Location: Traverse City Governmental Center, Commission Chambers
400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, MI 49684

Boardman River Dams Implementation Team

Grand Traverse County                      City of Traverse City
Traverse City Light and Power Department   Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition       US Fish and Wildlife Service
Michigan Department of Natural Resources   Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Grand Traverse Conservation District (Ex officio) Conservation Resource Alliance (Ex officio)
Rotary Camps and Services (Ex officio)     Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (Ex officio)

Grand Traverse County Road Commission (Ex officio)

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 17, 2011

Facilitator: Todd Kalish, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Notes: hand written notes by Amy Beyer, Conservation Resource Alliance

Present (full attendance):
Brett Fessell, Frank Dituri (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Lew Coulter (Grand Traverse Conservation District)
Kim Balke, Amy Beyer (Conservation Resource Alliance)
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
Todd Kalish (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)
Jim Pawloski (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality)
Andy Knott (Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay)
Dennis Aloia (Grand Traverse County)
Ben Bifoss (City of Traverse City)
Mark Rollenhagen (Traverse City Light and Power Department)
Mary Gillis (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)

By Phone:
Carl Platz (Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District)
Jim Schramm (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)
1:00-1:05  Introductions

1:05-1:20  Public comment - none

1:20-1:25  Additions/deletions to the agenda – Kalish noted that the Scope of Work item is a decision item.

1:25-1:30  Review and potential approval of the January 20, 2011 and February 17, 2011 meeting minutes: discussion/decision item (Todd Kalish) - approved

1:30-1:40  Review action items from January and February IT meetings: discussion (IT) - Beyer noted from minutes there are no outstanding action items.

1:45-1:50  Bottomlands work contract update: (Brett Fessell) - Brett reported on several deliverables under the GT Band’s contract with MACTEC that are either due currently or soon, but have been somewhat delayed due to the parallel Request For Qualifications process. Sandra Sroonian from MACTEC gave additional detail on the status of these work items: Draft drawdown plan, sediment management plan, invasive species management plan, and Tribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge interviews. Sroonian called out several important action or decision items that are pending. Need clarification on responsibility/role for actual drawdown operation and assessment of equipment integrity. Need response from tribal contact for interviews. Brett mentioned that MACTEC has established an FTP site to house documents, and also that he and Frank Dituri have developed plans to set up 1-2 cross section stations in the wetland area on the south side of Brown Bridge to monitor conditions and changes during drawdown.

1:40-1:45  US Army Corps of Engineers update: (Carl Platz) - Carl reported that in early February the Corps awarded a contract of roughly $1 million to the URS/Baird team for the feasibility report and Environmental Impact Statement. The work is being funded with Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds, and the Corps wanted those obligated, so the scope of work still includes all four dams. Current plan calls for draft report and EIS by August 2012, and final documents by early 2013, although Carl said they hope those might be done earlier.

2:05-2:15  Brown Bridge dam removal draft scope of work: discussion (Kalish) – Todd reviewed the steps to date that have led to the current scope of work development and negotiation with MACTEC. The IT charged the evaluation team with this final negotiation and approved the scope of work, subject to any IT input and on the condition that the evaluation team is satisfied. If a mutually agreeable scope of work and contract can be developed, the evaluation team has the go ahead to move a contract to the City for approval. Todd pointed out that this scope relates to Brown
Bridge, and development of a Sabin scope of work will immediately follow using the same process. Ben Bifoss noted the draft scope has a cost estimate significantly higher than the amounts available in the grant funding, and noted that we don’t want to take any partially funded scope items to contract. He also asked about management assistance for drawdown and specifications that would be given to contractors, rather than allowing their own means and methods. Sandra Sroonian and Kim Balke responded that these aspects are indeed addressed in the draft scope.

**Action:** Evaluation Team to finalize scope of work and contract. If successful, contract goes to City. If not successful, call for April IT meeting, and revisit.

**Action:** CRA to schedule April 21 I.T. meeting only if needed.

1:50-2:05 **Role of Army Corps of Engineers in Brown Bridge and Sabin dams removal: decision (Kalish)** - Todd led a discussion about the timing and triggers for changing the current request to the Army Corps, potentially to remove Brown Bridge and Sabin. The dilemma is that the team does not have full funding for these, but may have soon. Jim Pawloski asked Carl Platz about the impact on the Corps if we are successful in raising funds to remove Sabin and ask that it be taken out of the Corps’ scope. Platz responded that some expense will have already been incurred, but that it is much easier to remove an element than to add one. The IT discussed the need to define in advance the “tipping point” to trigger a request for the Corps to remove one or more dams from their scope. Certainly this will tie to funding; Todd also encouraged the group to think about the important milestone of drawdown.

2:15-2:20 **Review IT spokesperson assignments/commitments for 2011: discussion (Beyer)** - Amy Beyer requested and received a re-commitment from the IT spokespersons for 2011: Todd Kalish (primary); Dennis Aloia, Rick Westerhof (alternates). Amy reminded the IT that if there are media inquiries, they need to be referred through Nate to the appropriate spokesperson.

2:20-2:25 **Project manager’s monthly activity report: discussion (Beyer)** – report accepted with no questions or comments.

2:25-2:30 **CRA 1st quarter 2011 invoice: discussion/decision (Beyer)** - invoice approved.

**Action:** Todd will take administrative steps needed to flow payment from the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust grant to pay the invoice.

2:35-2:40 **Communications update: discussion (Beyer)** – Amy reported that the Communications workplan for 2011 is being implemented, and focuses on a number of press releases, small group meetings in the community, and maintenance/utilization of the website. All
tasks are on track, and several people commented that the first of 3 small group meetings was really productive. These are designed to answer questions, inform, and clear up misinformation with opinion leaders who have connection to various constituencies.

**Action:** Dennis Aloia will strongly encourage the township supervisors (Garfield, East Bay) to attend one of these.

**2:30-2:35 Fundraising activity report and fundraising updates: discussion (Beyer)** - Amy related several updates on various proposals and milestones in the funding area. Andy Knott confirmed that he will take the lead on a proposal to EPA. Brett Fessell is researching an opportunity under GLRI Joint Venture program. Dennis Aloia reported that the City approved support for the project recently, and the County will do the same (note April 13 agenda item, changed from April 20); this supports project coordination and also provides good matching funds. Mary Gillis reported that she put in a Local Bridge Fund application for the full amount needed for Cass Road; this may be a high request, but the application was timely for 2014 funding.

**2:40-2:45 Selection of date for IT retreat: discussion/decision (IT)** - after discussion this item was deferred to future.

**2:45-2:50 Agenda items for the next meeting and meeting review: discussion/decision item (IT)**
- note April meeting only if needed.
- revisit Corps role and trigger for requested change
- Update on Sabin scope of work, or revisit Brown Bridge Scope of work

**2:50-3:00 Public comment** - none

**2:30 Meeting Adjourned**