September Boardman River Dams Implementation Team Meeting
Approved Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, September 21, 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
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)

IT Members Present:
Frank Dituri (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Nate Winkler, Amy Beyer, Kim Balke (Conservation Resource Alliance)
Heather Hettinger (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)
Christine Crissman (Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay)
Bob Stuber, Jim Schramm (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)
Joe Slonecki (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)
Marty Colburn (City of Traverse City)
Jen DeHaan (Grand Traverse County)
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

IT Members Absent:
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Traverse City Light and Power Department
Charter Township of Garfield
Grand Traverse Conservation District

Non-IT Members Present:
Dan DeVaun (AECOM)
*Dan Zielinski
(Great Lakes Fishery Commission)
Chris Schropp, *Paul Powell
(US Army Corps of Engineers)

* attendance via conference line
1. **Welcome and introductions** – Introductions were made by those in attendance.

2. **Public comment** – None.

3. **Miscellaneous**

   **Agenda deletions/additions** – None.

   **Review and potential approval of the September IT meeting minutes** – Approved with no discussion.

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

   **Boardman Dam project photo report** – Balke noted the photo report she’d compiled and provided in the IT packet for review, adding that it would be updated as needed and additional milestones were achieved. The IT gave Balke kudos on the format and content of the report.

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

   **Boardman Dam**
   - AECOM staff continues to provide project oversight to the Corps
   - A modification to the construction contract is being prepared to address two issues including large wood installation in the new channel and bank stabilization. A third component, culvert replacements for newly exposed tributaries has been removed from the list
   - AECOM continues to assist District staff in trail network layout possibilities
   - The monitoring plan for pre and post project has been approved by MDEQ

   **Sabin Dam**
   - The project permit has been issued by MDEQ with caveats-these will involve changes that will affect the final design including spoil pile locations and sediment management specifications

   **Union Street Dam**
   - AECOM is working with the GLFC on a proposal for developing a 30% design at the proposed FishPass facility

Regarding the Boardman Dam project monitoring plan, Beyer inquired as to the level of rigor expected in future project monitoring plans i.e. if the Boardman Dam project monitoring plan is at a scale that will be required by the MDEQ on similar projects going forward. DeVaun
4. **AECOM update (cont.)**

indicated that it would be good to bring up with the MDEQ during the panel discussion at MARC in October (2017). An open dialogue with MDEQ may be effective at guiding the level of effort going forward on future projects-DeVaun suggested compiling a list of relevant questions prior to MARC and should be forwarded to himself. Westerhof asked as to whether the MDEQ was using this project as a “guinea pig” as no such plan was required for other similar projects (i.e. Lyons Dam, Brown Bridge Dam). DeVaun agreed that there was no requirement of a plan by MDEQ prior to the Ceresco Dam project with the exception of that covering snuff box mussel management at Lyons Dam. A final suggestion by Beyer was that the top three (ish) metrics be determined for a monitoring plan on a project that does not have unlimited resources.

A final comment was made by Slonecki regarding the status of the toe stone installation around the abutments under the new Cass Road Bridge-a measure of protection in the event of a 100 year flood event. DeVaun indicated that he’d check with Michels as far as the schedule for doing so, also noting that at this point the river is currently flowing nowhere near the abutments.

5. **Army Corps update: report (Chris Schropp)**

Schropp and Powell provided the following project updates on behalf of the Corps:

**Sabin Dam**
- the GTB has countersigned the PPA for the Sabin Dam removal project and will be hosting a signing ceremony on the 13 October (2017)
- the Corps has been approved to receive $100,000 for FY 18’ and is available for use

**Boardman Dam**
- excavation continues especially in regard to channel construction as well as the powerhouse and associated works (i.e intake structure), floodplain cutting and grading, and sediment management
- the haul road has been completed between the south and north ends of the project
- a task to follow will be the road bed construction of Cass Road
- proposals are being solicited for the construction of a coffer dam at the auxiliary spillway which will control the rate of drawdown for the remainder of the impoundment

6. **Monitoring and evaluation update: report (Winkler)** – Winkler reported on the following items:

- the GLEC final report for the 2016 macroinvertebrate survey has still not been finalized and received by CRA-as such, CRA is withholding payment for the 2016 work. The 2017 report is also under construction with no firm date on completion
- the final herpetofauna survey report has been received from HRM by CRA for the work performed between Sabin Dam and South Airport Road in 2017
Monitoring and evaluation update (cont.)

- the redd survey CRA will be performing should begin near the middle of October when brook trout were observed first spawning during last year’s survey. The final report from the 2016 effort is nearing completion and will be distributed to project partners for review and comment.

Hettinger provided the following updates from the MDNR perspective:

- the multiple-pass population survey below Sabin Dam is scheduled for the following Monday. Dituri noted that the conditions below Sabin Dam currently are much different than they were last year when the survey work was first initiated-Hettinger indicated that the differing conditions (i.e. extreme turbidity) will be acknowledged in whatever report is produced.
- the weir on the lower river is currently in operation and will be for an additional four weeks. Genetics sampling is occurring as well as the implantation of PIT tags into fish species being passed above the weir. Westerhof inquired as to the reason for the tissue sampling for genetics analysis which Hettinger explained as pertaining to the FishPass project.

Bi-directional fish passage project (“FishPass”) update: report (Andrew Muir, Dan Zielinski)

Zielinski provided the following updates on the FishPass project:

- recent presentation was made to the City Commission regarding the project with several questions from commissioners on accidental passing of undesirable fish species.
- GLFC is working with AECOM on a proposal for 30% design of the FishPass facility.
- a public open house will be held on 10 October (2017) during the afternoon and evening which will include staffed informational stations and the unveiling of an updated conceptual rendering.
- a project assessment plan is being initiated which includes the aforementioned genetics and PIT tag telemetry studies to provide a measure of baseline conditions prior to project construction. The PIT tag reader/antennae will be installed at the end of October (2017) just above and below Union Street Dam and near the mouth of the river.
- the DIDSON camera has been removed from its location just above the weir and the resulting imagery is under review—a report is expected in another month or two.
- Marc Gaden with the GLFC recently gave a project update to NMC students.

Westerhof inquired as to a timetable for a decision regarding fish species passage above Union Street Dam. Hettinger replied that MDNR Fish Chief Jim Dexter and Central Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator Jay Wesley have taken over that process. Schramm added that the issue will be taken up at the upcoming Lake Michigan Technical Committee meeting.
8. **Bottomlands Update: report, proposal, discussion (Largent):** The following items were offered by Largent (via Dituri):
   - the District will be submitting a proposal to the NRCS to fund reforestation of the Boardman Pond bottomlands through their EQIP program

9. **Communications update: report (CRA/IT):** The following items were offered by the IT:
   - an outline of the 2018 communications work plan is under construction by CRA and CML and will be shared with the IT once complete
   - based on recent article in the Record Eagle which contained erroneous project information on the part of interviewees, there should be a stepped up level of effort to get correct information out to stakeholders
   - CRA has been supporting the FishPass process by distributing project information to stakeholders
   - Beyer and Dituri will be presenting on the project at the HOW conference in Buffalo, New York in October (2017) as well as to the Brownfield Redevelopment Committee

DeVaun reiterated that the PPA has been finalized and that sub-recipient agreements have been formalized as well which will allow funding to flow to the (Sabin Dam) project.

10. **Funding update: report (Amy Beyer)**
    Beyer covered the following updates:
    - materials in the meeting packet were covered especially with regard to Sabin Dam project funding
    - primary concern currently is flow of funding in a timely manner-the last few months have been focused on gearing up for funding flow which will activate Sabin Dam project bidding and contracting
    
    Colburn added that the City reaffirmed the importance of the FishPass project to the community during a visit by Kevin O’Donnell with the EPA and Keith Creigh, Director of the MDNR.

11. **Open Forum:** The following items were offered by members of the IT:
    - Schramm requested clarification on the next meeting dates after October which are November 9th and December 14th
    - Crissman announced that the Freshwater Summit will be held in Traverse City on 20 October (2017)
    - Beyer announced CRA’s biennial meeting which will be held at Black Star Farms in Suttons Bay on 20 October

12. **Meeting Closing:** Meeting action items were reviewed by Winkler and subsequently the meeting was adjourned.
**Action Items**

**New:**
- **Winkler** to distribute draft September IT meeting notes for review
- **Winkler** to have approved August IT meeting notes posted to the project website
- **Colburn** or **DeHaan** to assign alternate IT chair for October’s meeting due to absence of **Dituri**
- **Balke** to make photos from photo report available via Dropbox for IT use

**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
- **Shook** to distribute to **IT (via Winkler)** Brown Bridge large wood installation report once complete
- **Hettinger** to forward fish data from surveys to **Winkler** for inclusion in the project file
- **Hettinger** to inquire of **Dexter** whether or not he’d tapped grassroots conservation groups regarding fish species passage for the Boardman River and relay to **Winkler**

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

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>AECOM</td>
<td>Project engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown Bridge</td>
<td>Brown Bridge Quiet Area and dam removal location</td>
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<tr>
<td>CML</td>
<td>CML Marketing and Communications (communications contractor)</td>
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<td>City</td>
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<td>Corps or Army Corps</td>
<td>United States Army Corps of Engineers</td>
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<td>CRA</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIDSON</td>
<td>Dual frequency IDentification SONar camera for capturing fish images underwater</td>
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<td>FishPass</td>
<td>Fish passage exploration project at Union Street Dam</td>
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<td>Boardman Dam project dirt contractor</td>
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**Acronyms and Abbreviations (cont.)**

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