March Boardman River Dams Implementation Team Meeting
Approved Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 1:30 pm
Facilitator: Frank Dituri, 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:
Marty Colburn, Frank Dituri (City of Traverse City)
DJ Shook (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Nate Winkler, Amy Beyer, Kim Balke, Casey Ressl (Conservation Resource Alliance)
Bob Stuber (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)
Joe Slonecki (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
Dean Bott (Grand Traverse County)
Heather Hettinger
(Michigan Department of Natural Resources)

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

Non-IT Members Present:
Dan DeVaun (AECOM)
Paul Powell*
(US Army Corps of Engineers)
Charlie Weaver
(Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council)
Dan Zielinski* (Great Lakes Fishery Commission)

* 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 February IT meeting notes – Approved with an edit suggested by Shook, relating to the “Bottomlands” agenda item. The duration of tree planting will be 1.5 years and not 15 years.

Action item review from the February 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.

Discussion occurred as follows relating to the following “New” items:
None

Discussion occurred relating to “Pending” items:
None

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

Boardman Dam
• some thawing occurring at the project site with isolated instances of gullying. Michels personnel were on site the prior week to address issues of gullying and compromised silt fence
• MDEQ and County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control personnel were on site to evaluate conditions relating to bank stabilization, future trail alignment and grading, tributary crossings (fords were endorsed by agency folks but only preliminarily until site conditions stabilized and can be re-evaluated)
• Michels is planning to remobilize to site upon lifting of frost laws. Work remaining includes channel shaping, floodplain and bank grading, slope stabilization, and seeding
• the permit allowing construction access off Cass Road is still in need of transfer from Michels to the District
• per a comment from Dituri, paddler warning signage was needing to be reevaluated for the upcoming season. DeVaun indicated signage would be re-posted and also reiterated that the Olson Bridge trail crossing is the last take out (with Lone Pine as only an emergency take-out)
4. AECOM update (cont.)

Sabin Dam
- AECOM is currently working with the Corps on final construction bid documents
- the current schedule calls for construction in early summer 2018
- the Corps was unable to survey Sabin Pond to evaluate sediment accumulation but did obtain survey of relic channel at Boardman Dam/Pond site
- per a question from Shook, DeVaun indicated that AECOM would continue serving in EDC role with InterFluve as subcontractor for channel restoration work

Union Street Dam
- 30% design submittal for FishPass was presented at last month’s open house in Traverse City with the 65% design submittal under development with long-lead item work having been initiated

5. Army Corps update: report (Paul Powell)
Powell provided the following project updates on behalf of the Corps:

Boardman Dam (none)

Sabin Dam
- The Detroit District contracting and business office review are currently evaluating the final draft of the construction contract and expect the request for bids to hit the streets sometime between 26 and 28 March (2018)-will be posted on the County website
- There will be a 30 day bid period with a late April (2018) bid opening (the bid opening will be broadcasted live in the event partners choose to participate)
- Pre-award documents scheduled for release on 22 May (2018) with a mid June (2018) contractor mobilization to site
- The AECOM EDC contract is forthcoming

5.5 NMEAC proposal to join IT as ex-officio member: report, discussion (Charlie Weaver, IT)-
Charlie Weaver, Board Member of NMEAC, discussed the following:
- NMEAC is interested in all aspects of the environment in their service area including the dam removal project on the Boardman River
- NMEAC is especially interested in the FishPass project and the potential consequences of passing certain species of fish upstream of Union Street Dam
- Per a question from Colburn, Mr. Weaver did not know whether or not NMEAC had taken formal action to request a seat on the IT-Dituri followed up by saying that the FishPass team presented to NMEAC but no formal recommendation came out of that meeting
5.5 **NMEAC proposal to join IT as ex-officio member: (cont.)**

Beyer followed up by describing varying roles of official and ex-officio members of the IT as set forth in the Settlement Agreement. Stuber noted the response he’d received from Jim Schramm which referenced the option to add ex-officio members through a decision by the voting members of the IT. Shook added that the NMEAC Board of Directors may want to evaluate what it means to be on the IT and what it hopes to accomplish. Westerhof provided clarification relating to the IT’s role in the FishPass project including that final decision as to which species to pass not being the purview of the IT (it will be that of the MDNR and GTB).

Hettinger pointed out that between the removal of Sabin Dam and the point at which FishPass becomes operational, the fish ladder at Union Street Dam will be blocked so that no fish may utilize it. FishPass is expected to be operational sometime around 2025. Hettinger added that in the meantime, fish eDNA analysis will be performed on water samples taken from the Boardman River as well as fish shocking surveys.

Shook followed up with a question for Hettinger: would the Michigan NRC have any say in a final decision on fish species passage-Hettinger responded that the NRC only weighs in on regulatory issues and not involved at the local level. To Beyer’s question as to whether the MDNR has made a decision or not on which species to pass, Hettinger responded that they had not.

Looping back around to the question at hand, Stuber advised Mr. Weaver to convene a meeting with the NMEAC Board and discuss approaching the IT with a formal request to join as an ex-officio member, a notion with which Mr. Weaver agreed.

6. **Monitoring and Evaluation Team update: report, discussion (Winkler)** – Winkler reported that an RFP for the 2018 macroinvertebrate survey work was distributed the prior week with proposals due on 21 March 2018. The RFP included a requirement by prospective contractors to apply the sampling protocol utilized by the Au Sable Institute during the years prior to GLEC taking over project

DeVaun followed up with a summary of sediment monitoring work planned relating to both the Boardman and Sabin dam removals as follows:

**Boardman Dam Post Construction**
A monitoring plan and effort is required by MDEQ to evaluate the effects on the river as a result of the dam removal. The GTB has committed to take the lead and will be utilizing a sediment quantification tool being developed by Stream Mechanics (due to be complete in June 2018). Sediment monitoring will not commence until after construction is complete and as-built drawings are produced.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation Team update:** (cont.)

**Boardman Dam Post Construction** (cont.)
The MDEQ requires monitoring of the following parameters for at least three years: vegetation, geomorphology, and performance of constructed large wood jams. Over the course of the monitoring period, three bankfull flow events need to occur otherwise the monitoring period will be extended to achieve that number (of bankfull flow events). If any deficiencies are observed, adaptive management will be considered between the project partners. If adaptive management is instituted, the three-year time frame for monitoring will be re-initiated.

**Sabin Dam**
The same requirements as above apply to the Sabin Dam removal project. A draft monitoring plan has been submitted by AECOM to MDEQ but to date, no comments have been received.

**Sabin Dam During Construction**
The Corps will implement monitoring between the Sabin Dam site and South Airport Road. Four transects will be established across the channel in the project reach as well as installation of staff gages. Observations will be made on any changes to geomorphology at the transects and the depth of water at the staff gage locations.

**Sabin Dam-South Airport Road Optional Monitoring**
InterFluve provided the project team with a proposal to perform optional monitoring between the Sabin Dam site and South Airport Road. This would entail more detailed data acquisition and analysis, including a bathymetric survey, both pre and post construction. (Balke pointed out that funding is still required for the requisite Sabin Dam monitoring efforts, and that the InterFluve contract would be an additional unfunded project.)

Hettinger concluded the discussion by reporting that MDNR would be working in cooperation with the GTB to obtain fish data as follows:

- eDNA sampling at Boardman Lake and tissue sampling targeting walleye and yellow perch
- lower Boardman River shocking assessment in early May, obtaining eDNA samples and tissue from smallmouth bass and white sucker for genetic analysis
- single-pass presence/absence shocking assessment at Brown Bridge Road
- two-pass shocking assessment at Ranch Rudolf in August, also obtaining eDNA samples and tissue from brown and brook trout for genetic analysis
- fish assessments downstream of Sabin Dam site will occur in fall 2019

7. **Bi-directional fish passage (FishPass) update: report (Dan Zielinski)** – Zielinski provided the following updates on behalf of the GLFC:

- Comments received on the FishPass facility 30% draft submittal are still being considered and evaluated
7. **Bi-directional fish passage (FishPass) update:** (cont.)
   - currently the scope of work for the 65% and 100% draft submittal is being generated
   - a graphic for the FishPass project logo has been selected via solicitation from the community
   - outreach meetings are being planned and will be convened in Traverse City and an update is planned for the County Commission in April (2018)
   - will plan to present the FishPass facility 30% draft submittal during the next IT meeting
   - the FishPass team is planning to engage with local angler groups to gage interest in the project, especially which facets they are most keen on
   - plans are in the works for the FishPass team to meet with local stakeholder groups in an effort to raise funds for the project
   - the GLFC and Corps will co-host a meeting with the City Commission to discuss the current project timeline and budget
   - GLFC personnel were in town to deploy the DIDSON camera at the salmon weir but ran into technical issues and subsequently rescheduled deployment for the following week

8. **Bottomlands update: report, discussion (IT) –** Prior to the meeting, Largent provided the following information to Winkler with regard to bottomlands maintenance and restoration:
   - two weeks ago during the warm spell, four Conservation District staff, with the help of five AmeriCorps ladies on loan from the Conservancy and three Natural Resource Department guys from the GT Band, placed 17 ton of rock rip-rap along the south abutment at the Grasshopper Bridge at Brown Bridge
   - the Conservation District is planning to apply for a Consumer’s Energy Foundation Grant in late May to help install landing above Boardman Dam for kayaks and canoes. *If selected, funding is not expected to be awarded until July or August.* Therefore, we need to get all interested parties together and figure out a plan on how we’re going to provide a place for canoes and kayaks to exit the river in the interim given Sabin Dam removal will start before then and people are going to be itching to paddle this new section of river. The County has a few thousand dollars set aside for this but I’m sure it will take more than that. To that end, I plan to touch base with you, Kris Erickson, Dan DeVaun, Kim, our staff and anyone else we think needs to be there after the snow goes away and we can see better what we’re dealing with
   - the Conservation District was invited to submit a full proposal for the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Grant Program for the “Boardman River: Brown Bridge – Aquatic Habitat Improvement & Bank Stabilization Project Using Wood – Phase-II.” The full proposal is due March 30th
   - Rotary’s Friends of the Boardman group is planning to issue a check from their Gourmet Dinner proceeds for the Brown’s Landing Bridge that will be matched by the City’s Brown Bridge Trust Parks Improvement Funds. Construction is expected to begin late summer
   - the Conservation District is working closely with County Parks & Recreation to submit a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for a footbridge over the new section of river at the end of the Lone Pine Trail in the vicinity of Station 210+00. Initial discussion was to apply for funding to place a bridge at the Sabin Dam location but not
8. **Bottomlands update: (cont.)**

having a good idea of how to make the west end of the bridge ADA accessible at this time it was decided to move the focus of this grant proposal to Lone Pine where, after meeting with Jason Plum from AECOM, it appears the grades will work out well from an ADA standpoint. This bridge will connect the trail system at the South end of the NER, including the TART’s Boardman River Trail that, once complete, will extend from the City 42 miles through the Boardman Valley to the North Country Trail north of Brown Bridge

- Reb continues to coordinate with DJ Shook regarding EQIP funding for the NER. When done, it is expected that 15,000-20,000 native trees and shrubs will be planted in the Boardman bottomlands
- continued to assist and communicate with CRA in the coordination and prioritization of Wildlife & Wetland Solution’s 2018 bottomlands treatment (to occur before funding expires August 1st)
- the Conservation District is also working in partnership with CRA and AECOM to restore two severely eroding banks above the former impoundment
- the Conservation District has secured through the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network, 5-6 acres worth of high quality upland and wetland seed mixes earmarked for Boardman bottomlands restoration
- Urban and Community Forestry Grant (already awarded $1980), 2018 ISN Restoration Funds (proposal of $1000), and Mike Kandel Memorial Funds (already received $200) all dedicated towards the planting of mature saplings near the slated Boardman Landing area

9. **Communications update: report, discussion (CRA/IT)** – Ressl provided the following with regard to communications:

- the final draft IT contact list has been distributed to the IT
- a new map has been developed to illustrate the project with Boardman Dam removed
- a project update is being planned by the project team for the City Commission later in the month

10. **Funding update: report, discussion (CRA/IT)** – Beyer indicated that there was nothing to report and referenced Largent’s earlier report.

11. **Open Forum: (IT)** – Members of the IT offered the following items for consideration:

- Westerhof recommended IT participation in “World Fish Migration Day” on 21 April (2018). Zielinski added that there was familiarity on his part with the event through his participation in the International Fish Passage Group and commented that it would be a great collaboration. Westerhof committed to sending Winkler information relating to the event
12. **Meeting Closing:** Meeting action items were reviewed and clarified by Winkler.

**Public Comment:** The following attendees offered the following:

- Chelsea Nester from the Inland Seas Education Association presented on opportunities to have interns imbedded in the project to assist in mapping and incorporation of GIS technology. Funding for the interns would come through the GRACE project which is sponsored by Eastern Michigan University
- Charlie Weaver offered accolades to the team for carrying such a complex project through completion to this point. Mr. Weaver followed up with a question as to whether or not macroinvertebrates would be monitored near Ranch Rudolf. Winkler responded that the current effort regarding macroinvertebrates relates to evaluating the effect of the dam removal project on their population, and Ranch Rudolf is upstream of the affected area (so, no current plans to evaluate near Ranch Rudolf)

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

**Action Items**

**New:**
- **Winkler** to distribute draft March IT meeting notes for review
- **Ressl** to have approved February IT meeting notes posted to the project website
- **Winkler** to update and distribute project monitoring chart
- **Westerhof** to provide **Winkler** with World Fish Migration Day information
- **Ressl** to distribute **Hettinger** interview to IT
- **Ressl/Winkler** to apprise **Dituri** on details of new Boardman River landowner visit
- **Road Commission** to reiterate need for transference of temporary permit for the Cass Road equipment entrance from **Michels** to the **District**

**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
- **Derenzy** to check with **Scott Howard** regarding Brownfield funds (GTB awaiting attachments for Council review before Brownfield process finalization)
- **Largent** and **Ratliff** to populate funding chart and forward to **Beyer**
- **Beyer** to draft “thank you” letter to private philanthropy groups, **IT** to review
- **Zielinski** to forward draft letter from Corps and GLFC to **Winkler**, **IT** to review
### Acronyms and Abbreviations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADA</td>
<td>Americans with Disabilities Act</td>
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<td>AECOM</td>
<td>Project engineer</td>
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<td>Brown Bridge</td>
<td>Brown Bridge Quiet Area</td>
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<td>Brownfield</td>
<td>Funding program to redevelop industrial sites</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>
<td>Conservation Resource Alliance</td>
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<td>Detroit District</td>
<td>Detroit District of the Army Corps of Engineers</td>
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<td>DIDSON</td>
<td>Dual frequency identification sonar</td>
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<td>Engineering Design Contract</td>
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<td>eDNA</td>
<td>Environmental deoxyribonucleic acid</td>
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<td>EQIP</td>
<td>Environmental Quality Incentives Program</td>
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<td>FishPass</td>
<td>Fish passage exploration project at Union Street Dam</td>
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<td>GIS</td>
<td>Geographic Information Systems</td>
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<td>GLEC</td>
<td>Great Lakes Environmental Center</td>
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<td>Great Lakes Fishery Commission</td>
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<td>GRACE</td>
<td>GIS Resources and Applications for Career Education</td>
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<td>InterFluve</td>
<td>Project river restoration consultant</td>
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<td>ISN</td>
<td>Invasive Species Network</td>
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<td>Boardman River Dams Settlement Agreement Implementation Team</td>
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<td>Acronyms and Abbreviations (cont.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDEQ</td>
<td>Michigan Department of Environmental Quality</td>
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<td>Boardman River Dams Settlement Agreement (document guiding dam disposition)</td>
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