March Boardman River Dams Implementation Team Meeting

APPROVED Meeting Notes

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

Implementation Team

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<th>Grand Traverse County</th>
<th>City of Traverse City</th>
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<td>Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition</td>
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<td>Grand Traverse Conservation District (Ex officio)</td>
<td>Conservation Resource Alliance (Ex officio)</td>
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<td>Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (Ex officio)</td>
<td>Charter Township of Garfield (Ex officio)</td>
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Date: March 19, 2015
Facilitator: Dave Benda, Grand Traverse County
Notes: Nate Winkler, Conservation Resource Alliance

IT Members Present:
Amy Beyer, Nate Winkler, Kim Balke (Conservation Resource Alliance)
DJ Shook (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Dave Benda, Dean Bott, Danny Brown (Grand Traverse County)
Penny Hill (City of Traverse City)
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
Christine Crissman (Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay)
John Nelson, Jim Cook (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)
Jim Schramm (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)

IT Members Not in Attendance:
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Charter Township of Garfield
Grand Traverse Conservation District
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Traverse City Light and Power Department
1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made by those in attendance.

2. **Public comment** – John Nelson provided that he had been designated by the Grand Traverse County Road Commission Board as Board representative. Additionally, Nelson provided that the IT had been nominated by the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council as “Environmentalist of the Year” and that there would be an award presentation on April 24th. Nelson concluded that members of the IT were invited and that Dituri in particular should attend if possible.

Marc McKellar, member of the Grand Traverse County Road Commission Board thanked the team for the project update on March 12 at the special meeting of the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners and Road Commission Board. McKellar concluded by expressing his continued support for both the dam removal and bridge construction projects.

3. **Miscellaneous**

   **Agenda deletions/additions** – None.

   **Review and potential approval of the February IT meeting minutes** – Approved.

   **Action items from February 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. **AECOM update: report and discussion (DeVaun)** – DeVaun presented the following updates on the local and federal (including Army Corps) efforts:

   **Federal effort**
   - An addendum to the draft Feasibility Study (combined Environmental Assessment and Detailed Project Report (“EA” and “DPR”, respectively)) had been submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) in response to EPA’s comments on the document; subsequently EPA replied with editorial requests related to wording in the addendum that was submitted; in particular regarding unmitigated impacts to extant wetlands resulting from conditions created in large part by the dam (berm) itself
   - The draft Feasibility Study is currently being reviewed up the Army Corps chain of command
A draft Project Partnership Agreement ("PPA") has been generated by Carl Platz based on examples of other PPAs executed for similar projects.

Platz also is completing a draft Integral Determination Report ("IDR") describing match provided by the local project sponsor.

Local effort

Cass Road Bridge

- The final design/specifications and cost estimates have been forwarded to the Grand Traverse County Road Commission ("Road Commission") for review. Subsequently the Road Commission responded with comments to AECOM.
- Right of way ("ROW") documents have been reviewed and approved by the Road Commission and sent to the County for their review and approval. Benda noted that the ROW documents were under County legal review and would be presented to the County board of commissioners the following week (23 March) for consideration.
- The ROW determination and documentation currently is the most critical component in the submittal of final documents to MDOT in time for a July bid letting.
- Comments have been received by the Grand Traverse Conservation District relating to parking areas and access to trails during bridge construction, decision was made to close those areas off for the duration of the construction activities.

Boardman Dam

- The date and time for the 30% Design for Dam Removal and River Restoration ("30% design") review has been set for April 10th at 9:00 a.m. The venue is the AECOM conference room.
- The 30% design is being reviewed by not only the IT but also the Army Corps and the Road Commission.
- Discussion going forward needs to occur regarding construction access and potential access easements across private property; initial access would be required to mobilize equipment to the bottomlands and relic channel, subsequent egress and ingress would be by fuel hauler and personnel transport.
- If project funding is used to acquire easements across private property, landowners need to be apprised of fair market value which will require the services of an appraiser; two private landowners occupy optimal access locations, one of which has a utility line easement proximal to the project; draft exhibits would be developed by AECOM for use in illustrating access needs.
• The plan for long-term equipment access necessitates a decision given the river’s anticipated continual adjustment to the relic channel in subsequent years to the dam removal (e.g. the Brown Bridge access road)
• sediment transport analysis and report will be complete the following week (23 March)
• discussions are ongoing with MDEQ regarding the need for additional pre-dam removal sediment core sampling in the Boardman Pond

5. **Bottomlands update: report (Shook)** – Shook provided the following updates:
   • design work with InterFluve is ongoing for in-channel large wood installation at Brown Bridge; site recon and longitudinal profile work occurred the prior week; large wood planning meeting to be coordinated with 30% design meeting (10 April), Shook will distribute an announcement via email
   • plans are in the works to apply to the NRCS for funds to plant riparian buffer vegetation (at Brown Bridge)

6. **Communications update: report (CRA)** – Winkler reported that a Communications Team meeting is being planned sometime during the week of 23 March.

7. **Monitoring and Evaluation Team update: report (CRA)** – Winkler reported that Au Sable Institute was the successful bidder in the process to contract out the 2015 macroinvertebrate assessment. The other two outfits solicited for bids were Great Lakes Environmental Center and Herpetological Resources and Management.

8. **Funding update: report (CRA)** – Beyer covered the funding materials included in the meeting packet. After brief discussion, the March funding plan was approved by the IT.

   Crissman reported that the Great Lakes Commission request for proposals related to sediment management is tied to linkages between sediment and phosphorous loading to surface waters. The consensus was that it would likely be a long shot to successfully apply to the program for dam removal and river channel restoration funding.

   Benda noted that the local match for the replacement Cass Road Bridge construction grant from MDOT is still not pinned down. DeVauN followed up that MDOT will require a commitment of matching funds once the final design plans are submitted by the County and the Road Commission.

9. **Open forum: (IT)** – Westerhof reported that a conference call had been scheduled on Monday, March 30th at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the Union Street Dam betterment feasibility study and how it potentially will be impacted by the presence of sea lamprey.
The meeting is being convened by John Anderson (McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group) at the request of US Fish and Wildlife Sea Lamprey Control. Westerhof would apprise Winkler if an announcement should be circulated to the entire IT.

10. Meeting closing:
   - IT agenda and action item review – April 2015 IT meeting
   - Public comment – John Nelson indicated that he fully endorsed Marc McKellar’s earlier comments regarding his support of the dam removal, river restoration and Cass Road replacement bridge construction.
   - Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Action Items:

New:

- **Winkler** to distribute February IT meeting notes
- **County** to initiate discussions with property owners adjacent to the current Boardman Pond regarding potential access easements
- **AECOM** to develop and forward to **Winkler** site plans of the river restoration and dam removal project with property line overlays
- **AECOM/IT** to determine turn-around time on signed submittal of final replacement Cass Road Bridge design to MDOT by the County and Road Commission
- **Westerhof** to let **Winkler** know if conference call information regarding the Union Street Dam betterment feasibility study should be circulated to the entire IT

Outstanding:

- **Winkler** to draft a letter of thank you to Todd Kalish and the MDNR (Jim Dexter) for Kalish’s service in support of the Boardman Dams project
- **Naperalia** to determine if the EA being signed is a requirement of the signing and execution of a PPA
- **City/Hill** to follow up on release of claims question and forward response to **Winkler** for distribution to the IT
- **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**
- **Largent** to provide Bottomlands team meeting notes to **Winkler** for inclusion in the project file