DETROIT- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District has awarded an almost $6.3 million contract to Michels Corporation of Brownsville, Wisc. for the removal of the Boardman Dam and restoration of the Boardman River, up and down stream of the dam located in Traverse City, Mich.

The Boardman Dam removal will assist in the restoration of the natural aquatic ecosystem as well as provide internal connectivity to Grand Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan.

“This project will help restore the Boardman River to its pre-dam configuration and result in significant ecological benefits throughout the watershed,” said Carl Platz, Great Lakes program manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This project is part of other ecosystem restoration projects planned on the Boardman River, a Great Lakes Tributary, that focus on providing fish passage and aquatic habitat and connectivity, restoring wetlands, and establishment of native plant communities. A variety of fish species will benefit from these restoration components allowing movement of woody debris and sediment through the river system, eliminating thermal disruption and restoring the natural balance between cold-water and cool-water species.

The project is being completed through an Interagency Agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Corps with funding provided through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

“This collaboration with EPA and all federal, state, tribal and local stakeholders has resulted in a tremendous partnership, with all parties focused on a common goal,” said Platz.

This restoration project meets the goals of a wide array of project partners including the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Grand Traverse County, City of Traverse City, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Conservation Resource Alliance.

The contractor will begin work this spring with a contract completion date of December 2018.

For more information, please visit: www.lre.usace.army.mil

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Boardman Dam Powerhouse (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District Photo)