Boardman River Dams Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 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.”

Attendees:
Dennis Aloia, Ron Alpers, Robin Beardsley, Susanne Biteman, Chris Bzdok, Bruce Carpenter, Becky Ewing, Brett Fessell, Carole Groves, Nancy Hampel, Jim Harvey, Meral Jackson, Jennifer Jay, Todd Kalish, Joe Kaltenbach, Tina King-Justin, Andy Knott, Kyle Kruger, Virginia Kuhr, Bill Lane, Steve Largent, Colleen Masterson, Jim McIntyre, Nanette Meier-Baranski, Troy Naperala, Amy Packard, Scott Parker, Jim Pawloski, Jim Pryor, Linda Racine, Robert Rudd, Dana Schindler, Thomas Schlehuber, Gabe Schneider, Tim Schreiner, Sandra Sroonian, Robert Tubbs, Tom Wertz, John Wyrwas

I. Introductions

II. Review Agenda

III. Approve or Amend January Minutes

Meeting minutes from January were approved with the following addition to the POIT report: “Varnum tentatively identified the county as owners of the bottomlands”.

IV. Standing and Task Team Updates

- **Finance and Fund Development Team Report – Brett Fessell**
  Brett reported that the Finance Team met on February 19th. The team discussed the process to approve Scope of Work (SOW) requests. All SOW will be submitted to the Scoping Team for technical content approval and to the Finance Team for approval of expenditures. The SOW addressing the Boardman Pond bottomlands will be the first presented. Brett also reviewed funding opportunities. A $20k proposal has been submitted to USFWS. Michael Donahue has identified several opportunities and will put together a spreadsheet listing grants, sources, relevant deadlines, etc, and will present this to the Finance Team at the March meeting. Jennifer Jay has also received an application from the Alabaster Fund which offers the opportunity to apply for a $15k grant in support of public process. USACE is still unsure about how much money they will have but feel that could be between $100k and $200k; Scott Parker is working closely with them to avoid duplication. Brett and Jennifer are preparing a revised monthly spreadsheet that will also track in-kind services. Brett reported that ECT is working with the Tribal Wildlife Grant to finalize a SOW to allow field work to begin this spring. Andy Knott, Executive Director of the Watershed Center has joined this team. The team requests property owner representation on the team.
  
  Next Finance Team meeting: Monday, March 19th, 9:00 am, Great Lakes Campus, Room 112

- **Communications and Outreach Team Report – Sandra Sroonian**
  The team met twice in February. Both meetings included two NMC Visual Communication students, Ashley Nelson and Jennifer Poniatoski, who will be developing BRDC support materials as part of their coursework. The group brainstormed various options and came up with three projects to be completed by April 24th:

  1. Logo – to be designed for potential use beyond the fate of the dams decision.
2. Brochure – to be used in a multitude of ways.
3. Poster – trailheads, presentations, other

Jennifer and Ashley presented 7 logo’s, color and black and white versions, that were reviewed and discussed by the team.
Print quotes were also presented for the printing of 5,000 brochures:

The group has also developed a one sheet newsletter and has updated the Power Point presentation that has been developed for Speaker’s Bureau opportunities. There is also a request to develop a Bottomlands Issues Newsletter. Once complete, these will be presented to the BRDC for review and comment.

Todd Kalish will be presenting to the Traverse Bay United Methodist Men’s Club on March 1\textsuperscript{st}. Herb Lemcoul and Jennifer Jay will be presenting to Rotary Sunrise on March 21\textsuperscript{st}.

**Next Communications meeting:** Friday, March 9\textsuperscript{th}, 9 am, Jennifer Jay’s office, University Center, Room 211

- **Property Owners Issues Team Report – John Wyrwas**
The Property Owners Issues team will meet April 10\textsuperscript{th} from 6:00 – 8:00pm at the Civic Center to discuss issues related to the Nyal Deems report of January 23\textsuperscript{rd} and to brainstorm options regarding ownership and use of the bottomlands. This meeting is open to all interested parties. **Discussion:** Why didn’t Varnum research titles pre-1890? We don’t want to spend more money but questions still exist. Was the full search in the original contract with Varnum? Todd Kalish and Tom Rozich have done extensive research; Varnum may not be needed. Property owners are finding it difficult to live with the ruling that the county owns the bottomlands based on the information available. Could owners sue the county for ownership of bottomlands? What happens long term? If the drawdown is temporary, what’s the permanent solution? The county wants to work with the property owners and encourages an ongoing dialog. Obviously there are still legal issues to be clarified, but the mission of the BRDC is to look at all the options and make recommendation for a permanent solution. We need to stabilize, go forward with the E and F study, and continue to work together. **Follow-up:** Jennifer Jay will contact Nyal Deems for clarification on title search questions and will also schedule a conference call with Nyal and any other interested parties prior to the April 10\textsuperscript{th} meeting.

**Next POIT meeting:** Tuesday, April 10\textsuperscript{th}, 6:00 pm, Civic Center
Jennifer, John Wyrwas and Jim McIntyre will work to develop the agenda.

- **Bottomlands Task Force Team Report – Steve Largent**
The Bottomlands Task team has met twice and has developed a draft Mission Statement: “To ensure issues, relating to those areas of former bottom lands exposed due to the drawdown of the impoundments, including social and environmental concerns, are addressed in an open and equitable process resulting in community accepted and ecologically sound management practices.” The team also requested a change in status from “Task” to “Standing” team. The team is committed to working with others to coordinate funding and will work with the Communications team to communicate process and progress. The team has also drafted a Scope of Work for identification of management concerns associated with the Boardman Pond drawdown. The intent of the SOW is to generate discussion and provide general information about the impacts of the drawdown. The SOW will be presented to the Finance and Scoping Team for review.

**Next Bottomlands meeting:** Monday, March 19\textsuperscript{th}, 5-7 pm at the Great Lakes Campus.

- **IT Membership issue update:** A request for task team membership to make a recommendation regarding IT membership will be posted on the website, along with an issue
statement, etc. to better explain the recommendation leading to the task team need. Meetings will be scheduled once the team is established. Anyone interested in joining the team should let Jennifer Jay know.

V. Consultant Team Update – Scott Parker
Scott thanked the BRDC for the contract and the opportunity to work with the greater group. He clarified that there can be no work begun without a work order, which includes funding and approval. To date, no work has been approved for ECT. A discussion regarding process followed, with agreement that the Scoping Team will stand ready to move forward any time a work order is ready to present, regardless of meeting schedule. The FT and the IT may need to meet whenever necessary to push a work order through in a timely manner.

Implementation Team meeting regarding recommendation to approve first work orders will be held March 14th, 5:00 pm, Civic Center

VI. Questions for the DEQ
• How is water flow calculated?
• Why can’t they lower Boardman Lake, Sabin Pond, and Boardman Pond instead of draining Boardman?
• Is there a drawdown plan from the DEQ for the drawdown?
• Will DEQ supply engineering study to BRDC?
• What does a 50’ drop have to do with the dam being a safety concern? (Addressed at 2/27/07 meeting)
• Will bridges be impacted?
• Can I put my kayak in at Brown Bridge and float without a portage?

Jennifer Jay will post questions and answers (when available from DEQ) on the web.

DEQ Public Hearing meeting: March 14, Civic Center, 6-8 pm

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Agenda items for March meeting
1. Carl Platz – USACE update
2. Standing and Task team reports
3. Consultant Team update
4. Varnum update- if available
5. Process evaluation – break out session
6. Summary of March 14th DEQ meeting

Next meeting: Implementation Team, regarding recommendation to approve first work orders, March 14th, 5:00 pm, Civic Center

Next BRDC monthly meeting: March 27th, 2007, Civic Center, 6 pm

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 p.m.

Submitted: March 5, 2007
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