October Boardman River Dams Implementation Team Meeting
APPROVED Meeting Notes

**Date:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 1:30 pm

**Facilitator:** Marty Colburn, City of Traverse City

**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:

- **Nate Winkler, Kim Balke** (Conservation Resource Alliance)
- **Heather Hettinger** (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)
- **Steve Largent** (Grand Traverse Conservation District)
- **Jim Schramm** (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)
- **Jim Cook** (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)
- **Marty Colburn** (City of Traverse City)
- **Rick Westerhof** (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
- **Jen DeHaan** (Grand Traverse County)

### IT Members Absent:

- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay
- Traverse City Light and Power Department
- Charter Township of Garfield
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

### Non-IT Members Present:

- **Dan DeVaun** (AECOM)

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

2. **Public comment** – None.

3. **Miscellaneous**

   * **Agenda deletions/additions** – Since there was no representation from the Army Corps the Army Corps update was deleted and the issue of Sabin Dam maintenance was added.

   * **Review and potential approval of the September IT meeting minutes** – Approved with a correction by Westerhof which was that he was in attendance of the September IT meeting but listed as absent.

   * **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.

   * **Project manager’s 3rd quarter report** – Colburn noted the report being included in the meeting packet for IT review and comment. A discussion followed regarding comments on turbidity in final paragraph of the report with Colburn commenting that the City had been getting questions from the public on turbidity. Additionally, Westerhof inquired as to the nature of the sedimentation issue noted in the paragraph. To Colburn’s question, DeVaun attributed the turbid conditions to not only the cleaning of the trash racks by County DPW personnel but also that by nature, dam removal projects induce high levels of turbidity vis a vis the suspended organic sediment in the water column due to in-channel construction and dewatering. To Westerhof’s inquiry, DeVaun indicated that Michels had initially not anticipated the level of sediment management required as a result of their dewatering procedure and as a result excess coarse sediment had passed out of the Boardman Dam project into Sabin Pond. Given both the environmental and financial considerations of excess coarse sediment movement, DeVaun apprised both the Corps and Michels of the importance of managing the sediment where it was (i.e. Boardman Dam project). This will have the effect of minimizing the negative effects of sedimentation on downstream habitats and also minimizing the extra cost to both the Corps and the local project team in managing sediment during the Sabin Dam removal.

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

   * **Sabin Dam**
     * MDEQ has completed their review of the project plans and specifications that accompanied the JPA. The agency has lingering questions regarding particular aspects of...
4. **AECOM update (cont.)**

**Sabin Dam**
- the project plans including large wood installation which AECOM and InterFluve are addressing
- The project bid package is complete and it’s expected that the contract procedure will be that of lowest qualified bid as opposed to the Boardman Dam project which was included a “value engineering” process to select the contractor

**Boardman Dam**
- The powerhouse demolition is complete and all debris has been removed from the site
- The Cass Road roadbed has been completed in the area of the former one-lane bridge and paving is complete. The road may be striped the following week as well as application of topsoil and seed on the adjacent shoulders and embankments
- Reopening of Cass Road is pending completion of construction activities that require crossing back and forth of equipment and material at that location
- Final stages of dewatering of Boardman Pond have been initiated at the cofferdam constructed at the inlet of the relic channel. This is also serving as a sediment removal location where track-hoes can continually bail coarse sediment out of the channel for eventual trucking to spoil piles
- Work in the next three weeks will be focused on rough floodplain grading as well as installation of large wood
- The current schedule calls for a final site dress up including “dig and pitch” (excavation of pools on the outside of meander bends with the deposition of spoils on the inside of meander bends, all within the channel below the ordinary high water mark) in late spring/early summer (2018)
- Continuing to work with the District on recreational trail alignments, the sum of which will require permit modifications from MDEQ
- Additional items for MDEQ consideration include newly and exposed tributary crossings on the bottomlands as well as temporary wetland impacts (i.e. equipment access trails), of which there will be no net shift in area affected. Alternatives to culvert tributary crossings include fords in conjunction with boardwalks

5. **Monitoring and evaluation update: report (Winkler)** – Winkler reported on the following items:
- the redd survey will be performed in the near future, as trout have been observed on completed redds in the survey reaches
- the herpetofauna survey final report has been received and will be posted to the project website
- the macroinvertebrate survey final report has not been received from GLEC for either the 2016, 2017 but will post to the website once it has been received
5. **Monitoring and evaluation update (cont.)**

Hettinger provided the following updates from the MDNR perspective:

- the multiple-pass population survey below Sabin Dam has been postponed until conditions for electrofishing improve. Currently the river is too turbid for proper execution of the survey (i.e. visibility, electrical conductance)
- the weir grates on the lower river are scheduled to be pulled the following Monday or Tuesday as the salmon run is winding down
- the lower river electrofishing event for fall is scheduled for the following Monday and will be a joint effort between MDNR and the GTB

6. **Bi-directional fish passage project (“FishPass”) update: report (Colburn)** – Colburn provided a brief update on the FishPass project primarily related to the public open house on 10 October. Approximately 25-30 attendees were present for each session (one in the morning and evening).

7. **Bottomlands update: report, proposal, discussion (Largent):** The following items were offered by Largent:

- the District will be submitting a proposal to the NRCS to fund reforestation of the Boardman Pond bottomlands through their EQIP program
- the District is coordinating a trail hike which will occur the following day at the Boardman Dam project site
- terrestrial invasive species management work continues at Brown Bridge by the District
- the District continues to monitor the large wood installation in the Brown Bridge stretch
- the Coast Guard transported sling loads of fieldstone to protect the Grasshopper Creek pedestrian bridge abutments

8. **Sabin Dam maintenance update: report, proposal, discussion (Largent, DeHaan):** Largent led the discussion by reporting on the following items:

- a large amount of coarse wood and leaves being hung up on the trash racks at Sabin Dam requiring removal by County DPW personnel
- a cleaning system utilizing a winch is being considered/developed which would make cleaning the racks a less labor intensive process
- the level of debris requiring attention is a direct result of the dam removal project (i.e. Boardman Dam removal)

Colburn inquired as to the effect of the project on Boardman Lake to which Largent responded that there should be no effect.
8. **Sabin Dam maintenance update (cont.)**
   DeHaan added that the County needs funding for dam maintenance from the IT and/or other project partners especially in keeping the trash racks free of debris as it is a result of the Boardman Dam removal. Balke noted that similar racks at the downstream end of any river system would accumulate debris (i.e. Sabin Dam materials are not solely a response to construction activities upstream, especially during the fall).

   Westerhof recommended replacing the trash rack cleaning rakes which were sold to and subsequently removed by Charles Peterson.

   DeHaan indicated that the County maintenance budget was nil and posed the question of the project team hiring Michels or Elmers to routinely clean the racks with their equipment to which Balke responded there’s no project mechanism for doing so until Sabin Dam removal construction phase is under contract between USACE and their chosen construction contractor.

   Discussion ensued as to which entity (TCL&P, County) actually sold the rakes and allowed them to be removed.

9. **Communications update: report (CRA/IT):** The following items were offered by the IT:
   - Winkler and DeVaun will be presenting on the project at the MARC the following week at Boyne Mountain
   - Largent will be presenting on the project at “Leadership Grand Traverse”

10. **Funding update: report (Amy Beyer)**
    Winkler directed the team’s attention to the items included in the meeting packet. There were no follow up questions but there were comments as noted below:
    - Colburn commented that he’d had difficulty with the color coding utilized in the funding summary
    - Westerhof clarified that the USFWS award reported was actually two combined awards-$200,000 from the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, $40,000 from the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership programs
    - Balke reported that CRA recently submitted a $100,000 funding request proposal to Rotary

11. **Open Forum:** The following items were offered by members of the IT:
    - Colburn reported that the Brown Bridge Advisory Committee would be discussing fish passage, specifically species selected for upstream passage. Hettinger asked if it would be helpful for MDNR staff to weigh in or make themselves available which Colburn agreed would be beneficial. Largent and Winkler noted that the ACTU would appreciate a similar audience with MDNR to which Hettinger replied that the City should make the request with ACTU making a secondary request
11. **Open Forum (cont.)**
   - Westerhof requested that Winkler provide a copy of the letter he (Winkler) submitted to the USFWS, GTB, City, and MDNR for the IT to review relative to the fish passage issue

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

**Action Items**

**New:**
- **Winkler** to distribute draft October IT meeting notes for review
- **Winkler** to have approved September IT meeting notes posted to the project website
- **Colburn** to request an audience with **MDNR** on behalf of the Brown Bridge Advisory Committee regarding to fish passage
- **Winkler** to provide IT with correspondence he’d submitted regarding fish passage

**Pending:**
- **Dituri** to provide SEP final report to **CRA** for IT distribution
- **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>ACTU</td>
<td>Adams Chapter Trout Unlimited</td>
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<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>City</td>
<td>City of Traverse 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>FishPass</td>
<td>Fish passage exploration project at Union Street Dam</td>
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<td>Michels</td>
<td>Boardman Dam project dirt contractor</td>
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<td>Acronyms and Abbreviations (cont.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRCS</td>
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