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
Grand Traverse Conservation District (Ex officio)
Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (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
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Conservation Resource Alliance (Ex officio)
Charter Township of Garfield (Ex officio)

APPROVED Meeting Notes
Revised and approved with edits on 1.20.15 (edits to URS, Army Corps, and Bottomlands updates, Open forum)

Date: December 18, 2014
Facilitator: Frank Dituri, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
Notes: Nate Winkler, Conservation Resource Alliance

IT Members Present:
Amy Beyer, Nate Winkler, Kim Balke (Conservation Resource Alliance)
Frank Dituri, DJ Shook (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Dave Benda, Dean Bott (Grand Traverse County)
Steve Largent (Grand Traverse Conservation District)
Jered Ottenwess (City of Traverse City)
Jim Schramm (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)
Jim Cook (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

IT Members Not in Attendance:
Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Charter Township of Garfield
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 November IT meeting minutes** – No comments, approved.

   **Action items from November IT meeting** – Reviewed by Winkler; those not complete were noted as owing and placed back on the action items list unless determined by the group to no longer be germane.

4. **2015 meeting calendar renewal: discussion and decision (CRA, IT)** – The group agreed to a continuation of the 2014 schedule in 2015 (the third Thursday of each month except November in which case it will be the first Thursday of the month).

5. **URS update: report (URS/US Army Corps)** – Troy Naperala and Carl Platz with URS and the Army Corps of Engineers, respectively, presented the following updates on the local and federal efforts:

   Naperala provided the following local updates:

   **Cass Road Bridge**
   - work on the Cass Road Bridge design continues to progress
   - a grade inspection meeting was held on December 11th
   - URS provided the County an alternative road alignment which accommodates NOT taking out the powerhouse at Boardman dam
   - right of way for replacement bridge is being fleshed out legally
   - final design is scheduled to be complete January 20th

   Largent queried Naperala as to whether or not any channel restoration work could be accomplished while the roadbed was torn up. Naperala indicated that it would have to be bid out and contracted separate from the bridge/road work as Michigan Department of Transportation ("MDOT") funds couldn’t be used.
**Boardman dam**

- the final concept design has been completed and passed to Winkler for distribution and posting to the project website
- both the breach risk assessment and the sediment transport reports are expected to be complete imminently and passed on to Winkler for distribution and posting to the website
- the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (“MDEQ”) “Inland Lakes and Streams Joint Permit Application” (“JPA”) for the breaching operation is expected to be complete in January; once approved, the permit will be good for 5 years
- Work Authorization #2 is being finalized to include two additional tasks: 1) right-of-way (“ROW”) document development originally assumed to be already have been completed by the Road Commission, 2) additional soil core samples to be collected and analyzed as required by MDEQ in pre-permit discussions
- Work Authorization #1 used up approximately 50% County, 25% Grand Traverse Band budgeted amounts which is consistent with project completion to date
- the channel alignment through Sabin Pond has been identified
- data gaps at Sabin include spillway substrata and wetland location and quantity

Naperala noted that the alternative alignment would only provide a temporary benefit and result in less efficient traffic conveyance due to lower speeds imposed by additional curves and would require an additional (abbreviated) feasibility study. Cook corroborated Naperala’s assessment and added that the change in alignment would require a public hearing.

Platz provided the following federal updates:

- Platz met with the owners (City, County) and CRA earlier in the day to discuss schedule and potential terms of a Proposed Project Agreement (“PPA”) which would authorize the federal expending of funds on project construction and require retroactive payment for design work to date
- the feasibility study (environmental assessment (“EA”) and detailed project report (“DPR”)) is still under internal review
- currently in the process of responding to the Environmental Protection Agency’s comments on the draft feasibility study
- once the Army Corps signs off, the subsequent phase is the “implementation phase”
- a next step is to develop an “in-kind” report (“integral determination report” or “IDR”)
Platz concluded by outlining the following schedule:

- early February 2015 approval of feasibility study
- early February 2015 approval of draft IDR
- April 2015 approval of final IDR
- June 2015 release of draft PPA if no deviations
- spring 2016 project design complete
- August 2016 construction commences

6. **Bottomlands update: report (Largent)** – Largent provided the following updates:
   - a meeting was held with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (“NRCS”) to discuss cost-share options through their “Environmental Quality Incentive Program” (“EQIP”) for forest buffer practices
   - trees and shrubs have been ordered for planting in the Brown Bridge bottomlands ($3,000)
   - routine eagle-take permit reporting has been submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service
   - working with Shook to continue to develop design for large wood installation

7. **Funding updates: report/discussion (CRA)** – The following updates were provided by the group:
   - Dituri noted that the Band had developed and submitted a database development proposal with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to access bio-data
   - Beyer covered the funding materials included in the meeting packet making note that the project currently is at a critical point in regard to funding; the following were described by Beyer as 3 likely scenarios:
     1. Army Corps “Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration” (“GLFR”) project funding
     2. identification of new sources of funding other than those identified to date
     3. barring the above, two additional solid funding cycles to close gap

8. **Communications update: report (CRA)** – Winkler provided the following updates:
   - looking to mid-January for next Communications team meeting
   - Lombardo has developed IT talking points/memo for the Cass Road Bridge and hydrologic and hydraulic analysis
   - A project presentation is scheduled for June 16th at the Park Place in Traverse City
9. **Open forum: (IT)** – The following items were presented:
   - Crissman had confirmed to Beyer that the outstanding $10,000 discussed earlier in the funding plan was allocated to the Prosperity Plan development and thus removed from the dam removal funding pool
   - Naperalo noted that URS constructed a timeline which breaks out when discrete costs are likely to occur and correlated them to the overall construction schedules; provide a graphical illustration of the project funding curve
   - Dituri inquired of Shook the status of the development of a dam removal practice by NRCS; Shook reported that it still is being considered but that the State Engineer for NRCS is hesitant to consider large dam removal as an approved practice
   - Benda asked Beyer if a PPA was placed before the team now, how much would it take to achieve the required 35% match; Beyer responded that the match is required to be absolutely non-federal and the amount is at least $5 million; this at the same time the MDOT requires 5% match for the Cass Road Bridge reconstruction

10. **Meeting closing:**
   - IT agenda and action item review – January 2015 IT meeting
     1. cost differential between replacing and not replacing Cass Road Bridge and repairing to a safe, one-lane structure
     2. cost of “bump out” Cass Road alternative that leaves the Boardman dam powerhouse in place
   - Public comment - no comment
   - Meeting adjourned
Action Items:

New:
- **Winkler** to distribute to the IT the final concept design report once received from URS
- **Winkler** to distribute to the IT the draft dam breach risk assessment and sediment transport reports once received from URS
- ? to track URS Work Authorization #2
- **Dituri, Shook** to establish Bureau of Indian Affairs (“BIA”) potential funding amount
- **Winkler** to inquire of **Lombardo** on how to disseminate final concept design

Outstanding:
- **Shook** to draft and distribute to IT letter requesting NRCS assistance
- **Benda, Ottenwess** to discuss PPA decision and potential negotiation of terms
- **IT** to collaborate on exploring options to fund a multi-year aquatic macroinvertebrate monitoring program
- **Largent** to forward water temperature data to **Dituri** and **Winkler**
- **County** to sign Work Authorization #2 upon receipt from URS
- **Largent** to provide Bottomlands team meeting notes to **Winkler** for inclusion in the project file