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

Boardman River Dams Implementation Team

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<th>Grand Traverse County</th>
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<td>Grand Traverse Conservation District (Ex officio)</td>
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<td>Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (Ex officio)</td>
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<td>Grand Traverse County Road Commission (Ex officio)</td>
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Approved Meeting Minutes

Date: November 10, 2011

Facilitator: Todd Kalish, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

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

Present:
Brett Fessell, Frank Dituri (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Amy Beyer, Nate Winkler (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 Cooper (Traverse City Light and Power Department)
Steve Largent (Grand Traverse Conservation District)
Jim Schramm (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)
Mary Gillis (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)
Becky Ewing (Rotary Camps and Services)

Absent:
Jim Pawloski (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality)
1:00 Introductions - Kalish introduced those in attendance and gave a brief overview of each individual's contribution to the project.

1:15 Public comment – No public comment offered.

1:05-1:10 Additions/deletions to the agenda – (*denotes added items)
1) Rick Westerhof requested the addition of report regarding sea lamprey
2) Todd Kalish requested a discussion of development of a project evaluation plan

Review and potential approval of the October 20, 2011 meeting minutes:
discussion/decision item (Kalish) - Approved with no discussion.

1:10-1:15 Review action items from October IT meeting: report (Winkler) – All items completed.

1:15-1:15 Army Corps (URS) update: report (Carl Platz and/or Troy Naperalu) -
Platz and Naperalu unavailable, Sandra Sroonian indicated she would provide an update regarding discussions with the Army Corps/URS team during the AMEC update.

1:15-1:30 AMEC update: report (Sandra Sroonian) – Sandra Sroonian provided an update regarding AMEC’s work in support of the project including the following items;
- Subsequent to the November project management meeting, AMEC (Sroonian, Wayne Ingram, Bill Elzinga), URS (Naperalu), DNR (Kalish), Army Corps (Platz), CRA (Winkler), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (Westerhof) met to discuss the H & H modeling performed by Ingram
- Follow up conference call between AMEC (Sroonian, Ingram), Army Corps (Platz), URS (Dan ?, Naperala), and Baird (Mark Riedel) in which AMEC agreed to share H & H (hydraulic and hydrologic) model (performed with regard to Brown Bridge removal) with Baird for their analysis as it was a mutual benefit and an overall benefit to the project
- Funding for H & H collaborative to come from Sabin project line item funding AMEC’s proposed meetings with the Army Corps
- The Sabin impoundment survey had to be postponed until the following week due to InterFluve’s flights being cancelled

1:30-1:50 *Sea lamprey passage and dam inspections by USFWS: report (Westerhof) - Rick Westerhof provided a verbal report to supplement the written inspection reports generated by sea lamprey control regarding Sabin and Boardman dams (Winkler had distributed to the IT electronically prior to the IT meeting). In summary, the reports concluded that it was extremely unlikely that sea lamprey would be able to ascend above the two dams (with Sabin identified as the more likely of the two to pass them) but modifications to the respective spillways were recommended.
Ewing asked what the cost for spillway modification was with Westerhof responding that the options were being considered and no firm estimate was in hand.

Fessell asked what the standard was as far as height etc. for lamprey barrier. Westerhof provided that an 18” vertical barrier with a 6” lip was generally accepted as the standard.

**1:50-2:05  Project Evaluation Plan: discussion (Kalish)** – Kalish referred to a communication he’d received from Dan Hayes at MSU requesting potential research ideas regarding the Boardman Dams project. Kalish emphasized that such requests would be common in the future as more universities seek out the opportunity to study the effects of dam removal. Kalish suggested that the Bottomlands Management Team and the Prosperity Team work together to incorporate stakeholder input into the development of an evaluation plan and emphasized that while the NEPA analysis of the project would provide an evaluation plan of sorts, it would not have a watershed-level scope.

Fessell said that he could potentially initiate the genesis of such a plan from Bryan Burrough’s doctoral thesis on the Stronach dam removal and the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) from the tribe’s EPA grant.

Ewing commented that such a plan should consider the nebulous social issues/factors associated with dam removals. Beyer provided that the IT should focus on the technical aspects of the evaluation however.

Development of a draft project evaluation plan would be anticipated to be complete by the end of 2011.

**Action:** Fessell to initiate work on evaluation plan with assistance from the Bottomlands Management Team and the Prosperity Team.

**Action:** Westerhof to forward USFWS report on the Watervliet dam removal to Fessell as an additional resource.

**2:05 – 2:10  Communications update: report/decision (Beyer)** – Beyer referred the group to the 2012 communications plan in the meeting packet and requested the IT’s approval. Kalish suggested conditional approval in anticipation of the Prosperity Team’s development of a communications plan to maximize efficiency and minimize duplication of efforts. Ewing noted that the Prosperity Team plan is anticipated to be complete by the end of the month. The 2012 communications plan subsequently was approved.

**Action:** forward communications/outreach documents to Grand Traverse Band Natural Resources and Environment Committee for their own public relations efforts
2:10-2:20  **Fundraising activity report and fundraising updates: report/decision (Beyer)** - Beyer gave updates related to fundraising activity including the following;

- “Boots on the Ground Initiative” which the Band had cultivated as an effort to get labor on the ground for this and other projects. The grant amount is anticipated to be approximately $255,000
- Garfield Township’s land acquisition with DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars will provide valuable local match to the Frey challenge grant

Beyer subsequently asked for IT approval of the funding plan included in the packet which is in line with the protocol established for funding components of the project.

After a short discussion, the plan was approved by the IT.

2:20-2:30  **Prosperity Plan/Stewardship update: report (Knott)** – Knott reported that the Prosperity Team had met earlier in the day with their consultant Public Sector Consultants. During the meeting, three items were called out as being priorities;

- additional resource needs
- dialogue with Boardman Pond landowners
- draft communications plan (will intersect with IT when Corps has scoping meeting)

Knot ended his report by introducing the Public Sector Consultants team that were present at the IT meeting including Jack BAILS, Gregg Smith, and Shanna Draheim.

2:30-2:35  **Bottomlands update: report (Largent)** – Steve Largent reported that he would have the draft minutes from the most recent Bottomlands Management Team meeting (10-27-11) to Winkler the following day. Regarding bottomlands work, Largent noted that the next meeting of the management team would be on December 8th from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. at the Boardman River Nature Center off Cass Road. The draft of the bottomlands management matrix would be complete by then and would be distributed at the meeting or just prior.

Other items included;

- Largent also reported that the drawdowns have both gone well
- Frank Dituri has the time-lapse cameras up and running at Brown Bridge pond
- Potential equipment access road location determined off of Ranch Rudolf Road for restoration work at Brown Bridge
- Continuing to explore access to north side of Brown Bridge dam
- District has located a source of trees to implement into large woody debris work in channel at Brown Bridge
A tree planting effort at Grasshopper Creek was cancelled due to inclement weather.

**2:35-2:40** CRA third quarter 2011 report and invoice: report/decision (Winkler) – A short discussion occurred regarding using the quarterly report format provided by CRA in grant reports. Beyer asked for suggestions on revisions to the format to be forwarded to Winkler.

The third quarter 2011 report and invoice were subsequently approved.

**2:40 – 2:50** IT chairperson transition recommendation: discussion/decision item (Kalish, Aloia)- Because the IT chairperson transition plan was developed in large part by Beyer, Kalish asked her to review the plan and the thought that went into its development.

Upon conclusion of the overview of the plan development, Beyer indicated that two salient items came to the forefront;

- There was strong consensus that Frank Dituri was the best candidate to replace Kalish as IT chair
- There needed to be a commitment to find a candidate that was not associated with the IT or any agency with representation on the IT to replace Dituri in the future, ideally someone from the local community

Acting on the strong consensus of the team tasked with naming a candidate and developing the transition plan, Frank Dituri’s nomination was made with full agreement of all IT members present. Subsequently it was determined that a letter from the IT was to be drafted and sent to the Grand Traverse Band formally inviting Dituri to fill position of IT chair.

Fessell shared that the Band’s Natural Resources and Environment Committee had discussed the Dituri’s nomination and the implications for Band representation at such a high level in the project. The committee ultimately decided in favor of the nomination and would likely make a recommendation to the Grand Traverse Band Tribal Council as such.

Additionally, the transition plan was approved by the IT members present.

**Action:** CRA to finalize IT chair job description
**Action:** Winkler to draft letter from IT to the Grand Traverse Band formally inviting Dituri to fill position of IT chair
**Action:** Winkler to add members of Grand Traverse Band Natural Resources and Environment Committee to project distribution list
With Kalish’s departure, CRA would be taking on the role of grant manager for the Great Lakes Fishery Trust grant.

2:50 – 2:55 **Grand Traverse County Road Commission update: report (Gillis)**- Mary Gillis provided an update relating to the Cass Road bridge and funding for replacement. Gillis had nominated the bridge for “Critical Bridge” funding and was selected. The funding amount was less than what was requested but the road commission did accept the award at approximately $3 million. The grant funds are for the 2014 cycle.

2:55 – 3:00 **General discussion**- Jim Schramm provided the following;
- Overview of the development of the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition and the Hydro Reform Coalition (national)
- Most relicensing of hydro projects occurring in the western US where money is to be made
- Schramm routinely giving reports to American Rivers on the status of the project, they are very aware of the Boardman project

3:00 **Agenda items for the next meeting and meeting review: discussion/decision item (IT)**

**Reminder** – next meeting on December 15 is off regular calendar cycle
- Update on old match from GLFR project: Gabe Schneider
- New number (recreational exposure) for arsenic submitted to MDEQ: Sandra Sroonian
- Sea lamprey update: Rick Westerhof
- Update on overarching project evaluation plan: Brett Fessell

IT subsequently approved of agenda items.

**Public comment** – none (meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.).