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

Boardman River Dams Implementation Team

Grand Traverse County  
Traverse City Light and Power Department  
Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
Grand Traverse Conservation District (Ex officio)  
Rotary Camps and Services (Ex officio)  
Grand Traverse County Road Commission (Ex officio)

City of Traverse City  
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Conservation Resource Alliance (Ex officio)  
Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (Ex officio)

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 15, 2010

Facilitator: Todd Kalish, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Notes: Tape recording and hand written notes by Nate Winkler, Conservation Resource Alliance

Present:
Dennis Aloia (Grand Traverse County)  
Ben Bifoss (City of Traverse City)  
Steve Largent (Grand Traverse Conservation District)  
Nate Winkler, Amy Beyer (Conservation Resource Alliance)  
Jim Schramm (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)  
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)  
Todd Kalish (Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment)  
Mark Rollenhagen (Traverse City Light and Power Department)  
Becky Ewing (Rotary Camps and Services)  
Mary Gillis (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)  
(Carl Platz, US Army Corps of Engineers participated via conference call)

Absent
Jim Pawloski (Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment)  
Brett Fessell (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)  
Andy Knott (Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay)
1:00-1:05 Introduction
Introductions were made around the chambers by those in attendance.

1:05 Public Comment
Todd Kalish opened up the floor to public comment. Mr. Norbert Tutlis, Boardman Valley Preservation Society, made comment regarding several issues. This included among others, the legacy of the Boardman River dam structures, fishery management, bottomlands ownership, dam classification, and the recommendation to put the issue of dam removal to a referendum.
No further public comment was offered.

1:20-1:25 Additions/deletions to the agenda
Todd Kalish indicated that he would like to add 1) discussion of ex officio membership as it pertains to the Grand Traverse County Road Commission and 2) addressing public comment. Kalish went on to iterate the process followed by the IT to invite the Road Commission to join the IT as ex officio members and their subsequent acceptance.

1:25-1:30 Review and potential approval of the March 18, 2010 meeting minutes: decision item
There were no recommendations for additions, deletions or edits with regard to the March 18th draft minutes and were approved.

1:30-1:35 Update regarding bottomlands management plan: discussion (Nate)
Nate Winkler related the work recently by the Bottomlands Working Group to expedite the process of developing a comprehensive bottomlands management plan. A request for proposals was to be developed over the course of the next several weeks to distribute to potential contractors to develop the plan. Becky Ewing inquired as to what activities the plan will pursue. Winkler responded that short term concerns were primarily invasive species identification and removal. Steve Largent made mention of a discussion during the Bottomlands Working Group meeting related to exploring local capacity in producing parts of or the whole of such a plan.

1:35-1:45 Drawdown of Sabin and Brown Bridge Ponds: discussion/decision (Todd)
Todd Kalish gave an overview of where the dam removal project was to date and related the need to accomplish several requirements related to grants awarded to the Grand Traverse Band. These include tasks associated with exposed bottomlands management such as engineering specifics, invasive species removal, and sediment mitigation. Kalish proceeded to relate that the Michigan State Historical Preservation Office found that the dam structures themselves had no significant historical value but they did express interest in surveying exposed bottomlands for archeological resources. Kalish indicated the need to have an impoundment drawdown engineering feasibility study and that by
the time of the next IT meeting, the Grand Traverse Band will have completed a request for proposals to distribute to qualified engineering firms that may potentially implement such a study. Dennis Aloia inquired as to whether the feasibility study is required to initiate a drawdown and if it’s possible the process could take up to several months. Kalish responded in the affirmative on both counts. Becky Ewing inquired of Carl Platz whether or not the Army Corps will credit this work toward the 35% match. Platz indicated that since an agreement has not been signed between the dam owners and the Army Corps, it is unlikely that the work can be considered match.

1:45-1:55 Discussion regarding IT voting members: discussion/decision (Todd)
Todd Kalish provided an overview of the recent combining of the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality into one agency and how that affects the nature of voting membership of the IT. Kalish went on to explain the rationale for having both agencies represented on the IT due to the agencies particular expertise brought to the project. Jim Schramm indicated that he did not believe that the Settlement Agreement would have to be revisited to keep members of the same agency on the IT. There was no dissent among the IT regarding keeping the two representatives from the newly formed Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

1:55-2:00 Potential ex-officio IT members: discussion (Dennis)
Dennis Aloia related that the impetus for the discussion item was to bring the Road Commission and perhaps Garfield Township onto the IT in ex officio status. Because the Road Commission was invited and had subsequently accepted, the Garfield Township membership question needed addressing. Amy Beyer indicated that CRA did follow up with Garfield Township to identify whether or not the township saw themselves playing a role at this point in the project. Township representatives indicated that they did not currently see the need to join the IT.

2:00-2:10 Presentation of fundraising activity report and fundraising updates: discussion (Amy)
Amy Beyer reviewed the fundraising activity report materials that were included in the IT meeting packet. Rick Westerhof indicated that he would like to see a column on the fundraising chart describing the amount of match required for each grant.

2:10-2:15 Army Corps update: discussion (Nate)
Nate Winkler referenced the contact report included in the meeting packet which provided information regarding the Army Corps’ current status on the project. Carl Platz expanded on his response in the contact report including the execution of a contract with the URS/Baird Group joint venture to produce a document describing among other things, work completed to date on the project. Mr. Platz indicated that the project should produce such a document by approximately the end of June. Mary Gillis asked Mr. Platz how the Cass Road bridge played into the Corps’ plans. Mr. Platz responded
that there wasn’t enough information yet to make a determination if that component of the overall project will be incorporated into the Corps’ realm of responsibility.

2:15-2:35  Discussion and potential approval regarding key messages and short term communications plan: discussion/decision (Todd, Nate, Amy)
Todd Kalish lead the discussion regarding key project messages and the short term communications plan developed during the course of several meetings with Chuck Lombardo of CML. Kalish reviewed the materials provided in the meeting packet beginning with the key messages portion. Becky Ewing inquired as to whether or not the key messages should include specific numbers regarding stream miles reclaimed, acreage of wetland restored, etc. Jim Schramm was in support of that information being placed at the forefront. Ben Bifoss noted that there was no discussion of hydropower and recommended that some language be added. Amy Beyer related that Mr. Lombardo suggested that the key messages were the “tip of the pyramid” with the supporting information farther down the pyramid. Kalish closed the loop on the key messages by affirming the need for such hard facts to be incorporated into a fact sheet. Beyer related that the intent was to run the approved key messages and a “frequently asked questions” document along with the short term communications plan by the IT before a final draft is distributed. The intent of this discussion was to begin the process of refining the documents. Additional discussion occurred regarding revisions to the key messages.

The next item discussed was the communications flow chart with subsequent discussion regarding suggested revisions. Winkler indicated that he would accept suggested changes to both the key messages and the communications flow chart via email and incorporated into a final draft.

The decision was subsequently made by the IT to approve the track that CRA was pursuing with regard to communications.

2:35-2:40  Project manager monthly report: discussion (Nate)
Nate Winkler referenced the one page monthly report included in the meeting packet which described CRAs activities for the past month.

2:40-2:45   Agenda items for the next meeting and meeting review: discussion/decision item (Todd, Nate)
Kalish suggested that the status of the ownership of bottomlands at Boardman Pond be included.

2:45-3:00  Public comment
No members of the public indicated a wish to provide public comment.

3:00   Meeting Adjourned