April Boardman River Dams Implementation Team Meeting
DRAFT Meeting Notes

Date: April 16, 2015
Facilitator: Frank Dituri, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
Notes: Nate Winkler, Conservation Resource Alliance
Location: Traverse City Governmental Center, Commission Chambers

Implementation Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grand Traverse County</th>
<th>City of Traverse City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traverse City Light and Power Department</td>
<td>Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians</td>
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<td>Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition</td>
<td>US Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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IT Members Present:
Nate Winkler, Kim Balke (Conservation Resource Alliance)
DJ Shook, Frank Dituri (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Dave Benda, Dean Bott, Danny Brown (Grand Traverse County)
Jim Pawloski (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality)
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)
Heather Hettinger, Scott Heintzelman (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)

IT Members Not in Attendance:
Charter Township of Garfield
Grand Traverse Conservation District
Traverse City Light and Power Department
Grand Traverse County Road Commission
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 March IT meeting minutes** – Approved.

   **Action items from March IT meeting** – Reviewed by Winkler; those not complete were noted as owing and placed back on the action items list (at end of these notes) unless determined by the group to no longer be relevant. Any elaboration and/or discussion of any items were noted in the “Accomplished and/or Discussion” action item column.

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

   **Federal effort**
   - No update to provide except that the feasibility study (Environmental Assessment and Detailed Project Report) was at Army Corps headquarters in Washington DC for final review and signature

   **Local effort**
   **Cass Road Bridge**
   - Cass Road Bridge replacement design plans and Right of Way (“ROW”) alignment have been finalized and sent to the Michigan Department of Transportation ("MDOT") for review and approval
   - Prior to the bidding phase, the project design is shelved for approximately one month then brought back for a 30 day bid process (likely at the end of July 2015)
   - AECOM may look to add design fee for both queuing distance and signal optimization work to be covered via Work Authorization #3 (“WA #3”)

   **Boardman and Sabin Dams**
   - A meeting to present the 30% level of design for the “Boardman Dam Removal and River Restoration” plans was held on Friday, April 9th at AECOM
   - The 60% level of design is anticipated to be complete by the end of May 2015
   - The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Joint Permit Application (“JPA”) for the project is currently being developed, will be submitted with the 60% level of design documents by the end of May 2015
• Final (100%) design is expected to be complete by late September 2015
• Final soil borings from the Boardman Pond to be acquired by Great Lakes Environmental Center in the next two weeks; work will be authorized via WA #3
• Sediment transport modeling (Sabin Dam to South Airport Road) report is still under development, anticipate imminent completion of draft report and presentation of findings during the May Project Manager Team meeting

Dituri reported that he and an archaeologist, Tim Gier, with the Bureau of Indian Affairs out of Minneapolis met on site to evaluate the margins of the drawn-down Boardman and Sabin impoundments.

5. **Bottomlands update: report (Shook)** – Shook provided the following updates:
   - Tree planting bees at Brown Bridge are scheduled for April 29 and May 2
   - Design planning continues for in-stream large wood installation at Brown Bridge with partners InterFluve, the Grand Traverse Band, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (“NRCS”), and the Grand Traverse Conservation District
   - NRCS funds are anticipated to be obligated to fund planting of riparian buffer vegetation at Brown Bridge (approximately 10,000 seedlings on 22 acres) on the bottomlands

6. **Communications update: report (CRA/IT)** – Items of note include:
   - A project presentation and site visit is scheduled for both County and County Road Commission members on Friday, April 24 (2015)
   - Balke has been working with Rotary to refine take-home messages for project presentations
   - Winkler will be presenting on the project to Colleen Bzdok’s “Rivers” extended education course at Northwestern Michigan College on the following Tuesday (April 21)
   - Dituri will also be presenting on the project at NMC (date?)
   - DeVaun submitted an abstract on the project which was accepted by the Water and Environment Federation (“WEF”), subsequently will be presenting at the WEF conference in Chicago on September 30 (2015)
   - DeVaun also will be presenting at the upcoming Michigan Aquatic Resources conference (date?)

7. **Monitoring and Evaluation Team update: report (CRA)** – Winkler reiterated that Ausable Institute was the successful bidder in the Monitoring and Evaluation (“M&E”) Team’s process to contract out the 2015 macroinvertebrate assessment in the Boardman River.
Dituri suggested scheduling a meeting of the M&E team within the next couple of weeks.

Hettinger reported that a discretionary (as opposed to “status and trends”) fish survey would be conducted at Brown Bridge in the newly exposed relic channel as well as below Brown Bridge Road. Winkler requested Hettinger forward fish data from prior years’ surveys for incorporation into a grant proposal narrative (focus of proposal is on making additional brook trout habitat available).

8. **Funding update: report (CRA/IT)** – The following updates were given:
   - Winkler noted a Sustain Our Great Lakes proposal deadline of April 28
   - Balke reported that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (“MDNR”) Aquatic Habitat proposal was denied
   - Dituri reported that a recent Tribal Wildlife Grant proposal was denied
   - Crissman noted a recent grant of nearly $800,000 was awarded to the Watershed Center for work on Kids Creek and tributaries on and proximal to the former Traverse City State Hospital grounds

9. **Open forum: (IT)** – The following items were offered:
   - Pawloski reported that he’d be inspecting Boardman and Sabin Dams sometime toward the end of summer (2015)
   - Hettinger introduced the new MDNR regional fish biologist out of Cadillac, Scott Heintzelman; Heintzelman was the former Technician Supervisor out of Harrietta and will be the MDNR alternate on the IT

10. **Meeting closing:**
    - IT agenda and action item review for May 2015 IT meeting
    - Public comment – None.
    - Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.
Action Items

New:

- **Winkler** to distribute both draft April and approved March IT meeting notes to the IT
- **Winkler** to circulate the draft letter of thank you to Todd Kalish and the MDNR (Jim Dexter) for Kalish’s service in support of the Boardman Dams project
- **Hettinger** to forward Brown Bridge fish survey data to **Winkler**
- **DeVaun** to forward link to WEF website to **Winkler** for distribution
- **Benda** to consult with **AECOM** and subsequently the Alpers’ regarding potential construction access

Pending:

- **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 (see discussion below)
- **Naperala** 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
- **County** to initiate discussions with property owners adjacent to the current Boardman Pond regarding potential access easements

Discussion:

- **Benda** noted that he’d been in touch with County legal counsel with regard to outstanding list of items to accomplish with the Alpers’ regarding their easement to the river; Benda noted he’d set up a meeting with the Alpers’ to discuss potential future equipment access easements
- **AECOM** determined that the turn-around time between signing off on the final Cass Road Bridge design and the letting of construction contracts could be as few as 4 months (late July for potential letting for bids) (ROW documentation has been certified and submitted)
- **Winkler** drafted a thank you letter to Kalish and MDNR Fish Division for service to the project, will circulate to the IT for review