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BROWN BRIDGE DAM UPDATE

Traverse City, MI (October 7, 2012) – The following is updated information regarding yesterday’s incident at Brown Bridge Dam and the Boardman River:

• The construction area at the dam site is stabilized and the flow of water below the dam has returned to a normal level. Work crews monitored the construction area and road crossings overnight to keep the area secure.
• It is believed that the river crested at Beitner Road Bridge at approximately 11:30 p.m. last night, at 4.5 – 5 feet above normal levels.
• The public is urged to use caution when approaching or entering the river due to debris that continues to float downstream.
• Vehicle and foot traffic congestion in the area continues to be a concern. The public is urged to use designated parking and viewing areas at the overlooks located on Ranch Rudolph Road, and at the canoe launch on Brown Bridge Road.
• The project team at this time is focused on the following:
  o Bridge inspection and reopening of roads
  o Downstream reconnaissance
  o Continued sediment monitoring
  o Assistance for those affected by the incident
• Qualified bridge inspectors from MDOT as well as private consulting engineers are completing affected county road crossings. Crossings on River Road and Garfield Road have been completed and those roads have been reopened. Following satisfactory inspection results, all county roads in the area will be reopened. Private road crossings will also be inspected.
• A flood damage hot line is in place for assistance with water damage mitigation and clean up. Anyone requesting this type of assistance should call 231-995-6059. If a dangerous situation is present, such as a downed power line or other emergency situation, the public should call 911.
• The project team continues to be proactive in assessing damage, ensuring safety and contacting affected residents, including going door-to-door.
• Organic material continues to move downstream, and crews are working to filter material at various locations. Sand traps and other sediment mitigation
procedures that were already in place have been successful in greatly reducing the amount of sediment released downstream.

- The project team will spend the next 36-48 hours developing a process to investigate the cause of the incident and developing a plan for completing the removal of Brown Bridge Dam.
- Project team members are assessing impacts on aquatic wildlife.
- The Boardman River Dams Project Implementation Team expresses its profound appreciation to the over 100 people that responded to the emergency, including work crews, engineers, County emergency personnel, County and State law enforcement, Grand Traverse County Road Commission and local media.

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