June Boardman River Dams Implementation Team Meeting
Approved Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, June 14, 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)

Voting IT Members Present:
Frank Dituri (City of Traverse City)
DJ Shook, Brett Fessell (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
Dean Bott (Grand Traverse County)
Bob Stuber (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)
Heather Hettinger (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)

Non-voting IT Members Present:
Nate Winkler, Amy Beyer, Kim Balke (Conservation Resource Alliance)
Jim Cook (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)
Christine Crissman (Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay)
Steve Largent, Reb Ratliff (Grand Traverse Conservation District)

Non-IT Members Present:
Dan Zielinski, Reid Swanson (Great Lakes Fishery Commission)
Carl Platz* (US Army Corps of Engineers)
Jason Plum (AECOM)
Charlie Weaver (NMEAC)
Richard Wertz (local stakeholder)

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

2. **Public comment** – None.

3. **Miscellaneous**

   **Agenda deletions/additions** – Winkler requested an update on County leadership which Bott said he could provide.

   **Review and potential approval of the May IT meeting notes** – Approved with the following edits:
   - **Charlie Weaver**: Mr. Weaver had noted between meetings via email that he had in fact been present at the May meeting but was not noted as such in the draft notes.

   - **Amy Beyer**: Beyer recommended edits to verbiage in the funding update.

   - **Steve Largent**: Largent noted incorrect locations indicated for planting efforts by volunteers in the bottomlands update.

   **Action item review from the May 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” or “Pending” items:**

   - None

4. **AECOM update: report and discussion (Jason Plum)** – Plum presented the following updates on the local effort:
  - **Boardman Dam**
    - The Corps is coordinating with Michels on a return date for arrival at the site
    - Bank stabilization permit applications and preliminary grading plans of access sites and tributary fords are being considered by MDEQ
    - MDEQ has noted several issues relating to the site including lack of both protective vegetation and final stabilization of slopes
  - **Sabin Dam**
    - The project has been awarded to Jobsite Services of Bay City, MI
    - Currently a pre-construction meeting is being scheduled
  - **Union Street Dam**
    - The FishPass final scope is being developed

5. **Army Corps update: report (Paul Powell)**

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

   - **Sabin Dam**
     - Reiteration of project award and added that Jobsite Services staff should be on site by sometime around the last part of June (2018)
     - Working to identify additional funding for “add-ons” and will need non-federal share of costs
5. Army Corps update (cont.)

Boardman Dam

- Informed the group that Michels is not contractually obligated to have all work wrapped up until the end of 2018
- Alec Higgins will be back on site sometime in June (2018)
- Regarding the concerns MDEQ has with the condition of the site, MDEQ and the Corps are currently in discussions on how to rectify

6. IT co-chairperson nomination and selection: discussion, potential decision (Dituri) – Dituri provided background on the issue of chairing the IT and included the following:

- Colburn was the prior co-chair but there is a need to have additional assistance
- During prior IT meetings, Fessell had been nominated by Dituri and Stuber by Largent
- Fessell reported that the GTB tribal council had taken up the issue of his being the co-chairperson and approved
- Stuber interjected that there were enough qualified people on the IT that in the event a co-co-chair was needed, one of the voting members of the IT could be tapped to assist. Dituri agreed and added that he hoped folks would recognize when there was a need and step up if necessary
- In response to Crismann’s question, Dituri said that anything sent to Dituri for consideration would also be copied to Fessell as a redundancy
- Per the above discussion, Fessell was designated the official co-chair of the IT

6.5 County leadership update: report, discussion (Dean Bott) – Bott shared the following:

- The County board has selected County Undersheriff (“undersheriff”) Nate Alger for the position of County Administrator
- Alger has been in law enforcement in Grand Traverse County his whole career beginning in the mid-1990’s
- Alger will remain the undersheriff for the foreseeable future
- Bott will be the point of contact as far as Boardman dams project-related issues

7. Monitoring and Evaluation Team update: report, discussion (CRA) – Winkler reported that the Au Sable Institute has deployed crews to sample macroinvertebrates in the Boardman River during the first week of June (2018). They are currently in the process of identifying the individual organisms within each sample.

Hettinger provided an updated schedule for 2018 MDNR fisheries assessments including July 17 for Brown Bridge, August 7 and 8 at Ranch Rudolph, and the schedule for the lower river through town is still to be determined.

Largent reported that the temperature loggers currently deployed in the Boardman River will remain in place through August (2018).

Beyer asked of AECOM as to schedule for monitoring requirements at Sabin Dam. Plum replied that MDEQ had submitted comments on the draft plan and that those comments were currently being considered. Fessell added that Will Harman (StreamMechanics) will be in town on July 30 (2018) and added the monitoring cannot begin until Michels completes grading and shaping of channel and floodplain but at least plan to get the reference sites set up.
8. **FishPass update: report (Dan Zielinski)** – Zielinski provided the following particulars:

-Introduced Reid Swanson, contract fish biologist for the FishPass project, who is being housed at CRA’s offices
-Provided an overview of the angler groups workshop hosted by the GLFC the month prior in which various angler groups were given an opportunity to weigh in on fish passage in general and the FishPass project in particular. Over 100 issues were brought up which were whittled down to twenty-four issue statements with five primary issues taking up the majority of the time: rigor of project site selection, effect of passage of Great Lakes fishes on brook trout, Great Lakes derived nutrients, boat capacity of portage apparatus
-AECOM has held a pre-construction meeting with MDEQ and USACE
-Value engineering study of the project is complete, several ideas out of which came which are likely to lead to significant cost savings
-Beyer inquired as to what the next iteration of the project design entails, Zielinski responding that the 65% iteration will be next with the 100% iteration being complete in May 2019
-Dituri concluded by noting that discussions continue with Consumers Power regarding their property adjacent to the FishPass project site and a potential transfer to the City. Also, a grant request was recently made to Rotary by the City in the amount of $1,000,000

9. **Bottomlands update: report, discussion (IT)** – Members of the IT provided the following information:

-Dituri reported that neighboring landowners to the Boardman Dam project site contacted him with questions relating to plants and insects in the bottomlands and their being too much of both of them(?). Also, may be timely to begin discussions regarding access for adjacent landowners at the Boardman Dam project site. Largent added that already a landowner is pushing an access road out onto the bottomlands illegally. Largent also added the discussions regarding adjacent landowner access should be vetted through the County Parks and Recreation Department
-Largent reported there was a District-led volunteer milkweed planting event out at the Boardman Dam project site
-Plum noted that there some questions regarding the ability of the soil present on the Boardman Pond bottomlands being rich enough to sustain sufficient growth of vegetation, a question reiterated by Fessell who followed up with a question as to the use of bio-char. Shook added that while adding topsoil to what is already out on site is a good start, it’s going to take a much higher level of organic material actively incorporated to have successful vegetative growth as compared to Brown Bridge which had a high amount of organic material in-situ. Balke recommended utilizing left over funds in the Boardman Dam project budget for soil amendments. Largent inquired as to whether there was a performance bond on the vegetative growth at the site to which Plum replied in the affirmative, the longest performance bond of the project which is 3 years. Bott and Dituri both noted the availability of compost at the County composting facility that may be useful as a soil amendment
10. **Communications update: report, discussion (CRA/IT)** – Members of the IT provided the following with regard to communications:
   - Balke provided that CRA is working with the GLFT to set up a tour of the entire Boardman River dam removal project with the Union Street Dam/FishPass project site at the very end
   - Fessell reported that himself, Dan Bertalon, and Bob Jackson floated through the various project sites in anticipation of developing an additional film as a sequel to the “Ottaway, A River Reborn” film. The film would be used in congressional hearings on the efficacy of the GLRI. The original film has been nominated for an Emmy award, the ceremony for which will be in Detroit

11. **Funding update: report, discussion (CRA/IT)** – Beyer noted that there were no decision items and that the only update of real import was that of the Brownfields funding. Bott responded that there was nothing to update.

12. **Open Forum: (IT)** – Charlie Weaver took the opportunity at this juncture (as opposed to “Public Comment”) to offer the following items for consideration: would NMEAC be considered as an ex-officio member of the IT as requested in months prior? Discussion ensued with the consensus that while NMEAC’s presence would provide a benefit, the project was at a point where it was winding down and their expertise would not be as meaningful as it would be in a different avenue-development of the Boardman River watershed plan (“IT 2.0”). Mr. Weaver acquiesced to withdrawing the ex-officio status request and to redirect the request to the second iteration of the IT once established-that request should be made to the Watershed Center.

13. **Meeting Closing:** Meeting action items were reviewed and clarified by Winkler.

   **Public Comment:** None

   **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.
**Action Items**

**New:**
- Winkler to distribute draft June IT meeting notes for review
- Winkler to have approved May IT meeting notes posted to the project website
- AECOM to forward stream ford design to Winkler for distribution
- GLFC to provide FishPass project summary to Winkler for distribution
- Dituri to forward City funding proposal to Beyer for inclusion in funding chart
- Plum to forward performance bond information to Winkler for distribution

**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
### Acronyms and Abbreviations

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<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>AECOM</td>
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