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

Boardman River Dams Implementation Team

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<tr>
<th>Grand Traverse County</th>
<th>City of Traverse City</th>
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<td>Traverse City Light and Power Department</td>
<td>Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians</td>
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<td>Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition</td>
<td>US Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<td>Michigan Department of Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Grand Traverse Conservation District (Ex officio)</td>
<td>Conservation Resource Alliance (Ex officio)</td>
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<td>Rotary Camps and Services (Ex officio)</td>
<td>Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (Ex officio)</td>
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<td>Grand Traverse County Road Commission (Ex officio)</td>
<td>Charter Township of Garfield (Ex officio)</td>
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Approved Meeting Minutes

Date: October 20, 2011

Facilitator: Todd Kalish, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

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

Present:
Brett Fessell, Frank Dituri (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Amy Beyer (Conservation Resource Alliance)
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
Todd Kalish (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)
Andy Knott (Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay)
Dennis Aloia (Grand Traverse County)
Ben Bifoss (City of Traverse City)
Jim Pawloski (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality)
Jim Cooper (Traverse City Light and Power Department)
Steve Largent (Grand Traverse Conservation District)
Jim Schramm (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)

By Phone:
Mike Donahue (URS Corp.)
Carl Platz (US Army Corps of Engineers)
1:00  Introductions

1:05  Public comment – No public comment offered.

1:05-1:10  Additions/deletions to the agenda - see*

Review and potential approval of the September 22, 2011 meeting minutes:

discussion/decision item (Kalish) - Four changes noted by Rick Westerhof correcting name for Lyle Tracy and identifying Sandra Sroonian for Action Item bottom p.4.

1:10-1:20  Review action items from September IT meeting: report (Beyer) – All but two items completed: Army Corps position statement and fundraising open items. Beyer noted how those have moved to today’s agenda and chair transition plan, respectively.

1:20-1:40  IT Chairperson transition, roles and responsibilities: discussion/decision (Kalish) – IT discussed and approved draft Transition Plan in concept. Action: Transition Team of Aloia, Bifoss, Dituri and Kalish to contact IT members, prepare proposal/nomination for November 10 meeting. In discussion, Aloia invited IT members to send him input as a markup of the draft Transition Plan. Kalish clarified that he will stay in primary IT representative role for MDNR.

1:40-2:00  Sea lamprey with regard to Union Street and Sabin dams: discussion (Westerhof) – Rick Westerhof reviewed status, beginning with September 19, 2011 letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding Union Street inspection results and recommendations. He expects the Service will inspect Boardman and Sabin this fall to confirm they are blocking sea lamprey passage. Then further inspection of concrete sill under stop logs at Union Street will be done in 2012. The Service would then wait one additional season, with a survey to confirm effectiveness in 2013. IT discussed implications and options, and agreed to convene meeting with the Service. Aloia asked, and Westerhof responded that local dam owners do not have obligation to repair; the Service is making recommendation only, and in the case of Union Street, the Service has initiated and paid for replacement of stop logs. Action: Westerhof to coordinate meeting between IT and lamprey control staff in the Service.

2:00-2:15  Fundraising activity report and fundraising updates: discussion, report (Beyer)  
Combined with Funding Priorities: discussion/decision (IT) - Beyer handed out funding summary and reviewed new developments, activities and funding status relative to cost. Westerhof mentioned upcoming proposal opportunity for Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, possibly considering the Boardman for one of the special “regional” projects. Action: Beyer to convene GT Board and MDNR staff to determine appropriate response. Kalish reminded proposal writers to include costs for project management
and to incorporate Stewardship/Prosperity elements in proposals. Andy Knott can help with this.

Beyer then reviewed the Funding Summary that focuses on construction and monitoring costs, and available funds. Kalish pointed out that the cost estimates for Brown Bridge removal and restoration are more developed and accurate than those for Sabin, where conceptual design has not been completed. Knott inquired, and Sandra Sroonian (AMEC) responded that more refined costs for Sabin are expected with the 60 percent design estimated for the end of January 2012.

2:15-2:35 Status of Sabin and Brown Bridge projects as they relate to Army Corps project: discussion/potential decision (IT) – Kalish asked if there was a recommendation from the Project Management Working Team regarding Army Corps role. Beyer noted that owners and Chair were not in attendance and no formal decision was made, but the Working Team did reach a very strong consensus that: 1) Brown Bridge should be removed with sediment management and restoration as documented, and the first priority for funds is there; and 2) to the extent the funding will support, the local team should continue to pursue data collection and planning to get Sabin “shovel ready”. Based on funding that is available the Working Team called for a formal recommendation from the IT to communicate to the Army Corps that the local team will remove Brown Bridge dam. IT unanimously approved decision.

Discussion: Westerhof confirmed that the US Fish & Wildlife Service is completing the Environmental Assessment for Brown Bridge, with internal draft expected in November, public draft expected in December. Bifoss inquired how team would handle a funding shortfall if funds in hand fell short of full restoration cost needs. Widespread concurrence was reflected from the team that full restoration would be completed, but might need to be phased to accommodate the flow of funds. Bifoss asked if letter to Army Corps would constitute an irreversible direction. Platz responded in the negative – if asked to step back in at Brown Bridge the Corps would respond. Platz further indicated this direction was not a surprise to the Corps since we have been in close communication throughout. Action: Beyer to draft letter and background packet for City Commission’s consideration on November 7. Materials needed by October 31. Kalish and Platz will assist to ensure background and request will meet needs.

2:35 – 2:40 Army Corps (URS) Update: report (Carl Platz and/or Troy Napera) – Platz reported the Corps has a 35 percent draft of detailed project report. Next will be 60 percent draft. They also are required to hold a public meeting, and would like to do that in conjunction with locals. Westerhof clarified that no additional public meeting is required at this time for the Brown Bridge environmental assessment. Becky Ewing had offered the Prosperity Team as a local point of contact for communication.
AMEC update: report (Sandra Sroonian) - Sandra Sroonian reviewed project activity, reporting that drawdowns are completed at Brown Bridge and Sabin. Recognized the local team for filling roles as planned. Discussion is underway with FEMA regarding mapping process. Next activities will involve asbestos and lead surveys on October 31 and Sabin impoundment survey week of November 7. Sroonian identified two areas that may grow to out-of-scope tasks: response and assessment work related to sediment sampling and the FEMA work. CRA will work with AMEC to monitor and initiate change order if needed.

AMEC invoice #4 (report by GLFT grant manager): report (Kalish) – Kalish reported that invoice was reviewed and approved for payment per protocol.

Communications update: report (Beyer) – recent media work went well, expect 2012 workplan from committee. Beyer reminded IT of protocol for handling media inquiries: Ask what story is about, who else has been contacted, and what is deadline. Refer to Chuck Lombardo for dispatch to appropriate team members. Chuck is preparing responses and talking points, serving as coordinator for these. Westerhof corrected Communications Team minutes from 10/7. Kalish inquired and Monica Schroeder responded that the Newsletter concept has been picked up by the Prosperity Team. Also suggests project signs depicting benefits of dam removal be considered.

Prosperity Plan/Stewardship update: report (Knott) – Andy Knott reported that contract with Public Sector Consultants was signed this week, and they are seeking ideas for historical documents to review.

*FERC letter October 10, 2011 from City and County - discussion item (Kalish)

Agenda items for the next meeting and meeting review: discussion/decision item (IT)
Reminder – next two meetings are off-cycle: November 10 and December 15
1) Transition Team recommendation
2) Further discussion of funding strategy
3) Status update of FEMA issue
4) Bottomlands team report
5) Consultant agreement renewal (Nov or Dec)
6) Communications workplan for 2012 (Nov or Dec)

Public comment - Steve Largent praised work of Ken Gregory and local team for support and responsiveness during drawdowns. Also noted next Bottomlands Working Team meeting will be held Thursday, October 27th, 8:30 - 10:00 at the Boardman River Nature Center.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.