting minutes were included in agenda packet. The BM and POIT teams met on March 19th to review dam disposition options and to begin identifying bottomlands disposition options. The teams will develop a list of ownership issues to correspond with alternatives. Following normal procedure, the notes from the last meeting will be reviewed at the next in order to address Ed Martel’s concerns regarding the language suggesting potential litigation. Todd Kalish commented that the Implementation Team serves as the accountable party for the BRDC and they are taking any threats of litigation very seriously.

VII. Communications Team Update - Sandra Sroonian

Please note that meeting minutes were included in agenda packet. Sandra reported that 24 feedback forms from the past BRDC meeting were completed and tabulated, and it was noted that
more time is needed for key issues and hot topics. As a result, 45 minutes is being scheduled in future meeting agendas for these presentations and their question and answer period. It was also noted that the meeting guidelines approved at the November meeting need to be consistently enforced, and will now be posted at each meeting, including team meetings. The survey that Communications had been discussing with ECT is on hold, however there is a paddlers survey is available on the web. Discussion: Can a survey for fisherman be added? Yes. It was pointed out that the paddlers survey is not user friendly. Scott Parker will share that info with Veritas, the survey designer. Anyone needing a hard copy of the survey can contact Jennifer, other comments can be shared with ECT.

VIII. Finance and Fund Development Team Update - Mark Breederland Mark reported that there is a May interview scheduled with Rotary Charities, and a decision on that 79K funding proposal due by July. A Fish and Wildlife pre-proposal is in process, and the NOAA Open Rivers funding is still pending.

IX. Scoping Team Update - Troy Naperala Troy announced that the Scoping team will be scheduling regular monthly meetings from this point on. They will take place at the BRDC project office. These will occur before the monthly BRDC meeting. All are welcome to attend and to help set the agenda. The Scoping Team will develop discussion topics and schedule additional topics. Todd Kalish and Mike Donohue will be working to develop a new mission statement for that team. Discussion: Seems like URS is taking over. Are they being paid? They are not taking over. They are an international consulting team and Mike Donahue is, and has been, the BRDC technical facilitator. Why is URS involved with the BRDC? An RFQ went out and the interview team selected URS over others.

X. Project Next Steps - Jennifer Jay Jennifer announced that there will be some changes to the web to include factoids and new topics. Look for these by April. The events calendar will be changed to read “ways to be involved”, listing city and county meetings and seeking input from the public. The Grand Vision process is aware of the BRDC and the groups will be communicating in order to share info and perhaps to save money. Facilitation Training is being offered on April 12 and on April 19. All are encouraged to participate. Jennifer then took a moment to reflect on her time with the BRDC, having been thoroughly immersed in the process since January of 2006. Jennifer will be leaving the position of BRDC Project Coordinator to accept a new position with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. She will remain involved in the BRDC as an interested citizen, and will be working with Water Studies to assist during the transition for the month of April. Todd Kalish expressed his extreme gratitude for Jennifer’s outstanding commitment to the BRDC; for her patience, guidance, availability, community involvement, environmental stewardship, and grace under pressure. Thank you, Jennifer, for all that you have done to keep this process on track. We are extremely happy for you, and will look forward to seeing you each month.

XI. General Q&A and Call for Agenda Items for April meetings - ALL Unanswered questions generated at this time or during the course of the meeting will be sent on to the appropriate Task Team or the full BRDC for inclusion in their next agenda, as determined by the full BRDC.

What is the update on the waste water plant for Hoch Rd? If there are gallons of waste water dumped into the Boardman, what happens to the temperatures? What happens to water quality? An update will be requested from Dennis Aloia, and will be added to the April agenda. Is there any way we could have access to audio recordings of these meetings? This may be an option available through NMC, and could be very helpful in keeping accurate minutes. It will be pursued.

Adjourn