May Boardman River Dams Implementation Team Meeting

Approved Meeting Notes

**Date:** Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 1:30 pm  
**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**

- Grand Traverse County
- City of Traverse City
- Traverse City Light and Power Department
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Grand Traverse Conservation District (Ex officio)
- Conservation Resource Alliance (Ex officio)
- Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (Ex officio)
- Charter Township of Garfield (Ex officio)
- Grand Traverse County Road Commission (Ex officio)

**IT Members Present:**
- **Frank Dituri** (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
- **Nate Winkler,** **Kim Balke,** **Casey Ressl** (Conservation Resource Alliance)
- **Rick Westerhof** (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
- **Heather Hettinger** (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)
- **Jim Schramm,** **Bob Stuber** (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)
- **Jim Cook** (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)
- **Steve Largent** (Grand Traverse Conservation District)
- **Christine Crissman** (Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay)
- **Jen DeHaan** (Grand Traverse County)

**IT Members Absent:**
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Traverse City Light and Power Department
- Charter Township of Garfield
- City of Traverse City

* attendance via conference line

**Non-IT Members Present:**
- **Dan DeVaun** (AECOM)
- **Dan Zielinski** (Great Lakes Fishery Commission)
- **Chris Schropp** (US Army Corps of Engineers)
- **Gregg Bird** (Grand Traverse County Emergency Management)
1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made by those in attendance.

2. **Public comment** – None.

3. **Miscellaneous**

   **Agenda deletions/additions** – Agenda Item #6 was re-queued as Agenda Item #3.5 to accommodate Mr. Bird’s schedule.

   **Review and potential approval of the April IT meeting minutes** – Approved with no corrections or edits.

   **Action item review from the April IT meeting** – Reviewed by Winkler; those not complete were noted as owing and placed on the “Pending Action Items” list (at end of these notes) unless determined to no longer be relevant.

3.5 **Boardman Dam project emergency management plan: report, discussion (Gregg Bird)**

   Gregg Bird, Emergency Management Supervisor for the County, presented an overview of the development of the emergency action plan in the event of a failure or imminent failure of Boardman Dam. The following items were presented:
   
   - Bird would like to be included in all communications regarding development of a crisis management plan by the IT
   - In the event of a catastrophic failure of the dam resulting in flooding, response locations will be station-dependent (i.e. certain station will respond to Sabin Dam, others will respond to Boardman Dam, etc.) and will have personnel accessing the sites from both the east and west sides
   - In the event of an imminent failure, a similar plan will be implemented but somewhat stepped down and will include road closures and citizen notification
   - All property owners located between Boardman and Sabin dams have been identified and encouraged to enroll in the County’s “Code Red” emergency notification program. As a courtesy, notification will be made by the County to enrollees at initiation of dewatering as well as completion
   - Bird is collaborating with Curt Weatherhead (Michels) to develop an evacuation procedure
   - The Boardman Dam powerhouse has been identified as the shelter of last resort in the event of tornadic activity or sky-to-ground lightning
   - Pick-up points include the substation parking lot on the east side of Boardman Dam and the TCAPS maintenance/bus garage on the west side
   - At the request of the Army Corps, a mock drill will be implemented the following Wednesday and will include calls to 911, response by fire and rescue, and deployment of signal horns
3.5 Boardman Dam project emergency management plan (cont.)

- Per a comment by Largent, the crossing at South Airport Road will be incorporated into the County’s crisis response plan, noting that since Sabin Pond is drawn down, it will serve to buffer the effects of a catastrophic failure at Boardman Dam.

DeHaan inquired as to the chain of events pertaining to media engagement and press releases. Ressl noted that there was an effort underway to develop a protocol and which includes the Army Corps media relations office in Detroit. There are two separate plans to consider, one being the crisis management (or “emergency action”) plan and the media (or “crisis communications”) response plan. Bird emphasized the need for joint, frequent, and consistent messaging. Schropp added that the Army Corps onsite point of contact for media is Alec Higgins.

In closing, Bird commended a Michel’s employee who rescued a turtle from Cass Road before it was hit. Bird had observed this while taking his children to the soccer fields off Keystone Road.

4. AECOM update: report and discussion (Dan DeVaun) – DeVaun presented the following updates on the local effort:

Sabin Dam

- Design work is complete with the exception of the MDEQ permit for which there will be a public hearing and open house on May 30 (2017) at the District nature center. There will be an open house from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and a public hearing from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in which the MDEQ will take public comment on the proposed project. Display boards are being produced and will be distributed in draft form to the IT prior to finalization.
- All Army Corps comments pertaining to design have been addressed and will perform “back-checks” at the 100% design stage.
- Cost estimates for construction have increased given the base-bid plus a 10% contingency, 4% escalation, 15% construction/engineering, and 5% administration. The resulting estimated cost is $3.9 million (base bid) with an additional $724,000 in options for a total cost of $4.6 million. Two items in particular are responsible for driving the cost up including an extension of the temporary coffer dam (requiring additional material) and possible repaving costs in the event the access road to the dam needs to be repaired during construction (discussion ensued regarding the relative merits of grinding up the asphalt post-project and developing a dirt/gravel access road at completion). DeVaun concluded the discussion by affirming confidence that any changes going forward would be minor in nature and adding that the project differs from the Boardman Dam removal in that the meander bends are tighter and a
4. **AECOM update (cont.)**

   **Sabin Dam (cont.)**

   dramatic topographic transition exists, both of which require additional large wood installation and vegetative plantings

   Discussion ensued relating to the estimate with DeVaun noting that of the $724,000 alternates estimate, $100,000 is required to remain. DeVaun also added that relying just on low bid is not a prudent option and have been utilizing the AECOM construction group out of Philadelphia to assist in developing cost estimates using MKC as required by the Army Corps. Funding was brought up with DeHaan inquiring as to whether or not the alternates could just sit. DeVaun and Schropp replied that unless you intend to absolutely perform the work, bids on alternate items will not be requested. If there is an intent to obtain estimates on alternate items, separate RFP’s may be developed and let aside from the main contract. Dituri asked how value engineering related to the process with Schropp noting that merely deleting tasks doesn’t constitute value engineering and involves alternate methodologies that could result in efficiencies that drive cost down. DeVaun concluded the discussion by suggesting that consideration be given to transferring unutilized funds from the Boardman Dam project to the Sabin Dam project.

   DeVaun brought up an additional consideration regarding Boardman Dam which was the haul/access routes that were to be developed on the exposed bottomlands and their ultimate fate post-project (i.e. left in place for monitoring and maintenance). If the intent is to keep them as permanent fixtures, permits will be required for the tributary crossings that will develop after dewatering is complete. DeVaun will need to obtain data as soon as possible to turn around a permit application (this activity would not be covered under the current permit) in an effort utilize the same contractor. AECOM will obtain a cost estimate from Michels to construct permanent crossings once data are acquired. In response to Largent’s question, DeVaun said he’d check in to how long a temporary crossing would be allowed to remain without a permit, but assumed it would be around three years as that’s the duration of the required monitoring.

   Additional items discussed included the following:
   - **Alpers river access:** the County will need to obtain quotes from and develop an agreement with a dirt contractor to construct an access per the settlement between the Alpers and the County. DeHaan indicated that the County may pursue two options, one being acquisition of three competitive bids or could operate under a purchase order with one quote if the work falls under a certain cost threshold
   - **Pedestrians using Cass Road Bridge:** since construction began at Boardman Dam, folks interested in the project have been parking along Cass Road and walking out onto the bridge. Cook indicated that Michels could obtain a temporary order from the County Road Commission to prohibit parking in the area and walking onto the bridge as it’s part of the
4. AECOM update (cont.)

- Construction site (and they have a temporary permit to work in the right-of-way). The police won’t enforce the restriction unless there is an order and there is signage
- Milestone announcement: will need a formal communication developed for media and stakeholder distribution once dewatering begins at Boardman Pond and turbidity increases downstream

Westerhof inquired of a construction schedule from the Army Corps as the USFWS Regional Director will be on site for the commencement of the Boardman Dam powerhouse demolition. Schropp indicated that the schedule may be released as early as the following day but could get the dates of interest prior.

5. Army Corps update: report (Chris Schropp)

Schropp provided the following Boardman Dam project updates on behalf of the Army Corps:

- Construction is progressing at Boardman Dam at both upstream and downstream ends of the project
- A partnering meeting was held the past Monday at the District nature center. Attendees included the Army Corps, the IT, and key staff from Michels
- Approximately 4’ has been removed from the top of the core wall in preparation for installation of the syphon tubes
- Syphon tubes are being fused and stockpiled at the top of the dam
- Silt fencing has been installed at all locations requiring its use
- On May 31 (2017), the District Commander will be in Traverse City to tour the project
- The alignment of the relic channel at the south end of the project has changed, will be expecting a proposal from AECOM the following week and have already issued a modification not to exceed $100,000

6. Monitoring and evaluation update: report (Winkler, Hettinger) – Various attendees reported on the status of the following items:

- The contract for the macroinvertebrate survey has been executed and GLEC will be in the field within the next couple weeks to sample
- A contract for surveying herpetofauna between Sabin Dam and Boardman Lake will be executed within the next week
- Staff from MDNR, GTB, and CRA participated in a fish shocking survey the prior Tuesday on the lower Boardman River between the mouth and Union Street Dam. Hettinger covered the observed species composition which will be included in a report to be completed prior to the FishPass meeting at the end of the month. Because the shocker boat couldn’t fit beneath the Cass Street Bridge, a third station may need to be developed to capture the section of river between the bridge and the weir. The two other stations included the mouth to Cass Street and the weir to Union Street Dam. Follow up surveys of the lower river in 2017 are scheduled for July, September, and December
7. Bi-directional fish passage project ("FishPass") update: report (Dan Zielinski) – Zielinski provided the following updates on the Selective Bi-directional Fish Passage Project:
   - GLFC executive secretary (Bob Lambe), science director (Andrew Muir), and communications director (Marc Gaden) met with several stakeholder groups and NGO to discuss the FishPass project. Responses were very positive. The GLFC will continue with these outreach opportunities by working with Mark Breederland (Sea Grant)
   - Final preparations are being made for the second FishPass workshop in Traverse City from May 31 – June 2 which will include:
     - ~60 scientists, engineers, agency representatives, and local representatives
     - Primary goal of the workshop is to evaluate several alternative concept designs and select a preferred design to move forward for public comment and engineering design
     - Other objectives include: developing an outreach and education plan and timeline, establish an advisory board, develop a plan of research, update funding strategies, develop 2017-18 assessment plans, and establish plans for an assessment database.
     - Day 1 of the workshop will entail an Boardman River tour and unveiling of the alternative design concepts
     - Day 2 will be a full day of discussion in plenary and task team meetings and reception with local government officials and heads of stakeholder groups
     - Day 3 will have additional discussions and selection of the preferred design and plan for Workshop III (which will be held in Traverse City in late 2017 / early 2018)

8. Bottomlands update: report (Largent) – Largent provided the following updates relating to bottomlands management:
   - approximately 4,500 seedlings were planted at Brown Bridge earlier in the spring (2017)
   - the large wood installation at Brown Bridge is complete, project closeout activities include removal of silt fence once sites are stabilized and final reporting to regulators
   - 100’ of cedar fencing was installed at the Lone Pine access but much of it had to be retrieved from the river as a result of someone having thrown it over the bank

9. Communications update: report (CRA) – Ressl reported that notes had been submitted to the Communications Team for review and that the various information distribution lists would be reviewed to ensure that they were up to date.

10. Funding updates: report (CRA/IT):
    Balke reported that Matt Thomas and Amy Beyer currently were meeting with the Frey Foundation regarding the funding committed to the Sabin Dam phase of the project. Thomas will also be convening a meeting soon with Rotary for the same purpose. These consultations are timely as the project team gains a clearer picture of the funding gap.
10. **Funding updates (cont.)**
Dituri reported that BIA funding was holding at originally awarded levels for 2017 ($450,000) and that a recent proposal to the GLFT resulted in very positive feedback.

11. **Open forum (IT):** The following items were offered by members of the IT:
Hettinger reported that a nationally televised show (“Wardens”) may profile the fish rescue effort being assisted by MDNR game wardens from Grand Traverse and Benzie counties.

Per a request by Westerhof, Schropp was able to ascertain that the Boardman Dam powerhouse demolition was scheduled on or about July 21 (2017).

Bob Stuber noted that the “Knowledge Capture” project that he’d been hired by the MHRC to implement will result in a draft report in the near future.

Dituri reported that the documentary being put together by GTB has premiered at the Leelanau Sands Casino and may have a follow-up showing at the State Theatre or the Grand Traverse Resort in late June or July (2017).

12. **Meeting closing:**
IT meeting agenda and action items were reviewed for June by Winkler.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.
**Action Items**

**New:**
- **Winkler** to distribute draft May IT meeting notes for review
- **Winkler** to have approved April IT meeting notes posted to the project website
- **AECOM** to have Michels develop a proposal to construct crossings at newly exposed tributaries at Boardman Pond
- **DeVaun** to inquire of MDEQ duration of temporary crossings
- **DeVaun** to obtain a bid from Michels on behalf of the County to construct the Alpers river access
- **Winkler** to forward to the IT the Army Corps and Michels’ daily and weekly updates
- **Hettinger** to forward lower Boardman River fish shocking survey report to **Winkler** for distribution to the IT
- **Cook** to check into temporary traffic restriction to curb drivers from parking along Cass Road to observe construction
- **Hettinger** to forward producer information to **Schropp** to relay to Michels for corporate filming policy information

**Pending:**
- **Dituri** to provide SEP final report to CRA for IT distribution
- **AECOM (DeVaun)** and **InterFluve** to develop a proposal for design/engineer work for eroding banks upstream of Boardman Pond
- **City** and **County** to prepare draft MOU for fund transfer to **GTB** for Sabin Dam project (per 2.16.17 work session)
- **DeVaun** to request monitoring plan status from the MDEQ
- **Shook** to distribute to IT (via **Winkler**) Brown Bridge large wood installation report once complete

**Discussion:** None
### Acronyms and Abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AECOM</td>
<td>Project engineer</td>
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<td>Bureau of Indian Affairs</td>
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<td>Brown Bridge</td>
<td>Brown Bridge Quiet Area and dam removal location</td>
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<td>Fish passage exploration project at Union Street Dam</td>
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<td>Michels</td>
<td>Boardman Dam removal project dirt contractor</td>
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<td>MOA</td>
<td>Memorandum of Agreement</td>
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