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)  Charter Township of Garfield (Ex officio)

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Date: March 21, 2013
Facilitator: Frank Dituri, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
Notes: Nate Winkler, Conservation Resource Alliance

IT Members Present:
Andy Knott (Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay)
Jim Schramm (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition) (via conference call)
Nate Winkler, Amy Beyer, Kim Balke (Conservation Resource Alliance)
Ben Bifoss, Ken Gregory (City of Traverse City)
Tree Sturman (Grand Traverse Conservation District)
DJ Shook (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Dave Benda (Grand Traverse County)
Todd Kalish (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)
Jim Johnson (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
Jim Pawloski (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality)

IT Members Absent:
Rotary Camps and Services
Charter Township of Garfield
Traverse City Light and Power Department
1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made by those in attendance.

2. **Public comment** – none.

3. **Miscellaneous**

   **Agenda deletions/additions** – none.

   **Review and potential approval of the February meeting minutes** – Approved, some discussion regarding lexis within Item 6 - no changes recommended however.

   **Action items from January IT meeting** – Winkler and others reported actions still needing to be completed include the following:

   - **Largent/Bottomlands Working Group** to develop schedule for next wood installation
   - **Knott** to alert **Beyer** when reported match from Great Lakes Fisheries Trust is accepted by MDEQ
   - **Shook** to provide **Beyer** with FY 2013 BIA grant dollar amount when award is finalized
   - **Shook** to determine status of Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership proposal
   - **Knott** to send GLRI proposal abstract to Winkler for distribution to the IT

4. **AMEC update: report and discussion** - Sandra Sroonian noted the following related to the Brown Bridge project:

   - Reported on the development of the “Draft Phase II Reclamation Response Downstream of Brown Bridge Dam” letter and enquired the IT if they had any issues with the language. Hearing none, the letter was considered ready for submittal to the agency
   - Background regarding additional tree removal and placement in river while MOLON was in the vicinity (just below Garfield Road) performing mitigation work related to the October 6th incident. This was not an IT matter, merely an fyi related to ancillary work with regard to the Brown Bridge project
   - Reported on generation of proposal and construction estimate to mitigate groundwater seeps along toe of north side of project. Dituri subsequently signed the change order authorizing the work
   - The bottomland seed mix will be delivered after some delay due to unsuitable regional sourcing and outdated analysis on the part of the seed company
5. **Army Corps update: report re. conversation with Gabe Schneider (CRA)**—Amy Beyer noted that during a conversation with Gabe Schneider from Senator Levin’s office, it was reported that due to increased dredging activities in the Great Lakes, the “Water Resources Development Authority” or WRDA is being considered for renewal.

Schneider indicated he had submitted an appropriations request for the Boardman project in the very narrow timeframe open for recommendations for funding under the authority.

6. **Phase II-QBS Process: (CRA)**—Amy Beyer provided an update regarding the ongoing effort to facilitate continued progress toward the removal of Boardman and Sabin dams and the replacement of the Cass Road bridge. Noted that a conference call was held with members of the QBS (Qualification Based Selection) Coalition to discuss how the process of contractor selection may or may not be different from the Brown Bridge project.

A resulting action item was to set up a working group to develop a plan for selection of the engineering firm to take the lead on the next phase of the project. The following IT members volunteered to serve on the working group; Frank Dituri, Dave Benda, Rick Westerhof, Brett Fessell, Steve Largent

7. **Au Sable Institute macroinvertebrate survey proposal**—Nate Winkler reviewed the proposal which included gathering baseline data in the newly exposed relic channel as well as a continuation of the work performed in the past to evaluate the health of the river and to establish a baseline for post-project evaluation.

Subsequent to a robust discussion on whether or not to fully fund the proposal, the IT agreed to fund the task which built off the prior work. However, the IT would only agree to fund the baseline relic channel survey if the Au Sable Institute had no other resources at their disposal to fund that component.

8. **Fundraising activity report and fundraising updates**—Beyer reviewed the updated funding and matching funds tables and the updated funding activity report. Beyer went on to note the most recent AMEC invoices including the final invoices to be paid by the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust have been approved and sent on to the City for release of funds.

Ben Bifoss reported that a meeting between the City, County, and CRA resulted in the recommendation that the role of fiduciary be transferred to CRA from the City.
Communications update: (CRA): Winkler reported that the usual activities had occurred over the course of the month and added the following:

- A reminder of media contact protocol with an action item for Winkler to redistribute the protocol to the IT along with the most recent permutation of talking points
- Two events were noted as being on the horizon for scheduling-community leader small group meetings and the “River Reborn” river reopening event
- Sandra Sroonian and Luke Trumble (MDEQ) presented on the project at the annual “Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association” in Battle Creek
- Winkler presented at the “Upper Midwest Stream Restoration Symposium” in La Crosse (WI)
- Steve Largent was currently presenting to the “National Association of Counties” via webinar
- Jim Pawloski, Steve Largent, Frank Dituri, Brett Fessell, and Nate Winkler are collaborating on an article for the publication of the Association of Dam Safety Officials
- Frank Dituri, Sandra Sroonian, Troy Naperala, and Kim Balke presented the Brown Bridge project as well as the status of fundraising for the Boardman Dam/Cass Road Bridge design/construction to the Grand Traverse County Commissioners’ March Resource Management and Administration meeting

Open Forum: -none.

Meeting Closing: no public comment

Adjourned

Action Items:

- Winkler to set up QBS/Phase II working group and meeting calendar
- Beyer to amend funding plan to reflect recent change order (groundwater seeps)
- Sturman to forward Beyer grant information
- City/County/IT to draft agreement in which the position of fiduciary for the project is transferred to CRA
- Winkler to distribute media contact protocol and updated talking points to the IT
- Knott to alert Beyer when reported match from Great Lakes Fisheries Trust is accepted by MDEQ
- Shook to provide Beyer with FY 2013 BIA grant dollar amount when award is finalized
- Shook to determine status of Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership proposal